

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:44:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223362377

Documents (100)

1. Protesters criticize move to join EU

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

2. On litter-strewn street, Palestinians mourn

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

3. World Report

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

4. French hold hectic talks on captives

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

5. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

6. French try to answer Iraq 's anarchy with charm

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

7. Is it okay to love a robot?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

8. The anti-Zionist myth

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

9. Never Again

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

10._The anti-Zionist myth

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

11. <u>Gaza protests wilt amid huge security detail: Israel rolls out biggest military deployment in its peacetime</u> history: Sharon has upper hand

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

12. Terrorists not seeking political redress

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

13. The First Lady's Mideast Sandstorm

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

14. NEWSDESK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

15. A fine strategic line on plugging democracy; White House Letter

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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16. News in Brief

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

17. Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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18. The ones who are not news

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

19. The Spectacle Of a Dirty War THE STRATEGIC INTEREST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

20. Israelis surround refugee camp; 3 Palestinians are killed during missile strikes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to



21. Gaza pullout plan clears last hurdle

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

22. <u>Guardian Weekly: Weekly Review: Gaza dreams of life after the Israelis: But problems will remain when</u> settlers leave, Chris McGreal writes from Khan Yunis

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

23. Let the truth count in country debate

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

24. <u>Arabs largely unfazed by mutilation incident; The burning and display of American corpses in Iraq last week</u> strikes many as simply just.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

25._READERS WRITE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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26. Israeli bulldozers flatten Gaza homes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

27. Sharon, Abbas to declare formal ceasefire at summit: Highest-level talks since 2000; Canada invited to take the lead in reviving international effort to solve refugee crisis

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

28. Ballots, but a deficit of democracy MIDDLE EAST: This will be a year of elections in the turbulent region, reports Roula Khalaf

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Dec 01, 2005

29. Cold War No. 2

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

30. <u>G2</u>: <u>Girls shot as they baked and swept: Palestinian teenagers among growing number of children hit by</u> Israeli snipers during 'Days of Penitence'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

31. <u>Bin Laden video: Your security is in your hands; In a broadcast believed to be authentic, the al-Qaida leader admits his role in 9/11 and says there still are reasons for a 'repeat'</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

32. Cheers! Palestinians lift their glasses to the first beer festival in the Occupied Territories

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

33. There is no easy cure for Iraq 's kidnap pandemic DAVID GARDNER

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

34. Hostage-Takers Teach the French the Limits of Diplomacy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

35. WORLD REPORT

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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36. The Gaza standoff

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

37. Israeli troops quicken pace of withdrawal

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

38. A new generation's agony in Gaza; Abandonment of settlements shows young generation doing the

struggling

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

39. We're All Combatants Now

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

40. NEWS SUMMARY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

41. Declare for Australia or be branded traitors - PIERS PERSPECTIVE - TODAY: London bombers



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

42. Women step forward in West Bank

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

43. TIME TO RECOGNISE WHAT PAKISTAN HAS GIVEN

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

44. <u>ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS GIVEN A SHOCKING TASTE OF EACH OTHER'S LIVES; A BABY IS</u> THROWN LIKE A FRISBEE AND CHILDREN VIE FOR A SUICIDE VEST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

45. I just hope I die before I get olde

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

46. Bulldozers crush hope in Rafah camp: Palestinians scramble to safety as Israeli attack flattens homes

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

47. A tragic loss of Arab dignity laid bare in pictures ROULA KHALAF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

48. How the World Unfolded in 2004

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

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Dec 01, 2005

49. READERS WRITE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

50. The Wrong Way to Sell Democracy to the Arab World

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

51. How not to spread democracy; Bush's Greater Middle East initiative

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

52. NEW IRAQ NOT; QUITE A BEACON RESENTMENT MORE WIDESPREAD THAN REFORM

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

53. In Gaza's Berry Fields, a Family Reels After Losing 7 Boys to Israeli Fire

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

54. Arab mother grieves for sons slain by tank; Shell kills several in extended family

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

55. The art of biting a helping hand

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

56. <u>CHEERS! PALESTINIANS LIFT THEIR GLASSES TO THE FIRST BEER FESTIVAL IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

57. CHEERS! PALESTINIANS LIFT THEIR GLASSES TO THE FIRST BEER FESTIVAL IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

58. Bush owes Blair big, and for all our sakes Blair must now make sure that bush delivers

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

59. No Muslim leader would dare retreat from Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

60. Democratic way must never be torpedoed by terrorism

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

61. Israel seals Gaza: Final deadline looms as historic pullout begins

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

62. Lives in the balance

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

63. Muslim 'Moderates' And Terrorism

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

64. Settlers, Soldiers Clash In Israel Near Gaza Strip

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

65. Government Incitement In Egypt and the Sinai Attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

66. NATION / WORLD DIGEST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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67. Six chicks with picks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

68. Bush's uneven road to providence

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

69. Protesters, Both Jewish and Arab, Rail at the First Lady

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

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Dec 01, 2005

70. Israeli trrops cut off camp in Gaza Attack on homes, buildings in refugee camp leaves three Palestinians

<u>dead</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

71. The democratic conundrum of today's Middle East: OLIVIER ROY:

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

72. Israel Unveils New Shoah Museum To a World Still Bent on Destruction



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

73. Faithful following on Capitol Hill AMITY SHLAES

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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74. A Heresy About Bush

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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75. Love is in the air but not on the court for Anna

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

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76. Mideast Parley Takes Ugly Turn At Columbia U.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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77. The ultimate act of will

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

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Dec 01, 2005

78. Sharon, Abbas fuel peace hopes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

79. Charles has lost his bearings in the desert

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

80. What will Ahmad do? Peaceful soap opera gripped Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

81. American freedoms are based on humanistic principles

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

82. Take Elmasry 'to task' over comments: Muslim panellist urges Islamic leader to explain controversial

statements

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

83. Life without Arafat

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

84. GOP EXPLOITATION OF 9/11 WAS DISRESPECTFUL, DISGUSTING

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

85. Logic has got lost in Iraq

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

86. Hostages in Iraq: For Europe, it's personal

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

87. First lady says America can count on her husband; Schwarzenegger also calls the president 'a man of inner

strength'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

88. Not a terrorist by any stretch

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

89. Groups think twice before taking checks; Rules for a federal fundraising drive anger some nonprofits: They

must show they have no terrorist ties.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

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90. Hotbed of moderation: Seat of Islamic learning represents silent majority of Muslims

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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91. Letters from readers

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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92. Putting faith in the future

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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93. At a time of division, turbulence in France; Globalist

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

94. *INSIDE*

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

95. Letters from readers

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

96. Deadly mix fuels suicide bombers: Humiliation, zealotry play role in attacks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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97. The Will To Win

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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98. Settlers defy eviction

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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99. Israel begins Gaza withdrawal; Hundreds of protesters scuffled with soldiers and blocked a main road

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

100. Finding the room to forgive

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Protesters criticize move to join EU

Philadelphia Daily News DECEMBER 13, 2004 Monday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 33

Length: 842 words

Byline: BRIAN MURPHY Associated Press

Dateline: ISTANBUL, Turkey

Body

It's the sort of scene that rattles Turkey's Western-looking establishment: angry demonstrators raising fists for Islam and waving posters supporting Chechen separatists, the Iraq insurgency and hard-line Palestinian factions such as <u>Hamas</u>.

"Islamic resistance will win!" chanted nearly 400 protesters, including <u>women</u> wearing green headbands with Quranic verses - similar to those worn by suicide bombers in farewell videos.

Radical cries from the fringe - like these in Istanbul last weekend - are driving concerns that the Muslim nation's push toward Europe may stir momentum in the opposite direction. Ahead of a key European Union vote Friday, pro-Islamic political groups appear ready to seek gains if Ankara's bid to join the EU falters and more extremist elements could use the East-West split as fresh ground for recruits in a country still stunned by bombings last year linked to al-Qaida.

"Turkey is like a firewall between radical Islam and the West," said Dogu Ergil, a political science professor at Ankara University. "The consequences if the firewall comes down are scary."

It's already been shaken. Turkish authorities are still trying to assess the alleged role of al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden in attacks last November in Istanbul's European side. Some 60 people, including the British consul-general, were killed in bombings at two synagogues, the British Consulate and the headquarters of London-based HSBC bank.

Turkey's top military officer says terrorism is Turkey's top domestic threat. In response, authorities have clamped down on underground funding networks for Chechen rebels and are watching a growing trend of political Islam in Turkey for signs of drifting into radical orbits.

If the EU rejects Turkey, pro-Islamic political groups could find a springboard to reassert more power and seek stronger bonds with the wider Muslim world, including neighboring Iran. Authorities also could confront new

Protesters criticize move to join EU

challenges to contain extremists in Turkey, where secularism has been a pillar of the nation since it formed in 1923 from the remains of the Ottoman Empire.

"An EU rejection of a Muslim Turkey is also going to reinforce the notion that the West is, indeed, now engaged in a war against Muslims worldwide," said John Robertson, an expert in Middle Eastern affairs at Central Michigan University.

Almost no one predicts an easy EU pass for Turkey; a key vote is scheduled for Friday at an EU summit on whether to open formal talks on Ankara's membership bid. The process - even if given a clear green light - could last for a decade or more.

Meanwhile, Turkish society appears to be undergoing twin trends: more attuned to conservative Islam and closer police attention to militant ideology.

Istanbul's Carsamba neighborhood is a case in point. Nearly the entire place pushes the panic buttons of the nation's secular circles.

Men openly wear skullcaps and religious-style robes - technically illegal for everyone but clerics inside mosques. Bookstores offer volumes about perceived "Zionist" conspiracies against Islam and extolling the Palestinian intefadeh. Street peddlers hawk CDs about Muslim commandos in Chechnya waging "holy war" against Russia and sermons from firebrand Turkish imams silenced by the state.

Nearly every woman has a head scarf and many wear a full chador that hides all but their eyes. A five-minute cab ride brings the Turkey that EU proponents want the world to see: miniskirts, designer stores and wine bars.

"Islam is reclaiming its rightful place in Turkey," said Kenan Alpay, an organizer at Ozgur Der, or Freedom Association, a conservative Islamist group. "We have been on the sidelines of politics and society too long. That's ending."

The group is one of many in Turkey raising funds for Iraqi and Chechen civilians, but Alpay denied sending money or personnel to any militant factions.

"We are for our Islamic brothers and sisters," he said. "We don't send anyone to fight. But people go on their own because of injustices. It's hard for Muslims to stand by and see the suffering in Iraq and other places."

This is what Turkish officials fear most: Turks who come home radicalized after joining Islamic fighters in places such as Chechnya, Afghanistan or Iraq. Estimates on the number of Turks active with Islamic militants abroad run from several hundred to much lower.

Some of the key suspects in the November 2003 bombings were veteran guerrillas from these battlegrounds and a few met with bin Laden, Turkish prosecutors maintain.

Last month, the military chief of staff, Gen. Hilmi Ozkok, told the Turkish War Academy that neighboring countries are no longer seen as the top security threat and "terrorism (is) the first priority." The comments suggest Turkey could shift more of its defense budget to surveillance and intelligence-gathering units.

"The real militant groups in Turkey are still marginal," said Metin Heper, who studies Islam and politics at Bilkent University in Ankara. "The question is how to make sure they remain there."

The answer for many is to remain on a European orientation. *

Graphic

Protesters criticize move to join EU

PHOTO;

Associated Press

A Turkish boy waves a flag of Nationalist Action Party in Instanbul, to protest the country's bid to join the European Union.

Load-Date: September 5, 2005

End of Document



On litter-strewn street, Palestinians mourn

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

November 12, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: WORLD; Pg. 05

Length: 808 words

Byline: By Ben Lynfield Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

Body

Even in death he was controversial. Within hours of the announcement of his passing Thursday, Yasser Arafat was receiving both tributes and denunciations in the Middle East. But in Amari refugee camp, adjoining Ramallah, he was recalled as a man who was faithful to his people.

After 36 years in which he influenced and at times dominated their lives, Arafat's death was still hard to absorb for Palestinians here, even though his hospitalization and coma took part of the shock away. Thursday was not a day for voicing criticisms or misgivings about his policies.

A heroic collective memory and myth were being constructed through words, posters, and black flags. "Yasser Arafat is all the people and the people don't die," shouted dozens marching in Ramallah.

On Amari's litter-strewn main street, where Arafat's picture was placed alongside existing posters of martyred fighters clutching Kalashnikovs, graffiti showed a rifle rising out of a map of historic Palestine. Black smoke wafted in from burning garbage and the mosque loudspeaker chanted the Koranic chapter of Imran. It speaks of God helping those who strive and of learning from misfortunes.

Then an announcer called for national unity, amid concerns the passing of Arafat will intensify Palestinian infighting. "We hope the people will have harmony between their hearts," he says.

Khamis Ibrash, a middle-aged man with white stubble says, of Arafat's passing, "I feel a great amount of pain. Abu Ammar was 100 percent with the people. Those who come now we don't know about... He was a good-hearted man, a sincere man, he was faithful to his people and that is why we love him," he says.

Like other Amari residents, Mr. Ibrash, a father of nine, has an anecdote about Arafat. His son Mohammed was a wanted fugitive from the Al Aqsa brigades, militia affiliated with Arafat's Fatah movement. Mohammed took shelter in Arafat's headquarters, the muqata, surrounded by the Israeli army. "He spent six months with the president," Ibrash says. "My son told me that the president came by himself and divided an apple between him and three others. It shows how he felt concern. We have lost a great man."

Ibrash adds that after his 15-year-old son, Saber, was killed by Israeli soldiers in 2001, Arafat's office gave him a grant so he could go on the pilgrimage to Mecca.

On litter-strewn street, Palestinians mourn

In Israel, there were memories considerably less fond of terrorist attacks and failed peace negotiations. "It is good that he is gone," Justice Minister Yosef Lapid told Israel's Y-net news service. "The man murdered thousands of Israelis and Jews and really gave birth to international terror. Al Qaeda is the continuation of what Arafat started. There is no reason to be sad over his death. Public opinion is sophisticated enough to know that he will be remembered in history as the father of international terrorism."

In Amari, Wasfiya Idris, the mother of a <u>female</u> suicide bomber, recalls that Arafat visited their home to pay condolences after the 40-day mourning period was over. "He came to the house and hugged the children and cried with them. He didn't say anything. He came to show his solidarity and compassion," she says.

Wearing a white hijab and sitting on a couch, Ms. Idris says that people identified with Arafat's being confined to his headquarters by Israel after the April 2002 reoccupation of West Bank cities. "Just like us, he was imprisoned and besieged. Despite all the shellings he never gave up and stuck to what he believed in."

As she was speaking, her TV broadcast an interview by the Al Arabiya satellite channel with Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi. Not quite succeeding in holding back tears, Ms. Ashrawi says Arafat "is the one who personified the Palestinian people... He will stay a part of our memory but also be an incentive for the future,"

Ashrawi says she differed with Arafat, but that he was "very human, very warm an we had a genuine friendship based on mutual respect."

Ramzi Jabber, a vegetable merchant, says: "Arafat was always the red line for the Palestinians. He started the revolution and he protected it. I cannot absorb or comprehend the possibility of another person filling in."

"I'm worried about the internal situation," he adds. "I hope we don't have internal rivalry and conflict." Asked if Arafat had made any mistakes, he replies. "It would have been better if we had one unified leadership and there was combating of corruption. He tried to combat corruption, but it reached alarming levels."

Maharan Zoedy, 13, standing against the backdrop of <u>Hamas</u> graffiti, adds: "He was the source of power for the Palestinian people. His being under siege has worked as a catalyst for the resistance. He was the source of courage to carry out bombings, but the suicide bombers did it for the sake of religion, not for the president."

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Windsor Star (Ontario)

May 12, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: World; World Report; Pg. B2; Brief; News; Sports; Crime

Length: 1765 words

Body

MIDEAST

HAMAS MILITANTS DISPLAY ISRAELI SOLDIERS' REMAINS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- <u>Hamas</u> militants triumphantly displayed remains of some of the six Israeli soldiers killed in a roadside bombing in Gaza City on Tuesday, prompting Israeli threats of punishing reprisals if all body parts are not returned.

Eight Palestinians were killed and 123 wounded in a battle that pitted hundreds of gunmen against Israeli troops firing from tanks, helicopters and rooftops.

The violence began after midnight, when a small Israeli force entered the crowded Zeitoun neighbourhood to look for weapons workshops.

As the troops withdrew around daybreak, an armoured personnel carrier transporting at least 100 kg of explosives for use in the raid was shredded by the roadside bomb.

LEADERS AGREE TO POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO STANDOFF

NAJAF, Iraq -- Radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr will end his violent standoff with American troops if the U.S.-led coalition postpones its legal case against him and sets up an Iraqi force to patrol his stronghold of Najaf, Iraqi leaders in the city said Tuesday.

Compiled from Star News Services

About 40 Iraqi political and tribal leaders, including a senior aide to al-Sadr, agreed on the proposal at a meeting at the most prominent shrine in the holy Shiite city, where American forces have fought the cleric's fighters this month. The violence comes as U.S. forces try to improve security ahead of a June 30 deadline for the restoration of sovereignty to Iraqis.

MEMO SAYS BEATINGS WERE 'JUSTICE' FOR LYNCH ATTACK

BAGHDAD -- A *female* soldier in the army's 320th Military Police Battalion took "vigilante justice" on Iraqi prisoners who she believed had raped army Pte. 1st Class Jessica Lynch.

Lt.-Col. Jerry Phillabaum, commander of 320th Military Police Battalion, levelled the allegation in a rebuttal to charges against his leadership of the 320th, some of whose soldiers were also charged with abusing prisoners last fall at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison.

Phillabaum said Master Sgt. Lisa Girman, 35, and three other MPs abused the prisoners at Camp Bucca in Iraq on May 12, 2003.

"When Master Sgt. Lisa Girman returned to Camp Bucca shortly before midnight, she took 'vigilante justice' against EPW (enemy prisoners of war) that she believed had raped Pte. 1st Class Jessica Lynch," he said.

GUNMEN ATTACK U.S.-RUN CIVILIAN CONVOY IN IRAQ

BAGHDAD -- Gunmen attacked a U.S.-run civilian convoy in Iraq's western desert and some personnel were unaccounted for, U.S. officials said Tuesday. Iraq's oil minister said a weekend bombing at a southern pipeline had cut oil exports by 30 per cent.

The attack on the convoy came as one Russian worker was confirmed dead and two others abducted in another attack on foreigners working in Iraq.

The officials said the convoy was operated by a subcontractor of KBR, or Kellogg, Brown & Root, which is in turn a subsidiary of Halliburton.

EUROPE

OFFICIAL SAYS BOMBINGS WERE 'HIGH TREASON'

ATHENS -- The triple bombing of a police station last week was "high treason" that blackened Greece's image and its security efforts for the Olympics, the public order minister said Tuesday.

The minister, Giorgos Voulgarakis, was in Washington for talks on efforts to safeguard the games when the bombings occurred May 5, the start of a 100-day countdown to the opening ceremony. Nobody was injured.

"Such events -- no matter how small and isolated they are -- amount to high treason," Voulgarakis said.

The bombings raised global concern about Greece's ability to protect the Aug. 13-29 Olympics.

WHO URGES SMALL CLINICS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH HIV

GENEVA -- AIDS programs in developing countries put too little emphasis on treatment, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, urging for more small community-based clinics to be opened to treat HIV-infected people.

An estimated 36 million to 46 million people are living with AIDS, two-thirds of them in Africa, but only 440,000 people in developing countries were receiving treatment by the end of 2003, some 300,000 of them in Latin America, where Brazil has spearheaded AIDS treatment, the UN health agency said in its annual report.

"Without treatment, all of them will die a premature and in most cases painful death," the WHO said in the 169-page World Health Report.

WHO Director General Lee Jong-wook said community-based treatment should be added to disease prevention and care for sufferers in AIDS programs.

"Future generations will judge our era in large part by our response to the AIDS pandemic," Lee said.

4 KILLED IN GLASGOW PLASTICS FACTORY BLAST

GLASGOW, Scotland -- An explosion destroyed part of a plastics factory in Glasgow on Tuesday, killing four people, burying at least 11 in rubble and injuring about three dozen, police and the fire brigade said.

A midday blast at Stockline Plastics wrecked much of the building and left 37 people injured, 16 seriously, the Strathclyde fire brigade said.

Strathclyde firemaster Brian Sweeney said six injured people had been pulled out of the collapsed building and firefighters were in vocal contact with five more still buried underneath. He said he did not know whether there were more people trapped under the bricks.

It was not clear what caused the blast, but Strathclyde Police Chief Supt. David Christie said there was "absolutely no" indication that it was terrorism related.

POWELL TO SPORT SCOTTISH COAT OF ARMS

GLASGOW -- Colin Powell, the U.S. secretary of state, has commemorated his Scottish roots by having a coat of arms commissioned by Scotland's heraldic authority.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms is likely to hand over the coat of arms, which also illustrates his distinguished military career, at a ceremony in Washington in September.

The Lord Lyon, Scotland's equivalent of the College of Arms in London, will bestow the coat of arms in memory of Powell's late father, Luther.

The Heraldry Society of Scotland helped with the design of the arms, which depict two swords arranged in a diagonal cross to mark Powell's military career.

Also included are a lion, a symbol traditionally associated with the Powell surname, and an eagle, which signifies America and is also a reference to the badge of the 101st Airborne Division, which Powell commanded.

Four "mullets stars Argent" arranged around the swords refer to Powell's status as a four-star general with the U.S. military.

RUSSIA

SMOKING SOLDIERS BLAMED FOR FIRE AT ARMS DEPOT

MOSCOW -- Two soldiers smoking cigarettes were blamed Tuesday for a huge blaze at a Ukrainian arms depot.

Explosions sent shells and shrapnel hurtling into nearby villages, killing five people, forcing 7,000 to flee their homes.

At the height of the fire, which began last Thursday, more than 5,000 explosions an hour were recorded at the Melitopol warehouse complex, where about 90,000 tons of munitions were stored. Two servicemen working in the arsenal started the fire, Hryhory Reva, the emergencies minister, told the Ukrainian parliament.

PUTIN VISITS CHECHEN CAPITAL AFTER LEADER KILLED

MOSCOW -- President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday made a clandestine visit to the war-ruined capital of Chechnya, whose Kremlin-backed leader was killed by a bomb two days earlier.

Putin, on returning to Moscow, vowed to cabinet members that Russia's efforts to bring stability to Chechnya were irreversible. But the secrecy surrounding his morning visit to Grozny, the Chechen capital, underlined the region's tenuous security.

Despite a massive troop presence in Grozny, rebels and sympathizers commit frequent attacks in the capital. Elsewhere in Chechnya, rebels kill Russian soldiers almost daily and Russian air and artillery assaults are unable to uproot them from their mountain encampments.

The fighting, the second war in Chechnya in a decade, began in September 1999.

Putin's trip, which wasn't announced until he had returned to Moscow, came about 48 hours after Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov and at least six other people were killed.

AFRICA

NO FAMINE HERE, SAYS HUNGRY ZIMBABWE

HARARE -- Zimbabwe, where more than five million people face famine, Tuesday claimed it had enough food to feed its population and would not seek aid supplies this year.

The claim was dismissed as ridiculous by agricultural experts and aid workers who said it was an attempt by the regime to secure full control over food supplies in the run-up to next year's parliamentary elections.

While there have been relatively good rains this year, the claim by Paul Mangwana, the labour and social welfare minister, flew in the face of all empirical evidence.

"We don't need food aid from outside the country," Mangwana said. "We generally believe we produced enough for local consumption, and we have told our international partners about this.

"There are some areas that would have food deficits, but these would be covered through internal food distribution."

NORTH AMERICA

OPRAH'S FITNESS GURU BACKS SPONSOR, MCDONALD'S

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. -- The fitness guru who trimmed Oprah Winfrey and is riding his bicycle across the United States to promote health and wellness is sticking up for his sponsor, McDonald's.

Bob Greene is biking 5,000 km over 36 days as part of the fast food restaurant's "Go Active!" challenge. Greene said that those who criticize McDonald's -- like Morgan Spurlock, director of the new documentary Super Size Me -- are just taking cheap shots at the restaurant.

Greene said McDonald's is spending money to promote fitness and healthy menu items, like salads.

Spurlock's movie opened last weekend. In it, he chows down on a McDonald's-only diet for a month in an examination of American obesity.

McDonald's has introduced new meals specially for adults with salad, bottled water and pedometers.

FORMER STUDENTS SAY THEY WERE RAPED BY NUNS

BOSTON -- Nine former students at a Boston Roman Catholic school for the deaf filed a lawsuit Tuesday alleging they were raped, beaten and tormented decades ago by the nuns who ran the place.

They accused at least 14 nuns in the lawsuit, along with a priest and a male athletic instructor at the now-defunct Boston School for the Deaf, and a former top official of the Boston Archdiocese, said their lawyer, Mitchell Garabedian.

The alleged victims -- three <u>women</u> and six men -- ranged in age from seven to 16 when, they said, they were sexually and physically abused between 1944 and 1977.

The Boston School for the Deaf, in Randolph, Mass., was run by an independent, non-profit corporation until it closed in 1994. "They are all speech-impaired and hearing-impaired," said Garabedian.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Associated Press photo; NO MORE CLOWNING AROUND: A Greenpeace protester dressed like Ronald McDonald waves from a police car Tuesday after he was removed from the gates of the distribution centre of fast food giant McDonald's in Wiri, Auckland, New Zealand. Greenpeace claims that McDonald's uses chickens that have been fed food which includes genetically engineered products.

Load-Date: May 12, 2004

End of Document



French hold hectic talks on captives

The International Herald Tribune September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 874 words

Byline: Elaine Sciolino

Dateline: PARIS:

Body

France on Tuesday stepped up its diplomacy to win the release of two French journalists taken hostage in Iraq as the deadline set by their kidnappers drew near.

But the French government refused to give in to the kidnappers' demand that it rescind the new law banning Islamic headscarves and other conspicuous religious symbols from public schools.

"France as a democracy has laws, values and traditions," President Jacques Chirac said at a news conference in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, where he was meeting President Vladimir Putin of Russia and the German chancellor, Gerhard Schroder.

"Under the given circumstances," Chirac said, "we are concentrating all our efforts on freeing the hostages and we appeal for their immediate release."

The New York Times

It was a day of roller-coaster diplomacy.

Hopes for the release of the journalists Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot seemed to dim as another militant Iraqi group announced on an Islamist Web site that it had executed 12 hostages from Nepal who were kidnapped earlier this month.

Nepal, like France, was not involved in the invasion and occupation of Iraq, and the men had come to Iraq to work as cooks and cleaners for a Jordanian company.

Then came news on the Saudi-based Al Arabiya satellite channel that the release of the French hostages was imminent.

"The air is filled with a rumor of hope and then comes a rumor of pessimism," said a French official involved in the diplomatic efforts.

The seizure of two Frenchmen has been a stunning surprise for France. It has gripped the country since Saturday night when the kidnapping by the little-known Islamic Army of Iraq was announced on Al Jazeera television, along with the demand that the religious-symbol law be rescinded within 48 hours.

French hold hectic talks on captives

On Monday night, the kidnappers extended the deadline another 24 hours in a subsequent video broadcast on Al Jazeera. In the video, the two hostages asked the French government to meet the group's demand so that their lives would be spared.

The kidnapping has also shattered any notion that France might have enjoyed immunity from terrorism emanating from Iraq because of its staunch antiwar stance and its refusal to send any troops to the country, even to train soldiers and police officers.

Finally, the crisis is a personal challenge to Chirac, who has spent much of his four decades in elected office cultivating relationships with leaders in the Arab world and considers himself as an expert on Arab politics.

"Until our hostages are freed we will be in a state of anxiety that can't be described," said France's communications minister. Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres.

As the crisis deepened, Foreign Minister Michel Barnier continued his whirlwind mission Tuesday, visiting Amman, the Jordanian capital, and Alexandria, in Egypt, to explain the new law, which takes effect when elementary and high school students return to their classrooms this Thursday, and to win Arab and Muslim support for the hostages' release.

"The honor, the history of our country and of the French republic are to guarantee to all those who live in France the same protection, the same freedom of conscience and of worship," Barnier said Tuesday in Amman in defending the law in the name of the country's secular, republican ideals.

Francois Fillon, the minister of national education, who is responsible for enforcing the new law on religious symbols, meanwhile, abruptly canceled a news conference scheduled for Tuesday to explain how the law would be implemented.

The Islamic world seems to be speaking with one voice in denouncing the kidnapping and demanding that the journalists be freed.

In Gaza on Tuesday, the Palestinian Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> said the journalists were innocent victims who should be released, and that because France had been antiwar, it should not be made to suffer. "France has been taking a positive stand in support of the Iraqi cause," said Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for the group.

Even those opposed to the headscarf ban condemned the kidnappers, insisting the matter was a purely domestic affair to be debated in France.

In Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Arab world's largest Islamist organization whose supporters in France have led the protests against the headscarf ban, has called for the hostages' release.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which requires <u>women</u> to hide their hair and had also condemned the law, on Tuesday condemned the kidnappers.

"Human values and Islamic principles do not condone such methods," Hamid Reza Asefi, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, was quoted by the official news agency IRNA as saying.

Other commentators noted that France, despite its antiwar stance, was now suffering the ripple effects of terror spawned by the war in Iraq.

"We are all hostages," announced the newspaper El Pais of Spain, which suffered the trauma of terrorist bombings in Madrid last March.

Amid the show of support, there was also an undercurrent of hostility.

"Good luck, Mr. Barnier," said a commentary in Tuesday's editions of The Independent of London.

French hold hectic talks on captives

It added, "France, in this moment of crisis, finds itself confronted with the limitations, and contradictions, of its efforts to develop an alternative (i.e. non-American) policy towards the Islamic world."

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

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News Summary

The New York Times
October 4, 2005 Tuesday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 964 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-10

A Quiet, Risky Move To Ensure Iraqi Charter

Iraq's Shiite and Kurdish leaders quietly adopted new rules that will make it virtually impossible for the constitution to fail in the coming national referendum, prompting Sunni Arabs and a range of independent political figures to complain that the vote was being fixed. Some Sunni leaders said they might boycott the vote. A1

Divorce Rate Rising in China

Once a dreaded fate for <u>women</u> in China, divorce is now viewed by many younger urban <u>women</u> as something of a civil right, helping to drive up divorce rates significantly. While the surge is not an uncommon phenomenon for a developing nation, some feel it is yet another barometer of how Western influences have rippled through Chinese society. A9

Palestinian Police Protest

More than 30 Palestinian policemen charged onto the grounds of the Palestinian parliament in Gaza City and fired weapons into the air, demanding more government support in a growing confrontation with the Islamic faction *Hamas*. A3

E.U. Opens Talks With Turkey

Turkey and the European Union held a brief ceremony that formally opened talks on Turkey's bid to join the union, setting into motion a process that will probably take a decade or more but could end with the European Union extending its borders to embrace a predominantly Muslim country. A9

Schroder May Step Aside

Chancellor Gerhard Schroder softened his resistance to giving up his post, hinting for the first time that he would not oppose a decision by his party to share power with the opposition conservatives. A10

Spain Captures ETA Leader

Spain's Interior Ministry announced that Harriet Aguirre Garcia, the No. 2 leader of the militant Basque separatist group ETA, had been arrested during a police raid in southwestern France. A10

News Summary

NATIONAL A12-25

Bush Names Counsel To Replace Retiring Justice

President Bush named Harriet E. Miers, the inconspicuous White House counsel and a longtime member of his inner circle, as his choice to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court. A1

If Ms. Miers takes a seat on the Supreme Court, she will be the lone sitting justice without experience as a federal appeals court judge. Legal scholars say that could make a difference. A24

Group Protests Gun Law

A national anti-gun group is riling Gov. Jeb Bush and Florida's mighty tourism industry by warning visitors that arguing with locals could get them shot dead. A12

2nd Texas Indictment for DeLay

A grand jury in Texas issued a second indictment against Representative Tom DeLay, accusing him and two aides of money-laundering in a \$190,000 transaction that may violate the state's ban on the use of corporate money in local elections. A18

Combating Rising Fuel Costs

The Energy Department announced a campaign to persuade Americans to use less energy, a response to record prices for gas and heating oil as cooler weather arrives. A21

Hurricanes May Affect Census

The two recent hurricanes may result in a significant loss of population for Louisiana, and state officials are now virtually certain that Louisiana will lose a Congressional seat -- along with federal financing and national influence -- after the 2010 census. A16

EDUCATION

Merit Pay for State Teachers

Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts has a bold plan to improve public education in his state by offering up to \$5,000 in merit pay and tying a teacher's annual salary to classroom performance. A12

NEW YORK/REGION B1-8

City and Teachers Reach Tentative Contract

The Bloomberg administration and the New York City teachers' union reached a tentative contract accord that calls for raises of 14.25 percent over 52 months, requires teachers to work longer hours, and establishes a new master teacher position with higher pay. A1

Tour Boat Was Understaffed

The tour boat that capsized in Lake George on Sunday, killing 20 elderly sightseers from Michigan and Ohio, did not have the two crew members aboard required by its license, officials said. B1

Motel Cited for Fire Hazard

The residential motel in Irvington, N.J., where three people died in a fire on Sunday morning was cited twice in the past year for illegally chaining its exit doors shut, the authorities said. B1 FASHION B9

SCIENCE TIMES F1-8

Nobel Prize Winners Named

News Summary

Two Australian scientists who upset medical dogma by discovering a bacterium that causes stomach inflamation and cancer won the 2005 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. F5
Health & Fitness F5

SPORTSTUESDAYD1-8

ARTS E1-10

OBITUARIES C19

Nipsey Russell

A comedian whose impromptu rhymes made him one of television's most popular talk-show guests during the 1970's, he was 80. C19

BUSINESS DAY C1-18

Real Estate Slowdown Seen

A real estate slowdown that began in a handful of cities this summer has spread to almost every hot housing market in the country, including New York, according to local data and interviews with brokers. A1

Decline in S.U.V. Sales

Industrywide sales of sport utility vehicles were down 43 percent in September compared with the same month a year earlier, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank. C1

No Longer Unreachable

As federal regulators reassess the rules barring phones in the air, some business travelers are already ruing the loss of something they privately relish -- the digital downtime they experience at 35,000 feet. C1

Preview of Xbox 360 Games

This week Microsoft will unveil games for its new video game machine, the Xbox 360, hoping to convince gamers that the 360 will be a must-buy this holiday season. C1

Business Digest C2

EDITORIAL A26-27

Editorials: The president's stealth nominee; health care for Katrina victims; finally, a teachers' contract; Verlyn Klinkenborg on vernacular faces.

Columns: John Tierney, Nicholas D. Kristof.

Crossword E6 TV Listings E8-9 Weather D7

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: October 4, 2005



French try to answer Iraq's anarchy with charm

The International Herald Tribune September 13, 2004 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

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Byline: Elaine Sciolino

Dateline: PARIS:

Body

Geopolitical question of the week: What do Carlos the Jackal and the pope have in common?

Answer: Both have condemned the taking of two French journalists as hostages in Iraq and appealed for their liberation.

So have Muammar el-Qaddafi of Libya, King Abdullah of Jordan, Iraq's Sunni clerical leaders, the Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u> and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood. Also, some of the world's leading Muslim clerics and assorted political leaders, journalists and humanitarian organizations.

The New York Times

The groundswell is a result of what might be called France's turban diplomacy, an intense public campaign to persuade the Islamic world to throw its support behind the hostages and therefore behind France.

There is a perception in Washington that France was smug, that President Jacques Chirac and his lieutenants felt themselves somehow immune from terrorism emanating from Iraq because of their fierce opposition to the U.S.-led war and their refusal to send troops in the aftermath. Among France's American critics, the events of the past two weeks confirm the view that France cannot protect itself by refusing to embrace the Bush administration's war on terror.

But as the French hostage crisis proves, what animates the French and their Islamic adversaries is not a battle over the future of Iraq.

The Muslim militants make no distinctions in their war against the West. The kidnappers' demand dealt with a social problem involving the Muslim population in France: They wanted the French to rescind a new law banning Islamic head scarves and most other religious symbols in public schools, a demand France rejected.

French leaders say they were never naive about terrorism. The official French position from the start, as expressed by Chirac, has been that terrorism thrives in disorder, and that the prospect of unleashing anarchy in Iraq was one reason for opposing the U.S.-led invasion there. This anarchy, the French say, is the principal reason their journalists were kidnapped, and justifies their global charm offensive.

Support for the view that France deserves a special status has come from some surprising quarters. Jordan's main opposition party, the Islamic Action Front, referred to "France's distinguished position in rejecting the Anglo-

French try to answer Iraq 's anarchy with charm

American occupation of Iraq." And Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (aka Carlos the Jackal), the terrorist convicted in kidnappings, bombings and killings in the 1970s and '80s, sent a handwritten statement from a prison outside of Paris. It said all nationalities in the "service of the imperialist aggressor" were legitimate targets in Iraq but argued that because of its opposition to the war, "In Iraq, France must not be attacked."

Ten days ago, the turban offensive seemed to be working and France's culture minister expressed hope that the hostages' release was only hours away.

But that hope proved to be a mirage. France learned the hard way -- in Algeria in the 1950s, in Lebanon in the early 1980s -- that the effectiveness of negotiations and public diplomacy and even appeals to logic was unpredictable in dealing with hostage-takers.

If the dashing of French hopes proved anything, many commentators here say, it is that France was right in opposing the Iraq war. Where anarchy rules, and faceless thugs operate, it can be futile to try to figure out what might motivate them to release a hostage.

Hostage-taking in Iraq has included attacks by groups with clear political aims, especially those trying to force U.S. allies into withdrawing troops. The captors of two Italian <u>female</u> aid workers kidnapped last Tuesday promised to punish Italy for basing troops in Iraq.

There is also kidnapping for money, as in the case of seven foreign truckers ransomed for \$500,000. Or there is kidnapping purely to express hate, the apparent motive behind the slaughter of 12 kidnapped Nepalese contract drivers.

Against that range of possibilities, France has found it difficult to plot a strategy. "These are opportunistic people looking for any target," said Olivier Roy, a prominent French scholar of Islam.

"They don't care about Iraq. They are striking at the West as a whole."

The French know better than most that there is no refuge from terrorism. In October 1983, when a suicide truck bomber in Beirut blew up the U.S. Marine barracks there, killing 241 servicemen, another truck exploded at a French barracks two miles away, killing 58 French troops. And when France had citizens taken hostage by Iranian-backed Shiite radicals in Lebanon later in the 1980s, seeking their release proved humiliating, as it did for the Americans.

The United States sold Iran weapons in a vain effort to get the hostages freed. Chirac, who was prime minister then, is still suspected of involvement, widely rumored but unproved, in reportedly paying ransoms for French hostages.

Before and since the invasion of Iraq, the French angered the Bush administration when they lectured that the war would produce chaos and breed terrorism. Now, believing they are suffering the consequences of just such disorder, they have tried to curry favor with whichever group or individual, however radical or fundamentalist, might have a chance to win the hostages' freedom.

In their own descriptions of their motives, they sound neither noble nor naive. Just scarred. And, perhaps now, wary. After the open appeals failed to yield results, the French throttled back to a more traditional form of negotiation last week, one of behind-the-scenes diplomacy.

Load-Date: September 13, 2004



Is it okay to love a robot?

The Nelson Mail (New Zealand)
July 31, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Fairfax New Zealand

Section: FEATURES; GENERAL;

Length: 785 words **Byline:** DOVER Mic

Body

I see the Womad festival has just finished in my old UK hometown of Reading - Womad originally stood for World of Music, Arts and Dance but now it's mainly a world music event.

Why Reading of all places? All the organisers did was replicate the logistics behind the long-established Reading Rock Festival, book the same field from the same farmer and Caramba! Another successful festival.

But Womad can be held in an open space anywhere (there's now a version in Taranaki I believe), so maybe we should forget about the Trafalgar Centre and think of what Nelson could do with a far better climate for outdoor events than England, as well as no shortage of paddocks. How about Nomad - the Nelson Outdoor Music, Arts and Dance festival?

Plus a bit of theatre of course. Outdoor Shakespeare was massive in my hometown, despite the inevitable rain. The UK is a country where more people go to see plays each week than attend football matches - not many people know that.

And these people don't start fights, unless you count the scrum to get a drink in the interval. Nor do they chant mindless songs like "Why are we waiting, why are we waiting, oh why are we waiting, waiting for Godot?" or "He's big, he's round, he bounces on the ground, Bernard Shaw, Bernard Shaw".

That live theatre is probably the most underrated art form on earth was hit home to me last weekend, when I had the privilege to be in a sold-out Suter Theatre, watching a live recording of the winning plays in the recent Haven Realty/Fresh FM radio drama competition.

Modesty forbids me from commenting on my own play, but the quality of all the other winners, especially in the younger age-group categories, was truly stunning and the equal of new writing I've seen in fashionable drama festivals in London, Oxford or Edinburgh.

That same weekend (busy, busy) I also caught a movie two days running - I, Robot, then next day, Michael Moore's follow up to Bowling for Columbine, Fahrenheit 9/11.

On the face of it, it would be hard to find two more different films. I, Robot - a slick, 21st century, megabucks Hollywood movie, with oodles of computer-generated action - and Fahrenheit 9/11, a low budget documentary that relies on clever editing of archive footage, talking heads and some gut-wrenching, real life human misery.

Is it okay to love a robot?

But both movies deal with a conspiracy - the robot flick portrays the betrayal of mankind by the machines they created, deciding they know what's best for us. Moore's film evokes the betrayal of America by a powerful elite ("the haves and the have mores") who have also decided they know what's best for us - or rather, what's best for them.

One thing about that big screen experience is you get to see people's faces in the kind of detail that rarely happens in real life - Michael Moore's nose for instance or George W's eyes.

Both movies reminded me of the importance we humans attach to eyes. There's a robot called Sonny who has gorgeous deep blue eyes - hmm ... is it ever okay to love a robot? Is it?

Anyway, these limpid pools of blue "humanise" Sonny in a way no other feature could -but here's the spooky thing - when you look into George Bush's eyes the opposite seems to happen; he gets less human. Do you have that saying here, "the lights are on, but there's no-one at home"?

But for me, the strangest thing of all about Fahrenheit 9/11 is how party political the movie is. In Moore's book Stupid White Men he devotes a whole chapter to the view that, for ordinary Americans, there is little difference between Democrats and Republicans.

Everyone knows that any serious US presidential candidate, of either party, has to have the backing of the richest corporate elites in the world before they'd even consider him. Her? Forget it.

These shadowy people obviously don't consider Moore much of a threat - if they did, surely some right wing, utedrivin', gun-totin' good ole boy would have blown him away by now. Moore's continued survival on earth almost makes you suspicious.

And what is Moore doing with all the money from these books and films? Hang on, if he's now a multi-millionaire, why doesn't he run for president?

But good on you Kiwis for having had two <u>female</u> leaders already. And let's give poor old Helen a break: she's one of the few politicians in the world to stand up to Bully Boy Bush, yet here she is, forced to travel to official functions on the 39 bus, where any Tom, Dick or <u>Hamas</u> can have a ping at her.

Doesn't anyone remember what happened to the Swedish prime minister a few years ago when he went for an evening stroll around Stockholm, supposedly the safest city on earth?

For safety's sake, give the woman a Lear jet - if Richard Branson's got one, then Helen deserves three at least.

Load-Date: August 2, 2004



The anti-Zionist myth

University Wire
August 30, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Cornell Daily Sun via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 969 words

Byline: By Joshua Dugan, Cornell Daily Sun; SOURCE: Cornell U.

Dateline: ITHACA, N.Y.

Body

Last month, the United Church of Christ became the latest in a growing number of American Protestant groups to call for a campaign of "selective divestment" from multinational corporations that operate in Israel. The group's resolution, which also demanded that Israel dismantle its security barrier in the West Bank, called on its members "to use 'economic leverage' to promote peace between Israel and Palestinians." The resolution comes as the Presbyterian Church (USA) is set to begin its phased divestment in companies, among them Caterpillar Inc., that provide Israel with equipment used in its military operations and occupation of the West Bank.

These developments beg a series of questions: First, why are these groups targeting only Israel? Even if one feels, as I do, that Israel's occupation of predominantly Palestinian territories has become a moral and military burden that Israel should rid itself of as soon as possible, it is impossible not to see the culpability of a Palestinian society that continues to embrace terrorism and glorify the killing of innocent civilians living in Israel proper.

Where then is the "economic leverage" being used by mainline Protestant organizations against countries and organizations that support *Hamas*, Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian terrorist groups?

Furthermore, while many of Israel's tactics and policies may be unjust in the burden they place on individual Palestinians, it is difficult to argue that they are so uniquely unjust as to deserve such unique and burdensome sanctions.

The region between Kashmir and Mauritania encompasses more truly evil people and more despicable regimes than any other area on earth. In Pakistan, the government of Pervez Musharraf continues to sanction gang-rape as an appropriate punishment for <u>women</u> accused of infidelity or impurity; in Saudi Arabia, the kleptocratic ruling family ignores the economic problems of its largely impoverished citizenry while subjecting it to a radical and often brutal form of Wahabbist Islam; the government in Sudan still refuses to stop the genocide being perpetrated in Darfur.

Yet, according to The Washington Post, the Presbyterian Church has still managed to single out the Jewish State for condemnation in over 37 percent of its resolutions, far more than it has any other foreign nation.

While the declarations on international policy made by the Presbyterian Church may be almost as inconsequential as those of the United Nations, it is still curious why this organization insists on castigating Israel as the world's prime evildoer.

The anti-Zionist myth

Yes, innocent Palestinians have been killed or otherwise collaterally victimized by Israel's attempts to fight terrorism in the West Bank. And yes, Israeli checkpoints can be at best deeply aggravating and at worst tremendously humiliating to those Palestinians who are forced to traverse them everyday.

But are Israel's actions really so unconditionally worse than Pakistan's, or Saudi Arabia's, or Sudan's? What is it about Israel that, despite being the smallest country in a region of countries hell-bent on its destruction, it still manages to be the whipping boy for the myriad atrocities being committed in the region and the world?

Where is the "economic leverage" being used against the Sudan (Okay, perhaps there is no leverage to be had there)? Why have the groups attacking Israel not mounted a campaign of equal or greater rhetorical value against Saudi Arabia or Pakistan?

Some have blamed the UCC and Presbyterian Church's resolution on "anti-Zionist" bias or "functional anti-Semitism." All good euphemisms aside, though, it is time to call the proverbial duck what it is; these resolutions, along with the greater divestment campaign, are acts of anti-Semitism, pure and simple.

In recent years terms like anti-Zionism have become popular, socially justifiable means for organizations like these mainline Protestant groups to criticize Israel, seemingly without sounding bigoted against Jews. Anti-Zionism, we are constantly reminded, has nothing to do with intolerance for Jewish individuals, but is merely an intolerance limited to Israel's political actions.

While such a point of view may indeed be possible (though I challenge anyone to provide me with a concrete example), it does not account for the reasons why the Presbyterian Church, the UCC and a host of other groups myopically seek to undermine Israel at the expense of acknowledging injustices and atrocities elsewhere.

In order for one to believe that these groups' actions have nothing to do with an underlying resentment for Jewish people, it is necessary to assume that Israel is indeed the most tyrannical and irresponsible nation on earth; or that there is something unrelated to the country's Jewish character that makes its military endeavors so unacceptable that outside actors should attempt to undermine its existence through coercive economic means. Neither of these notions should carry much weight.

I do not mean to imply that all members of these groups hate Jews as individuals or are even generally prejudiced against Jews. But by singling out Israel for sanctions and castigation the groups involved in the divestment campaign are consciously or subconsciously making a profound statement: while they may have no problem with Jews in their traditional, 19th century role as wards of the state or benevolent second class citizens, Jews are somehow less entitled than Arab Muslims or any other group of people to have a political entity, let alone be regional powerbrokers. Yes, there is in fact a part about the State of Israel that continues to induce such a visceral reaction in groups like those mainline Protestant organizations currently jumping on the divestment bandwagon:

That part would of course be the Jewish part.

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Load-Date: August 30, 2005



Never Again

New York Sun (Archive) August 29, 2005 Monday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 7

Length: 952 words

Byline: Kenneth J. Bialkin

Body

On August 24, 2005, Israel announced substantial completion of the removal of Jewish citizens from 21 Gaza settlements and 4 in the West Bank without significant violence. Despite the poignancy of forced eviction from homes and settlements established more than 30 years ago, respect for the rule of law and commitment to democratic tradition triumphed over broken hearts, anguish over the government's decision, and the urging of a few religious leaders and other supporters to resist the force applied by the citizen-soldiers of Israel.

But the images flashed around the world of Jewish families uprooted and evicted through no personal fault of their own by young male and <u>female</u> soldiers who shed tears along with the settlers in the sad fulfillment of their duty has cut deeply into the minds and emotions of Jews everywhere, even those filled with pride and admiration for the people of Israel for their dedication to civil order. It is not Jews alone who shed tears in watching images of puzzled children, sobbing parents, and shocked citizens as they removed mezuzahs from their door posts, Torah scrolls from their closets and prepared to transfer the graves of those they refused to leave behind. The experience was traumatic for many in Israel and around the world who could only wonder why a land had to be rendered free of Jews because a larger number of Arabs would not tolerate them living in their midst.

Israel's unilateral separation from Gaza and four West Bank settlements was determined by a democratic process and accepted by an apparent majority in Israel, some more reluctantly than others. It was unilateral because it became obvious that Israel's willingness and efforts to negotiate mutually acceptable forms of living together in peace were not reciprocated by the Palestinian Arabs. The refusal or inability of Arafat and other leaders to convince their people to forego terror, abandon their refusal to accept the existence of the state of Israel, and live peacefully alongside a Jewish state convinced the government of Israel that it had no counterpart with whom a peace process could be pursued. With no one to whom to speak, Israel is embarking on a unilateral policy of separating itself from the Palestinians, a people unlucky in their benighted leadership who have thus far succeeded only to produce hatred of Israel. In this circumstance, who can say Israel is wrong in its determination to protect its people and pursue economic growth and social progress, whatever course the Palestinians follow? If a time should come when the Palestinians accept the existence and legitimacy of Israel, renounce terror and force, disarm the infrastructure of terror, and show an acceptance and appreciation of the benefits of freedom and peace with their neighbors, Israel has shown itself willing to follow a peace process within the framework of the road map. In the present circumstance it is mostly Palestinians who must suffer, but Israel does not owe them the rose garden they demand.

Many Arab leaders exult in the claim that Israel's evacuation from Gaza is a victory for a strategy of force and terror, compelling Israel to withdraw, as they also claimed when Israel left Lebanon. Some Israeli leaders opposed the

Never Again

Gaza withdrawal for the same reason, warning it would only further encourage Arab violence and aggression. Despite that risk, Israel has disengaged. Time alone will tell whether that disengagement will bring Israel the peace it seeks or the appreciation of world opinion for the trauma and sacrifice it has experienced in uprooting almost 9.000 citizens from their homes.

Prime Minister Sharon has said that until the Palestinians fulfill their defaulted steps under the road map, including dismantling the infrastructure of terror, disarming <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and other terrorist groups, and bringing criminals to justice, no one should expect Israel to renew further steps under the road map, which is based on reciprocal progress. It would be a sad commentary on the world's understanding of the risks, sacrifices, and sorrow endured by the Israeli people if Israel is forced away from Mr. Sharon's pledge. There are already too many examples of the world's efforts to place demands on Israel that are not justified by a sense of balance and historical justice.

A major lesson of the disengagement experience is that Israel should not be asked to test its institutions and the fabric of its society by a repeat of the experience and images of tearing Jews from their homes. The Jews of Israel and the Diaspora, as well as fair-minded people everywhere, will not wish to see this happen again. The Gaza disengagement teaches us that, even for those who may feel that Israel should ultimately make some adjustment in the location of Jews in Judea and Samaria, forcible eviction is unacceptable. The West Bank, Judea, and Samaria, unlike Gaza, have political, religious, historical, security, and sentimental roots in the hearts, minds, and souls of Israel and the Jewish people that cannot be denied and must be respected. Their claims are older and clearer and, to say the least, are at least as legitimate as the Arab ones.

For Israel to undertake any future disengagement or evictions of Jewish citizens from meaningful areas of Judea and Samaria, the Arab leopard would have to change its spots and perhaps even accept the present unthinkable prospect that a modern Palestinian society should embrace notions of freedom and human rights, forswear terror and violence, abandon corruption and mendacity, and, hopefully, savor the benefits of living in peace with a Jewish state. Until then, Israel should never again so test the unity of the Jewish people.

Load-Date: August 29, 2005



The anti-Zionist myth

University Wire
August 30, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Cornell Daily Sun via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 969 words

Byline: By Joshua Dugan, Cornell Daily Sun; SOURCE: Cornell U.

Dateline: ITHACA, N.Y.

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These developments beg a series of questions: First, why are these groups targeting only Israel? Even if one feels, as I do, that Israel's occupation of predominantly Palestinian territories has become a moral and military burden that Israel should rid itself of as soon as possible, it is impossible not to see the culpability of a Palestinian society that continues to embrace terrorism and glorify the killing of innocent civilians living in Israel proper.

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Furthermore, while many of Israel's tactics and policies may be unjust in the burden they place on individual Palestinians, it is difficult to argue that they are so uniquely unjust as to deserve such unique and burdensome sanctions.

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That part would of course be the Jewish part.

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Load-Date: August 30, 2005



Gaza protests wilt amid huge security detail: Israel rolls out biggest military deployment in its peacetime history: Sharon has upper hand

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

July 19, 2005 Tuesday

All but Calgary & Toronto Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. A13

Length: 804 words

Byline: Tim Butcher, The Daily Telegraph, with files from news services

Dateline: NETIVOT, Israel

Body

NETIVOT, Israel - The largest peacetime military deployment in Israel's history curbed a mass protest planned yesterday by opponents of Ariel Sharon's controversial plan to withdraw settlers from Gaza.

About 40,000 soldiers and 4,000 police officers were deployed across southern Israel to set up roadblocks and checkpoints to stop tens of thousands of protesters from reaching Netivot, a town near Gaza's Jewish settlements.

The protesters had promised to gather in the town before marching towards the settlements.

Their plan was to swamp the army and police positions being prepared to evict the settlers after a deadline set for Aug 15. In the event, it was the protesters who were swamped.

As they approached Netivot they were outnumbered by ranks and ranks of police, supported by truckloads of soldiers.

So great were the numbers that at one point this fertile corner of the Negev desert seemed to be sown with the khaki and blue of security personnel as they set up tents in fields and at watering points in the shade of trees.

Mounted police officers allowed their horses to graze in herds, while a police helicopter clattered ominously, filming events below.

The organizers claimed that about 40,000 protesters got through but the figure was probably a quarter of that.

Most wore orange, the colour adopted by the movement, and at one point a long file of orange could be seen snaking through a field of sunflowers.

The protest came amid efforts to defuse tensions between Israel and the Palestinians after the worst wave of violence since a ceasefire took effect in February.

Israeli troops massed outside Gaza over the weekend, and Mr. Sharon said he had given the army a free hand to halt an onslaught of Palestinian mortar and rocket fire.

Gaza protests wilt amid huge security detail: Israel rolls out biggest military deployment in its peacetime history:

Sharon has upper hand

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, said yesterday he still hoped to salvage the truce through negotiations with *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad.

"I don't think that diplomacy has failed completely," he told The Associated Press in Gaza City. "We are still working very hard ... to get a full commitment to the truce now or pretty soon."

At Netivot, the protesters remained defiant in spite of the heavy security presence. Avi Poch, 28, a Canadian Jew who emigrated to live in the West Bank, said he was prepared to take part in a mass march toward the Gaza settlements.

"I have water, food, a sleeping bag, a tent and diapers for my two-year-old son, Netanel," he said. "If we have to walk, we will walk. I don't know where we are going to spend the night but it is going to be out there in the woods."

There are precious few trees in this corner of the Negev, burnt brown by the summer sun, and a mass march over a distance of 20 kilometres is no easy undertaking. Most of the protesters who managed to dodge around the roadblocks were students who arrived with backpacks from which shoes, sleeping bags and cooking pots dangled. They gathered at a sort of fairground on the edge of the town in front of a stage where a public address system blared out speeches critical of Mr. Sharon's Gaza disengagement plan.

One enterprising protester had arrived with a thick bundle of application forms for membership of Likud, Mr. Sharon's party.

"I am asking everyone to join Likud then, together, we can vote him out as leader," said 45-year-old David Spitz, from Galilee.

The police operation was so well organized that, hours before the protesters arrived, the whole area was festooned with security tape. Many of the protesters came with T-shirts carrying the message "Jews Do Not Expel Jews." There was clear anger at Mr. Sharon's decision to turn against the settlers in Gaza, a movement he had supported for decades.

Mr. Sharon has staked everything on his plan to remove the 5,000 settlers there, hoping that this will allow Israel to retain its settlements in the occupied West Bank, where 187,000 settlers live.

Among the crowd were Orthodox Jews with black coats and felt hats and <u>women</u> covering their heads with scarves in line with Jewish tradition. But most of the protesters were young and many, like Mr. Poch, came with children in buggies.

In spite of the protesters' clear enthusiasm, the reality is that the opposition movement to Mr. Sharon's plan has been poorly organized and that the Prime Minister has out-thought them at every turn.

While they have achieved some publicity by blocking roads in Israel, most Israelis have been disgusted by their use of dummy bombs and graffiti accusing Mr. Sharon of being worse than Hitler.

Last week a protester wrote his identity document number on his forearm in the style of tattoos imposed on Jews by the Nazis in concentration camps.

That kind of imagery has not gone down well in mainstream Israel and, slowly, Mr. Sharon has won the upper hand, culminating in yesterday's ruthlessly slick security operation to minimize the Orange Movement.

Graphic

Gaza protests wilt amid huge security detail: Israel rolls out biggest military deployment in its peacetime history:

Sharon has upper hand

Photo: Roberto Schmidt, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images; A column of Israeli tanks lines up on a road near the Palestinian city of Khan Yunis yesterday. About 40,000 soldiers and 4,000 police officers were on hand to greet protesters opposed to the Gaza pullout.; Black & White

Photo: David Furst, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images; Israeli settlers continue to build makeshift huts in the southern Gaza Strip settlement of Nezer Hazani yesterday.

Load-Date: July 19, 2005



Terrorists not seeking political redress

The Irish Times July 9, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish Times

Section: World; Attack On London; Pg. 9

Length: 945 words

Body

Islamic extremism Thursday's London bomb blasts once more remind us of exactly the type of enemy the West is now facing, writes Rory Miller

Islamist terrorists are not like their nationalist or social revolutionary predecessors who focused on the attainment of territorial or political objectives, and whose resort to violence was contingent on achieving specific and tangible grievances.

Groups like the IRA, Spain's Basque separatists ETA, the Kurdish PKK in Turkey and numerous Palestinian factions have killed in cold blood and have randomly targeted civilians. One thinks of the IRA's Belfast bombing campaign of July 1972 that left nine dead, including 7 civilians, and injured over 130, including 77 <u>women</u> and children, in the course of a few hours.

The same is true for ETA, which killed 21 civilians in an attack on a Barcelona supermarket in 1987, and 13 holidaymakers when it bombed the tourist resorts of Alicante and Benidorm at the peak of the 1999 summer season

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Nevertheless, it is inconceivable that the IRA, ETA or any of the numerous secular groups that took the lead in international terrorism in the 1970s and 1980s, would have undertaken the type of operation that we saw yesterday in London.

Unlike Islamists, such traditional terror groups sought limited political objectives and thus, though responsible for much suffering, often placed limits on the execution of their terror tactics for both moral and political reasons.

As Matthew Levitt has noted, even the most radical secular Palestinian terror groups (such as George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), limited their objectives to the destruction of only one state - Israel - whereas Islamist groups have far broader ambitions.

Moreover, traditional terror groups viewed violence primarily as a means of pressuring opponents, and the international community at large, to make political concessions. This necessitated achieving a balance between using violence to achieve publicity and political gains and avoiding the mass killing of civilians for fear of discrediting the cause and reducing public sympathy, even among loyal supporters.

As one anonymous IRA source explained following a number of high profile IRA bombings in England in 1974, "last year taught us that in publicity terms one bomb in Oxford Street is worth 10 in Belfast".

Terrorists not seeking political redress

In these terms it is not a coincidence that the 191 commuters killed in the March 2004 Islamist attack on the Madrid rail system far exceeded the number of victims of any ETA attack up to that point and claimed 90 more lives than ETA was responsible for killing in the whole of 1980, its bloodiest year of terror. While the largest single mass killing operation carried out during the Northern Irish troubles - the Real IRA's August 1998 Omagh bombing which killed 29 people and wounded 200 - is dwarfed by the London attacks.

This is not to deny that Islamists have quantifiable and very real political objectives. Al Qaeda demands the removal of all non-Muslim troops from Muslim lands; *Hamas* demands the withdrawal of Israel from the West Bank and Gaza; Pakistani and Kashmiri Islamists demand India's withdrawal from Kashmir; their Egyptian and Algerian counterparts have battled for years to remove repressive and autocratic regimes at home.

Nor is it to deny that these, and other, issues do help Islamists gain support within the Muslim world. However, even if tomorrow all western troops were to be evacuated from Iraq and the Gulf states and sent to Cairo and Algiers to help Islamists overthrow the existing secular regimes this would not end the Islamist offensive against the West.

For this offensive is motivated first and foremost by the radical belief that the pre-eminent religious duty of a proper Muslim is not only to undertake jihad against secular Muslim regimes and non-Muslims based in Muslim lands, but by the belief that jihad must continue until the Caliphate - Islamic rule - is established in all places that Muslims live.

As terror expert Reuven Paz has noted Islamist groups are pursuing an Islamic victory over non-believers as part of an "eternal religious mission to a victory which will not be achieved for many generations". Bin Laden sent the same message in a far more explicit manner in a statement broadcast by al-Jazeera television in November 2001: "This war is fundamentally religious. Under no circumstances should we forget this enmity between us and the infidels. For, the enmity is based on creed." The belief that Islam has embarked (to quote from an al-Qaeda statement) on a "decisive battle . . . between infidelity and faith" provides legitimisation for the mass-killing of innocents, including children, on a level previously unknown.

It is in this context that one should view the revelation of the 9/11 Commission Report that while based in Sudan in the mid-1990s, a report by senior al Qaeda military commander Mohammed Atef (aka Abu Hafs al Masri) rejected the use of traditional terrorist hijacking operations because they were useful primarily as an instrument to force negotiation over the release of prisoners rather than to inflict mass casualties.

Over the entire course of the twentieth century less than 20 terror attacks have killed one hundred people or more. Before 9/11 one could find little comfort in this. But in its wake, and in the aftermath of Bali, Madrid, Beslan and with the true number of fatalities in London still unknown, such figures serve only to remind us of radical Islam's end goal.

Dr Rory Miller is a lecturer in Mediterranean Studies at King's College, University of London. He is the author of Ireland and the Palestine Question, 1948-2004.

Load-Date: July 9, 2005



The First Lady's Mideast Sandstorm

The New York Times
June 6, 2005 Monday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; National Desk; Pg. 15; White House Letter

Length: 901 words

Byline: By ELISABETH BUMILLER

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

For more than four years now, Laura Bush has been the popular and uncontroversial first lady, the one who reads to schoolchildren, plants environmentally correct native grasses and shores up her husband with "Desperate Housewives" jokes.

But two weeks ago, the first lady was on a good-will trip in the Middle East when she stepped into one of the Bush administration's trickiest problems -- pushing for democracy in the region without angering strategic allies like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, both of them far from democratic.

In now well-known comments at the foot of the pyramids on May 23, Mrs. Bush praised President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt for his "very bold step" toward democracy. Mr. Mubarak, a former general who has ruled Egypt unchallenged since 1981, has called for the first multiparty elections in the country's history, but with some curbs on who can run. Pro-democracy opposition groups have criticized those steps as a sham. Two days after Mrs. Bush's comments, on the occasion of a referendum to pave the way for the elections, Mr. Mubarak's supporters beat up the opposition in Cairo's streets.

Since then, Mrs. Bush's words have reverberated through the Middle East in the wake of a trip, focused on <u>women</u>'s rights and marked by small numbers of Jewish and Arab protesters, that was otherwise seen as largely positive.

On Thursday, Al Jazeera, the satellite news channel that reaches an estimated 40 million households in the Arab world, broadcast critical comments about Mrs. Bush's remarks from moderate Egyptian intellectuals based at policy centers in Washington. The Washington Post had already editorialized against her, saying that Mr. Mubarak and the Egyptian people "have heard from Laura Bush that his mockery of democracy is worthy of applause."

President Bush was asked about his wife's comments after the violence in Cairo at a recent White House news conference, where he looked stone-faced at his questioner and then, with the benefit of hindsight, walked back some of his wife's praise. "The idea of people expressing themselves in opposition in government, then getting a beating, is not our view of how a democracy ought to work," Mr. Bush said. "It's not the way that you have free elections."

The First Lady's Mideast Sandstorm

To some Egyptian critics, Mrs. Bush did not know what she was talking about. To others, she knew precisely what she was talking about, which they termed the essence of the problem. Her words, they said, reflected the two contradictory stances of the administration's policy in the Middle East.

"One of those is certainly to push forward and to press Mubarak to introduce substantial reforms," said Amr Hamzawy, an Egyptian political scientist and a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. "The second position you clearly see is a more hesitant approach. Because if you press hard for substantial political reforms, you don't know what kind of alternatives you might have."

Mr. Hamzawy, who was one of those interviewed about the first lady on Al Jazeera, noted that the Bush administration's push for democracy among the Palestinians could well lead to a strong showing in coming elections by the militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> -- hardly an outcome the White House would welcome. For its part, Egypt is ruled by a dictator, Mr. Hamzawy said, but as far as the United States is concerned, it is also at peace with Israel and critical to the stability of the region.

"No single country, especially a superpower, can act simply out of democracy promotion," Mr. Hamzawy said. "It has to be combined with strategic considerations."

Saad al-Din Ibrahim, an Egyptian sociologist and public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington who has said he is mulling a run against Mr. Mubarak, if only to make a point, said Egyptians were confused by the first lady's comments because they were out of step with her husband's. Less than a week before Mrs. Bush spoke at the pyramids, Mr. Bush more cautiously said that Mr. Mubarak's call for elections was an "important step" that "can be advanced by the presence of international monitors, and by rules that allow for a real campaign."

"She frustrated the democrats and delighted the autocrats," said Mr. Ibrahim, who was also one of those who criticized the first lady on Al Jazeera.

Mrs. Bush declined to comment for this article, but her press secretary, Susan Whitson, said in an interview on Friday that the first lady's critics were "entitled to their opinions" although "over all, she felt like it was a positive trip."

At this point, it remains unclear why Mrs. Bush said what she said, even as some Egyptians have not ruled out graciousness to her hostess, Suzanne Mubarak, the wife of the Egyptian president. Mrs. Bush did echo much of her husband's positive encouragement to Mr. Mubarak, and the White House position is that her comments were not as out of step with her husband's as her critics have said. In any case, by the time Mrs. Bush was on a plane back to the United States, she had abandoned the word "bold" and had instead adopted Mr. Bush's construction that Mr. Mubarak had taken a "very important first step."

Despite the dust storm she kicked up, Mrs. Bush also made clear on the plane that it would not be her last solo trip speaking out on international issues overseas. "I'm interested in this," she said.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Touring the Giza pyramids with Zahi Hawass, an Egyptologist, Laura Bush praised Egypt for taking a "very bold step" toward democracy. (Photo by Jim Watson/Agence France-Presse -- Getty Images)

The First Lady's Mideast Sandstorm

Load-Date: June 6, 2005



NEWSDESK

The Forward July 22, 2005

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Section: News; Pg. 6 **Length:** 942 words

Body

FBI Investigates L.A. Plot

FBI counterterrorism agents are investigating whether two American Muslim converts planned to attack the Israeli consulate, two synagogues and other targets in Los Angeles. Yariv Ovadia, the Israeli consul for communications and public affairs in Los Angeles, confirmed July 15 that federal agents had warned the consulate of possible threats. "We fully trust American authorities to handle the situation," he said. The threats apparently were discovered accidentally when police arrested Levar Haney Washington, 25, and Gregory Vernon Patterson, 21, as suspects in a string of gas station robberies over the past two months. Washington converted to Islam while serving a prison sentence for a previous assault and robbery conviction in 1999. Patterson, who has no criminal record, is believed to be a more recent convert. A search of Washington's apartment turned up jihadi literature, bulletproof vests and an address list of various L.A. sites. Entries included the "Consulate of Zion" and the two synagogues. At this point, the two suspects have been arraigned only on nine counts of robbery.

London Mayor Slams Likud

London Mayor Ken Livingstone said Israel's Likud Party and the <u>Hamas</u> terrorist group are "two sides of the same coin."

"Each side emphasizes the extremism of the other in order to attract sympathy," said Livingstone, a frequent critic of Israeli policy, in an interview with Britain's Sky News, Ha'aretz reported. But, he added, "I think it is the Israelis who are leading the stubborn line."

Livingstone was interviewed amid the buzz over a possible visit to London by Muslim cleric Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, who has expressed support for suicide bombers and is banned from the United States.

Livingstone also accused Israel of doing "terrible things bordering on crimes against humanity," including having "slaughtered" people in the West Bank and Gaza for dozens of years. Israel did not react strongly to Livingstone's remarks. "Everyone knows the man is an extremist, with problematic positions and problematic attitudes toward Jews." one Israeli official told the Jerusalem Post.

Islamic Group Apologizes

The Canadian Islamic Congress apologized to scholar Daniel Pipes for saying he wanted to put North American Muslims into concentration camps. Stan Fisher, an attorney with Toronto law firm Heenan Blaikie, confirmed that the firm had sent a libel notice on behalf of Pipes to the Canadian Islamic Congress after its Web site ran an article by Wahida Valiante accusing the Philadelphia-based Pipes of wanting to employ "Hitlerian" tactics against Muslims.

NEWSDESK

The organization also paid Pipes's legal expenses and made a charitable donation in his name. In a widely distributed column this week, Pipes, who heads the Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum think tank, called his victory an "unprecedented" occurrence that "offers a small but important step in blocking the advance of Islamic extremism."

Terrorists Gained Residency

One in nine Palestinians who carried out terrorist attacks during the intifada had received Israeli residency under family-reunification arrangements, a top Israeli security official said. Yuval Diskin, who heads Israel's Shin Bet security service, testified Monday before a Knesset committee that is considering changes to a law that grants permanent-resident status to some West Bank Palestinians who have relatives in Israel. Diskin told the closed committee that 99% of terrorists are men between the ages of 16 and 35 and <u>women</u> under the age of 25. Palestinians in those age groups are barred from receiving permanent residence, he said. Critics said that it's racist to place restrictions on Palestinian family reunification.

Fire Engulfs Camp Bus

Campers from a Jewish overnight camp in Wisconsin had a brush with an inadvertent fire, after their bus ignited during the drive home from a summer session.

Fifty campers and five counselors from Camp Chi, located in Lake Delton, Wis., were evacuated from the smoking coach by their bus driver, who noticed something was wrong near a rest stop in Janesville, Wis., on Interstate Highway 90. They watched from a distance as the bus ignited and was destroyed, said Jay Levenberg, assistant general director of the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago, which owns and operates the camp.

"Unfortunately they lost their personal belongings, but thankfully nobody was harmed or injured," Levenberg said. He added that maintenance on the bus was up to date, and said that the bus company, Coach USA, is investigating the cause of the fire.

A replacement bus picked up the campers and staff, returning them to Buffalo Grove, III., just two hours after they originally were expected. The 80-year-old camp serves 1,200 campers each season.

Teacher Dies in Hit and Run

A hit-and-run driver killed a teacher at a Milwaukee Jewish day school. Judee Ross, 45, of Mequon, Wis., was struck down while crossing the street in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood on July 16.

"Judee was not just a fantastic teacher, but an incredible person," said Rabbi Philip Nadel, co-director and Jewish studies principal at Milwaukee Jewish Day School, where Ross taught English and literature.

According to police, Ross was hit shortly before 9 p.m. by a speeding car that fled the scene. Another motorist followed the car until police caught up and took David Guzman, 26, of Chicago, into custody, said police spokeswoman Robin Mohr. She also said that Guzman was charged with reckless homicide and leaving the scene of an accident.

A Wednesday funeral was planned for Ross, who was a member of Milwaukee's Congregation Sinai. She is survived by her husband and three children.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006



A fine strategic line on plugging democracy; White House Letter

The International Herald Tribune
June 6, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 897 words

Byline: Elisabeth Bumiller **Dateline:** WASHINGTON

Body

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International Herald Tribune

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At a recent White House news conference, President George W. Bush himself was asked about his wife's comments after the violence in Cairo. He looked stone-faced at his questioner and then, with the benefit of hindsight, tempered some of his wife's praise.

A fine strategic line on plugging democracy; White House Letter

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E-mail: pagetwo@iht.com

Tomorrow: John Vinocur on an obvious though not so simple way out of Europe's crisis.

Load-Date: June 6, 2005

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News in Brief

The Philadelphia Inquirer MAY 11, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A04

Length: 820 words

Body

In the Nation

AP, Miss. paper file suit

over erased Scalia tapes

* The Associated Press and the Hattiesburg (Miss.) American filed a lawsuit yesterday against the U.S. Marshals Service over an incident in April in which a federal marshal erased reporters' recordings of a speech Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia gave to high school students. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Jackson, Miss. Don Hines, a spokesman for the Marshals Service in Washington, said yesterday that while the agency was aware a lawsuit had been filed, "we have not seen it."

Boston vandals damage

statue of Civil War soldier

* In Boston, vandals toppled a 127-year-old bronze statue of a Civil War soldier, snapping off its head and musket. Authorities believe the 1,000-pound statue on the Boston Common was pushed over Saturday night. The statue of the Union soldier is part of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the city's most elaborate memorial. Officials think the figure can be repaired. Police said yesterday that no arrests had been made.

Despite her birth control,

zoo's orangutan pregnant

* Despite a daily regimen of birth-control pills, Merah the orangutan is pregnant. And St. Louis Zoo officials are uncertain who the father is. "Needless to say, we have a lot of unanswered questions," primate curator Ingrid Porton said. "It's a little embarrassing, I have to admit." Diligent about trying to prevent overcrowding and inbreeding, zookeepers have been giving 35-year-old Merah a daily birth-control pill mixed into yogurt and honey. Porton suspects the mixture either spilled or was swiped by Sugi, her 8-year-old son.

Charged in 12 murders,

News in Brief

man pleads not guilty

* A man accused of strangling 12 <u>women</u> between 1977 and 1993 pleaded not guilty yesterday in a Kansas City, Mo., courtroom filled with victims' families. After Lorenzo Gilyard's arraignment on 12 murder charges, his attorney said additional charges were possible. "It's my understanding that the state is actively reviewing homicides, missing <u>women</u>," said the lawyer, Donald Williams, adding that the last body was found more than 11 years ago and "the experts on serial killings say that you just can't stop."

Speeding SUV clips car,

kills seven in Maine

* A rented SUV was speeding at more than 90 m.p.h. when it clipped a car it was trying to pass and veered out of control, killing seven residents of South Portland, Maine, including four young children, authorities said. The Ford Explorer went airborne, slammed into trees in the median of Interstate 95 and landed on its roof. The crash, which killed the SUV driver and six others in the vehicle, happened Sunday about 10 miles west of Bangor.

In the World

Bush plans trips to Italy,

Normandy next month

* President Bush will make two trips to Europe next month. White House officials said yesterday that Bush's travels will begin in Italy on June 4, the anniversary of the liberation of Rome during World War II. On June 6, he will join other world leaders at Normandy, France, for the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landing. On June 25, he will return to Europe for a summit with the European Union in Ireland, then will travel to Turkey for the NATO summit June 27-29.

Ousted Haitian leader

seeks asylum in S. Africa

* Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has officially asked South Africa for asylum until his personal situation "normalizes," the Foreign Affairs Ministry said yesterday - the first official indication that he intends to go to South Africa after months of speculation as to where he will seek refuge. He was ousted Feb. 29 after a three-week armed revolt and is currently in Jamaica.

Bush to impose sanctions

on Syria over terrorism

* President Bush will order economic sanctions against Syria - perhaps as early as today - for supporting terrorism and not doing enough to prevent militant fighters from entering neighboring Iraq, congressional and administration sources said. Syria has been on the State Department's list of terror-sponsoring nations for supporting groups like *Hamas* and Hezbollah.

Exit polls in India vote show

support down for coalition

* As India's three-week-long election ended yesterday, exit polls showed Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's coalition nowhere near the majority it needs to control Parliament and lead the nation for five more years. The vote also could decide the future of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, with opposition leader Sonia Gandhi's Congress party making solid gains and her son, Rahul, entering politics for the first time. Final results are expected Thursday.

Arab ministers to try

News in Brief

again to stage summit

* Arab ministers agreed yesterday to try again to hold an Arab League summit, on May 22 and 23 in Tunisia. Efforts to hold a meeting in March collapsed at the last minute because of differences about the conflict in Iraq, peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians, and a U.S. proposal for political and social reform in the Middle East.

Graphic

PHOTO;

JAMES POULSON, Associated Press

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter arrives at the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry LeConte after the 235-foot vessel struck a rock yesterday 25 miles north of Sitka, Alaska, and began taking on water. All 86 passengers and 23 crew members were evacuated safely from the vessel. Three people were hospitalized.

Load-Date: August 25, 2005



Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)
May 18, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A20

Length: 801 words

Byline: TAMER ZIARA

Dateline: RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli tanks cut off the Rafah refugee camp from the rest of Gaza yesterday, sending panicked residents fleeing. Palestinians said Israeli helicopters fired missiles at the camp hours later, killing seven people.

Early today, Palestinian security officials said armoured bulldozers moved to the edge of the camp near the border with Egypt and began levelling land in an Israeli-controlled zone. It wasn't clear if it was the start of a large-scale move against the camp.

ΑP

Israel wants to widen a military patrol road between Rafah and the Egyptian border after Palestinians blew up an armoured vehicle there last week, killing five soldiers assigned to destroy arms-smuggling tunnels.

Broadening the Israeli buffer zone means bulldozing rows of houses in Rafah, leaving Palestinian refugees who fled during the 1948 Middle East war homeless again.

In the first Israeli air strike, a helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, one critically. Hospital officials said at least two of the dead were gunmen, but the wounded were civilians, including a 35-year-old woman.

Shortly before dawn Tuesday, a second Israeli helicopter fired another missile in the camp, killing four people and wounding 17, witnesses said. The air strike, near a mosque, came as people were gathering for morning prayers, they said.

The Israeli military said the target was armed Palestinians in the camp.

Frantic residents loaded belongings onto trucks and donkey carts and headed to the neighbouring town, also named Rafah. The UN Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and pitched a tent camp.

<u>Women</u> balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets and men carted away sofas. One man lowered a cooking gas container by rope from a second-floor window, and another piled fire wood onto a horse cart.

Raouf Abu Jazar said dozens of people crowded his store, stocking up on rice, bottled water and baby food.

"Many had no money to pay, but I gave them what they want because we all are brothers," he said.

Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes

Last week, Israeli troops destroyed about 100 houses in the camp, and officials said hundreds more may be torn down. In all, more than 11,000 Palestinians in Rafah, out of a population of 90,000, have been made homeless by Israeli demolitions since the outbreak of fighting in 2000.

Israeli security officials said they plan to expand the patrol road to a width of about 250 metres, almost double its current size in some places.

The Israeli patrol road was carved out in the 1980s after Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty and Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula.

The international border created then went through the camp, and thousands of houses were destroyed on both sides to create the Israeli-controlled zone, with compensation paid to the displaced.

Yuval Dvir, an Israeli reserve colonel who oversaw that destruction, said Israel must leave Gaza now, and the plan to widen the patrol road would not enhance Israeli security. "We are following our guts and not our brains," he told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a unilateral pullout of soldiers and settlers from Gaza, but his party rejected the plan. Officials said yesterday that he would make minor revisions in the plan and present it to his cabinet later.

A senior Israeli official said an eventual pullout would not stop Israeli operations like the move into the Rafah camp.

The official, who spoke on condition of that their name not be published, said Israeli intelligence shows the Palestinians, supported by Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> abroad, are trying to create a situation in Gaza like the one in Lebanon, by bringing in long-range missiles.

Hezbollah guerrillas pounded Israel's north with Katyusha rockets for two decades in a guerrilla war that ended with Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon in 2000. Hezbollah is armed by Iran and Syria.

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships are unintentional but unavoidable. Some people in Rafah, he said, "rent their houses for digging tunnels, so not all of the people there are blameless."

A senior Israeli military official said high-ranking Palestinian security officers are involved in arms smuggling. Palestinian security officials were not immediately available for comment.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell denounced the destruction of houses, a rare U.S. criticism of Israeli policy.

Yesterday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath pleaded with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Berlin to stop the Israeli offensive. Shaath told Rice he has received calls from fearful relatives.

Rice "said that she and President (George W.) Bush will act to stop what is going on in Rafah," Shaath said.

Graphic

Color Photo: MOHAMMED SALEM, REUTERS; A Palestinian man rests in the street next to destroyed houses at the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Panicked Palestinians fled their homes as Israeli forces massed for threatened assault, despite the Palestinian PM's appeal to the White House to intervene.

Load-Date: May 18, 2004



The ones who are not news

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

April 24, 2004

default

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Section: Features; General; Columnist; Pg. 13

Length: 823 words

Body

'If anyone else had committed such an act it would rightly be described as a crime against humanity' HE was as sweet a looking girl as any five or six-year-old might be. She smiled shyly for the camera in the same way that any child who was posing for her picture on a sunny day on the beach might do. Her father, I recall, was laughing in the background as he cradled a baby, and other restless children looked on enthusiastically.

I think back on this girl and dug out the photograph I took last September after seeing the way three boys - must be the same age - played with my dog, and found him so amusing, as I walked him in Plymouth's Victoria Park an hour ago.

It was a wonderful time in the park, with the evening light and long shadows, the smell of the newly-cut grass and the hound, released from his captivity now that I was home from work, sniffing about and haring after tennis balls.

But what strikes me about the similarities is the stark contrast in which we view them. Two hundred yards or so beyond the girl's head when I took her photograph was a sandbank, on the top of which were nested heavily camouflaged machine-gun emplacements. I took that picture on the outskirts of a refugee settlement in Rafah in the Gaza Strip. And the very next day I learned - along with my friend David Halpin, with whom I'd travelled - that four children had been seriously wounded by Israeli gunfire on a water container along the same street.

Palestinian youths had stoned a tank that had been sent in to the street and been met by bullets.

I don't know, and there is no way of knowing, whether that small girl, whatever her name might be, was among the victims, and I won't be sentimental about it. Is her life any more important just because some Western journalist snapped her image and still possesses it in a cluttered pile in Plymouth? But those casualties, to the best of my knowledge, were never reported in the European Press. And if they were, they did not make headline impact.

I say this with caution because I know that anyone who has not witnessed the casual horrors and miseries that are inflicted on the Palestinian people of Gaza and the West Bank, might think it exaggeration for effect. But I say it because it is happening still, continuously and with a routineness about which we are being kept in ignorance.

Two or three dead here, four or five there, it is just another day and, by the way we prioritise, skew, or interpret such events, it is hardly newsworthy.

A suicide, or a "human", bomber is a different matter. A few months ago the first <u>female</u> suicide bomber killed herself and numerous Israeli conscript soldiers at the Erez checkpoint, the only remaining point of entry into the

The ones who are not news

giant prison camp that is Gaza. I was deeply saddened too to be reminded of those skinny teenagers - hardly soldiers as we understand them - losing their lives in their prime, and in such agonies.

But it is not hard as well - while we are repelled by the effects - to understand (and I emphasise understand, as opposed to condone) why someone, robbed of their rights, their land, the very basics of an economy that make life worth living, could become infused by religious fervour or rationalise that this desperate act was the only way to make the world notice.

We are talking here about a society that has been held - deliberately I believe - in a regressed and impoverished state for generations.

It is easy, of course, to believe there is a conspiracy of silence over Palestine and the Palestinians.

But events elsewhere do point to a political thinking that they are expendable as a people and a nation. And those events link three men above all - George Bush, Tony Blair and Ariel Sharon. While we've all been reading about the 68 killed in suicide bombings in Basra - yet more slaughter of children - how often and how prominently have we read of the 600-700 Iraqis killed by US troops over the space of two weeks in Fallujah? Around 350 of them were **women** and children - how likely were they to be combatants? And that's just what we do know. If anyone else, al-Qaida or the IRA, had committed such an act it would rightly be described as a crime against humanity. The carnage and heartbreak would be the same - the grief that pollutes to hate - if it were a **Hamas** bomber in a Jerusalem street.

When it's "us", "the coalition", or the "allies" - whatever the sanitised term - it is reported in such a way that it barely registers in the public consciousness.

Post 9/11 a hierarchy has been promoted on the way we view the value of human life - and the effects of it are convulsing the world.

Would you feel outraged if those three boys who played with my dog in the park were shot to pieces by an occupying army? Of course. Their brothers or friends would be inflamed to a bloody revenge. And we'd never stop reading about it.

What's the difference between them and a child in Gaza? nyoung@westernmorningnews.co.uk

Load-Date: April 25, 2004



The Spectacle Of a Dirty War; THE STRATEGIC INTEREST

The Forward May 21, 2004

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Section: Editorial; Pg. 8

Length: 883 words **Byline:** Yossi Alpher

Body

A few days ago, in a conversation with a retired senior officer in the Pentagon's intelligence arm, the Defense Intelligence Agency, I dropped a derogatory remark about the now infamous posing of naked Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison.

"We learned it from you," the DIA man retorted.

"Not the taunting women and the photos," I replied.

"We're a more progressive army," he smiled.

That cynical exchange reflected three key dilemmas that Israel and America share in their respective wars: Can dirty wars like these be sanitized? What is the role of, for want of a better word, "spectacle" in today's wars? And are Iraq and Israel-Palestine essentially the same struggle?

A decade or so ago, Israel set out to rationalize its techniques for interrogating terrorist prisoners. In effect, this was an attempt to codify torture in legal terms, although the word never was mentioned and the closest the code comes is when it discusses "moderate physical pressure." The code banned, for example, the "shaking" technique that had caused the accidental death of several Palestinian detainees. But it did not prohibit, and indeed set standards for, acts like forcing Arabs to stand naked in order to humiliate them and putting sacks over their heads to disorient them.

This was an attempt by a democratic society to come to terms openly with the ugly necessities of fighting terrorism - a fight that inevitably, as we have learned most recently in Iraq, degenerates into dirty war. It was considered audacious by some, repugnant by others. The nasty techniques Israel perfected did indeed help break the resistance of "ticking bombs" and save innocent lives, and their codification and official legitimization enabled interrogators to look themselves in the mirror at the end of their day. But they did not end or solve the conflict, which escalated and eventually produced the suicide bombings, which in turn made the war even dirtier.

The Pentagon seemingly set a very different course at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad. It also sought to humiliate, using the same techniques, but this time as sado-sexual theater. Prisoners were treated as subhumans, as untermenschen. The deed was digitally recorded for posterity, thereby reflecting the absence of any sense of culpability or shame. Nobody knows who gave the orders or what those orders were; some of the interrogators are civilian contractors, outside a seemingly nonexistent chain of command.

The Spectacle Of a Dirty War THE STRATEGIC INTEREST

The Israeli approach to interrogation is undoubtedly problematic. But in Iraq it has been turned into a cruel joke - and a highly counterproductive one, to judge by the reaction of some Arab regimes that know the real meaning of torture.

War as spectacle or theater in the Middle East is not limited to the Abu Ghraib interrogation chambers. On the same day last week that hooded Al Qaeda operatives in Baghdad cited the Abu Ghraib "torture" as justification for decapitating Nicholas Berg on camera, their <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad counterparts in Gaza posed almost cannibalistically with body parts of slain Israeli soldiers. For a brief video moment, not only were many Arabs claiming that "Iraq is Palestine" and that Arab fighters were combating imperialists at both ends of the Middle East but the grisly images also drew together Jews in Israel and America in their confrontation with Islamic terrorists.

But Iraq is not Palestine, even if the Palestinian cause is a handy public relations excuse for Muslim terrorists everywhere. For all its faults and its failures, America's post-September 11 strategy in the Middle East has demonstrated that the Arab world is weak, fragmented and diffuse, and that most of what goes on in the region has little to do with the Palestinians.

Nor, in the Israeli case, do the Palestinians have a monopoly on nastiness or on a morbid preoccupation with human remains. Israel has, over the years, frequently refused to hand over Palestinian bodies and body parts for burial. And in a conflict where both civilians and soldiers are being blown apart by the enemy, the Israeli insistence on scraping and digging out for burial every "sacred" gram of victims' remains sometimes seems to exceed the commendable injunction to give slain Jews a proper funeral; to bespeak morbidity, not Halacha. Again, a photo - of soldiers on their hands and knees, pawing the sands of Rafah in southern Gaza in search of their slain buddies' body parts - reflects everything that is both admirable and unsettling here.

Death in war has taken on an additional dimension of spectacle in Israel that is not yet recognizable in America, where soldiers who fall in Iraq seem to be buried almost secretly. In our case, the omnipresent media has now empowered grieving families to declare their political demands - stay in Gaza, leave Gaza, reverse the Likud referendum decision - even before they have buried their loved ones. Seldom are the cameras waved away from the funeral and the ensuing shiva.

By and large, then, it is not the same war. And by and large, a dirty war can be sanitized only up to a point. And, sadly, far too much of this is spectacle.

Yossi Alpher, a former director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies and former senior adviser to Prime Minister Ehud Barak, is co-editor of bitterlemons.org and bitterlemons-international.org.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006



<u>Israelis surround refugee camp; 3 Palestinians are killed during missile</u> strikes

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

May 18, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. a5

Length: 896 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS **Dateline:** RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli tanks cut off the Rafah refugee camp from the rest of Gaza Monday, sending panicked residents fleeing. Palestinians said an Israeli helicopter fired missiles at the camp hours later that killed three people.

Early Tuesday, Palestinian security officials said armored bulldozers moved to the edge of the camp near the border with Egypt and began leveling land in an Israeli-controlled zone. It wasn't clear if it was the start of a large-scale move against the camp.

Israel wants to widen a military patrol road between Rafah and the Egyptian border after Palestinians blew up an armored vehicle there last week, killing five soldiers assigned to destroy arms-smuggling tunnels.

The Israeli helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, one critically. Hospital officials said at least two of the dead were gunmen, but the wounded were civilians, including a 35-year-old woman.

The Israeli military said the target was a group of armed Palestinians approaching Israeli forces. Israel Radio has reported that troops were prepared to fight from house to house in the camp.

Frantic residents on Monday loaded belongings onto trucks and donkey carts and headed to the neighboring town, also named Rafah. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and pitched a tent camp.

<u>Women</u> balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets and men carted away sofas. One man lowered a cooking gas container by rope from a second-floor window, and another piled fire wood onto a horse cart.

Raouf Abu Jazar said dozens of people crowded his store, stocking up on rice, bottled water and baby food. "Many had no money to pay, but I gave them what they want, because we all are brothers," he said.

The Arab Group called on members to take "necessary measures" against Israel for violating international law.

Palestinian militants planted bombs around Rafah, a residents said. A 23-year-old Palestinian was killed early Tuesday when a bomb he was assembling exploded, they said.

Israelis surround refugee camp; 3 Palestinians are killed during missile strikes

Israeli security officials said they plan to expand the patrol road to a width of 250 yards, almost double its current size.

in some places. The army is also considering digging a deep trench, or even a moat, to block the tunnels that lead from Egypt to Rafah.

The Israeli patrol road was carved out in the 1980s after Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty and Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula.

The international border created then went through the camp, and thousands of houses were destroyed on both sides to create the Israeli-controlled zone, with compensation paid to the displaced.

Yuval Dvir, an Israeli reserve colonel who oversaw that destruction, said Israel must leave Gaza now, and the plan to widen the patrol road would not enhance Israeli security. "We are following our guts and not our brains," he told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a unilateral pullout of soldiers and settlers from Gaza, but his party rejected the plan. Officials said Monday that he would make minor revisions in the plan and present it to his Cabinet later.

A senior Israeli official said an eventual pullout would not stop Israeli operations like the move into the Rafah camp.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israeli intelligence shows the Palestinians, supported by Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> abroad, are trying to create a situation in Gaza like the one in Lebanon, by bringing in longrange missiles.

Hezbollah guerrillas pounded Israel's north with Katyusha rockets for two decades in a guerrilla war that ended with Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon in 2000. Hezbollah is armed by Iran and Syria.

Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships are unintentional but unavoidable. Some people in Rafah, he said, "rent their houses for digging tunnels, so not all of the people there are blameless."

A senior Israeli military official said high-ranking Palestinian security officers are involved in arms smuggling.

Palestinian security officials were not immediately available for comment.

Secretary of State Colin Powell denounced the destruction of houses, a rare U.S. criticism of Israeli policy.

On Monday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath pleaded with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Berlin to stop the Israeli offensive. Shaath told Rice he has received calls from fearful relatives.

"She (Rice) said that she and President Bush will act to stop what is going on in Rafah," Shaath said.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, met Sunday with the Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, to discuss the Israeli operation.

"We understand Israel's need to defend itself from attacks, but as a matter of policy we oppose the use of home demolitions to achieve this end and we are concerned about the humanitarian consequences of such demolitions," said embassy spokesman Paul Patin.

Palestinian legislator Mohammed Hijazi said hundreds of families have left the camp since the exodus began Sunday; local officials put the number of evacuees at more than 2,000. UNRWA said Israel has demolished or damaged nearly 2,000 houses in Rafah since 2000.

Amr Moussa, Arab League secretary-general, condemned the destruction and charged that Israel's leaders are wrecking chances for peace. "Who would sit down with these people?" he asked.

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AP Photo

Load-Date: May 18, 2004



Gaza pullout plan clears last hurdle

The Toronto Star June 10, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 853 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Body

JERUSALEM Israel's Supreme Court turned aside the last legal obstacle to withdrawal from the Gaza Strip yesterday, affirming the government's right to pull back Jewish settlers inside Israel proper.

The 10-1 ruling by an expanded sitting of the high court was hailed by Israeli officials as a critical endorsement for the planned disengagement, which is viewed by many as a make-or-break step toward the opening of a new dialogue with Palestinians.

The Supreme Court was explicit on the question of ownership, reaffirming that, "Judea and Samaria (West Bank) and the Gaza area are lands seized during warfare, and are not part of Israel."

Israeli analysts said the ruling marked the point of no legal return for the plan's opponents.

"From a legal standpoint, there is nothing more the settlers can do. This wasn't three or four judges," said Ephraim Ya'ar of the Steinmetz Centre for Peace Research. It was 10 justices ruling that the government's decision is legitimate, he said.

"It doesn't mean they will give up. The question now is whether they will confine themselves to legal acts or take the law into their own hands. Nobody knows the answer."

The court also struck down four technical elements of Israel's compensation law in such a way that could substantially increase the number and amount of individual payouts to the settlers. But the prospect of more money paled against the dwindling hopes of the plan's right-wing opponents, many of whom claim Gaza and the West Bank as a biblical birthright.

Scheduled to begin in 70 days, Israel will withdraw from all 21 heavily guarded Jewish enclaves in the Gaza Strip and four similar settlements in the northern West Bank.

The plan will uproot an estimated 8,500 settlers and leave Gaza, the smaller of the two Palestinian territories, entirely in the hands of the more than 1.3 million Palestinians therein. The Gaza plan leaves untouched the more than 400,000 Israelis now living in communities beyond the armistice lines prior to 1967's Six-Day War, when Israel assumed military control of traditionally Arab East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel's high court has a long history of rulings critical to its government's hold over the territories. In 1979, the Supreme Court ruled it "a situation of belligerency and the status of (Israel) with respect to the occupied territory is that of an occupying power."

Gaza pullout plan clears last hurdle

The court reaffirmed the opinion repeatedly in the ensuing years, holding to the phrase "belligerent occupation."

But in repeating its view yesterday that the territories are not part of Israel, the court stirred a hornets' nest of inflamed rage.

"This morning the Supreme Court justices prove that like the International Court of Justice in The Hague, most judges are PLO collaborators who are trying to implement the policy of <u>Hamas</u> - the policy of expelling Jews from their land," said Nadia Amar of the religious activist movement **Women** In Green.

Israeli parliamentarian Effie Eitam, a leading opponent of disengagement, told the Hebrew daily Yedioth Ahronoth, "The decision represents the collapse of the very last vestige of democracy in Israel."

Several politicians backing the plan cautioned the settler movement to absorb the ruling and move on. Ron Cohen of the leftist Yahad Party called on the No camp "to release the country and Israeli society from threats of violence, to internalize the decision of the government, the Knesset and Supreme Court and to come home to Israel."

Ze'ev Segal, a law professor at Tel Aviv University, said the ruling "affirms the government is operating constitutionally. It's an important decision. Basically the court is saying 'Yes, this law is going to hurt the settlers and their right to their property and their dignity, but still it is proportional and justified.'

"What the court didn't say is whether or not leaving Gaza is a wise course of action. Their job was to decide on the legality and they did their job."

Several recent polls show a decline in overall support for the pullout plan, with some half of Israelis in favour versus a third opposed, with the remainder undecided. Uncertainty over what happens the day after Gaza - and fear the result will be a newly energized Palestinian uprising - is driving the numbers, pollsters say.

The Steinmetz Centre's Ya'ar, who oversees a monthly Peace Index poll, said a survey to be published tomorrow indicates support is holding steady at more than 55 per cent.

"We saw a downtrend, not dramatic but consistent, for four or five months. But our new poll shows support slightly higher than one month ago. Today, there is a clear majority in favour of leaving Gaza," said Ya'ar.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has redoubled his efforts in recent days to persuade his public the Aug. 16 withdrawal date stands firm, despite widespread criticism that the government's efforts to prepare for pullout remain shabby and inadequate.

Construction crews gave the government a symbolic lift yesterday, setting in place the first mobile home on a work site in Nitzan, outside Gaza. The area is one of several being set aside as a temporary destination for evacuees.

Graphic

RONEN ZVULUN Reuters An Israeli woman pats her horse yesterday at the Gaza settlement of Pe'at Sadeh which is part of the Gush Katif bloc. An estimated 8,500 Jewish settlers are to be uprooted from the Gaza Strip, starting in mid-August.

Load-Date: June 10, 2005



Guardian Weekly: Weekly Review: Gaza dreams of life after the Israelis: But problems will remain when settlers leave, Chris McGreal writes from Khan Yunis

Guardian Weekly May 20, 2005

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The Guardian Weekly

Length: 903 words

Body

Hatem Abu Eltayef has a vision for the future of his crowded and battered town once the Israelis have retreated from the sprawling settlement on the other side of the barbed wire and machine-gun posts.

The town planner of Khan Yunis, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip, foresees homes for the dispossessed, shopping strips and tourists rubbing shoulders with locals on some of the finest beaches in the Mediterranean.

"People here say they want to go to the beach. They dream about it," Eltayef says. "But they also need housing and healthcare and more schools. Once the Jews are gone, we have a plan to build homes and shops and develop the beach for tourists. It will be a paradise."

First, however, there is the problem of what the settlers leave behind. The Gush Katif Jewish settlements occupy about 1,600 hectares (4,000 acres) of the Gaza Strip between Khan Yunis and the sea, penning Palestinians behind the army watchtowers. But the estimated 8,000 settlers in Gaza must leave by August or be removed by force as part of Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon's unilateral "disengagement plan".

After that the Palestinians will finally gain control of what they describe as the last reserve of occupied land in the territory, to help cope with a rapidly growing population and to provide for thousands of people whose homes were bulldozed by the Israeli army. But the fate of the settlers' homes is still unresolved.

Natan Sharansky, the Israeli minister who spent a decade in Soviet prison camps, resigned this month from the government in protest at the plan to evacuate settlements in Gaza and the northern West Bank. Sharansky, who built an international reputation as he fought to be allowed to emigrate to Israel from the Soviet Union in the 1980s, said the withdrawal plan would prevent the creation of real peace.

"I always saw the disengagement plan as a tragic error, which demands a heavy price from us and also encourages terror," he told Israeli Army Radio.

Guardian Weekly: Weekly Review: Gaza dreams of life after the Israelis: But problems will remain when settlers leave, Chris McGreal writes from Khan Yunis

A few months ago the stage was set for a bitter dispute over what to do with the houses. The Israeli government said it had no intention of seeing <u>Hamas</u> flags raised over abandoned Jewish houses. The Palestinians said that to demolish the buildings would be wanton and spiteful destruction.

A closer examination of the issue has led each side to change position. Israel still plans to remove sensitive properties, such as synagogues, and to carry back the dead from the Khan Yunis graveyard. And it always planned to leave infrastructure such as schools, electricity plants and commercial greenhouses.

But Sharon now believes it would be better to leave most of the housing intact. Officials say the government is worried about the image that might be created by Israel razing homes (Jewish ones, at least; it shows little concern over the bulldozing of hundreds of Palestinian houses). But the Palestinian leadership believes that, if left standing, the settlers' homes could prove a political headache.

Muhammad el-Samhouri, a consultant to the Palestinian ministerial committee deciding how best to use the abandoned settlements, says the houses are unsuitable for their needs: "We're not looking for American housing where you have a back yard and a front yard and a tennis court. We would rather they demolished them."

"The problem is these settler homes are small and a very poor use of the available land," says Ragheb Attallah, the chief planner for Khan Yunis council. "Palestinians have big families and they need two or three storeys."

Jewish settlers account for less than 1% of the population of the Gaza Strip but control about 20% of its land. While Gush Katif residents live in middle-class homes with lawns, parks and ready access to the beach, Palestinians are crowded into Khan Yunis, where roads, sewerage and homes are often in a deplorable state. The Palestinian Authority fears that desperate families from Khan Yunis and neighbouring Rafah might move into the empty homes and it would be hard to get them out again. Some Palestinians fear that their political leaders will grab the settler properties for themselves.

"I think the land now under Israeli control is very important for the development of Khan Yunis and Rafah," says the Palestinian local government minister, Khalid Kawasmi, a member of the committee that will decide how to use the settlements. "It will help provide areas for construction and economic development, mainly by using the land for agriculture and the beach for recreation and tourism."

As well as the housing, hundreds of acres of highly profitable greenhouses that the Palestinians will inherit pose a potential problem. The settlers produce cut flowers and fruit and vegetables, mostly sold to European supermarkets. The US plans a Dollars 90m aid programme to help run the greenhouses, but the Palestinians, from bitter experience, know they will still be hostage to Israeli control of the Gaza border. Palestinians who already produce cut flowers say that to export them they are forced to use an Israeli cartel that pays less than market value.

Another factor has emerged since the 1980s, when Israelis and Palestinians mingled on Gaza's beaches - that of Islamist groups imposing their morality. "I don't think next summer we will see <u>women</u> topless on the beaches in Gaza," says Salah Abdel Shafi, a prominent Gaza City economist.

Load-Date: May 20, 2005



Let the truth count in country debate

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

April 1, 2004

default

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Section: Features; General; Letters; Pg. 13

Length: 849 words

Body

It is unfortunate that those committing views to paper on rural issues like shooting do not research their subject matter sufficiently, to give a view representative of the truth. One thing that the countryside lobby must do is to ensure that those who are out of touch, as evidenced by correspondence and prejudice, are educated better. That has been a failing from the past, perhaps.

Those connected with the countryside know when incorrect comment is made (and in fact laugh at it) but that should not be an acceptable distraction. For any issue, when the only approach used is an emotionally charged one without basis of truth and fact, it is clear that their cause has been lost.

Logic fails these types of approaches, too. For example, not that I have been fox hunting but if anyone considers how any dog, a pack animal, dispatches its prey, invariably it is a swift bite in the right place.

Sadly, it is the domestic cats, of which we own 8-9 million in this country, which enjoy cruel teasing and carnage.

Then, of course, the cynic could challenge the billions we spend on our pets - just look at the exotic flavours of pet food or the cost of the average vet bill. This is before we look at the hundreds of millions in investments held by the big animal charities - from the RSPCA to the Donkey Sanctuary. With all this we could save the world's endangered species if we were really concerned about them - let alone all the starving and dying people in the world who I believe come before animals.

It would be good if the extreme elements of the animal activists concentrated their efforts on some issues which they choose not to make so emotive.

For example, we await their humane solutions for controlling the growing problems of herring gulls, feral pigeons, the ruddy duck, magpies, badgers and their TB, urban foxes, dealing with growing cases of infestation by rats and mice and then down to the simple issues of the wasp nest by the children's play area, the plague of head lice endemic in our schools, the ants' nest in the kitchen, the irritating flying insects at night.

Come, come, why do "they" think that they have sole prerogative in drawing the lines of acceptability? All life is God made, entitled to its existence.

All I am trying to do is balance the debate. Please continue to enjoy and benefit from your personal choices about animals, pets and livestock and help to defend sensible countryside management by destroying the falsehoods presented by those who have been brainwashed by the misguided and ignorant! Philip Milton Braunton North Devon Poor comparison I WAS appalled at Patrick Nicholls' comparison between the assassination of SS General

Let the truth count in country debate

Heydrich Gauleiter of occupied Czechoslovakia and that of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin (WMN, March 25). General Heydrich was the ruthless Nazi governor of an occupied country, whereas Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was considered, by many Arabs, as a Palestinian patriot fighting for the liberation of his country from the illegal occupation by the Israel army.

From the article, it would appear that political murder is not only permissible but morally justified for some.

Mr Nicholls quite rightly condemns the immorality of the hundreds of Israeli men, <u>women</u> and children murdered and mutilated at the hands of <u>Hamas</u> suicide bombers but totally fails to mention the even greater number of innocent Palestinian men, <u>women</u> and children murdered by the Israeli Army of occupation and the wanton destruction carried out in that country on the instructions of Prime Minister Sharon.

It is a fact that Jan Kubis and Josef Gabcik were trained by us like a large number of British and other Allied agents sent into occupied territory on various missions during the last war. It is also a fact that the initial request for Heydrich's execution came from the Czech Government in exile in Britain. I can also vouch for the fact that the death of Heydrich was met with pride and joy by the oppressed Czech population although the reprisals were terrible.

However I would remind Mr Nicholls and your readers that it is not Israel which is illegally occupied and oppressed but Palestine. Israel has ignored 35 UN resolutions instructing them to leave occupied Palestine, expelled Palestinians from their homes and used their land to install Jewish settlers. Now they are building a Berlin-type wall which further encroaches on that country's territory.

These are facts which are seldom stated for fear of being branded anti-Semitic. Unless these injustices are redressed there will be no peace in the Middle East.

Harvey Thane Higher Clovelly North Devon Thatcher's legacy I CAN enlighten your correspondent Liz Clarkson on why her son cannot get a position as an apprentice plumber. If he was trying to be a carpenter, electrician or other tradesman, he would get the same answer.

We have to go back to the Margaret Thatcher years when she stopped all apprentiships, brought in all those silly YTS schemes and gave employers the right to hire and fire at will. It was the beginning of the end of all fairness in our industry.

A Deller St Austell

Load-Date: April 2, 2004



Arabs largely unfazed by mutilation incident; The burning and display of American corpses in Iraq last week strikes many as simply just.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

APRIL 6, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A15

Length: 815 words

Byline: Hannah Allam INQUIRER FOREIGN STAFF

Dateline: AMMAN, Jordan

Body

One question emerged for many Arabs who watched the grisly images this week of four American civilians whose bodies were burned and mutilated after an ambush in Iraq:

So what?

While the horrific killings Wednesday in the restive town of Fallujah outraged Americans and prompted the U.S.-led coalition to vow an "overwhelming" response, the incident barely registered in the Middle East, where the big news was an Enrique Iglesias concert in Egypt. The dead contractors were largely forgotten.

"Who cares?" asked Fida Alsha'er, a columnist for a Jordanian **women**'s magazine. "It's another example of how American life is considered something very expensive, very important, while the Arab life is worth nothing."

The Uncle Sam restaurant sits in the heart of Amman, the Jordanian capital, and its sign is all-American red, white and blue. But that's where the kinship with the United States ends. Tamer, 24, a waiter who would not give his last name, watched Egyptian soap operas at the cafe Saturday instead of Western channels that featured persisting questions of when the United States would retaliate.

"It's not good to celebrate mutilation, but Iraq is an Arab country under American occupation," Tamer said with a shrug. "Iraqis have the right to fight back."

The four Americans, who worked for a North Carolina security firm, were ambushed as they drove through Fallujah on Wednesday. A jeering mob kicked, beat and dragged their charred corpses through the street. Two bodies were shown hung on a bridge over the Euphrates River. Clerics on Friday denounced the dismemberment as a grave sin in Islam, but stopped short of condemning the killings.

Arabs largely unfazed by mutilation incident; The burning and display of American corpses in Iraq last week strikes many as simply just.

The two most-watched Arab satellite channels, Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera, showed unusual restraint in their treatment of the images Wednesday. Arabiya aired most of the scene, but blurred the bodies. Al Jazeera refrained from showing any photos. It was not clear whether the decision was out of sensitivity or because the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council has in the past banned both stations for airing "inflammatory" footage.

In Iraq - as well as in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Algeria and Egypt - newspapers ran initial reports of the incident at the bottom of the front page or buried inside. By last weekend, the papers either ignored developments in the story or stressed the failure of U.S. troops to stop the bloodshed in Iraq.

On Saturday, CNN International featured relatives eulogizing the dead men as freedom-loving heroes. Arabic-language news channels showed footage of Iraqis ripping, burning and trampling on the American flag at an unrelated demonstration. Most Arab media never even identified the slain men.

"There is so much animosity against Americans that people, on the whole, don't regard this mutilation as against individual corpses," said Labib Kamhawi, a Jordanian political analyst. "They feel this was something done against American policy, against America."

Amr al-Azm, 40, a Syrian archeologist, has given lectures in the United States on Arab jubilation at American deaths, particularly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He likens the situation to a speed demon cruising down the highway and cutting off other drivers. When the fast car crashes, Azm said, the gut reaction of the law-abiding drivers is, "He got what he deserves."

That instinctive satisfaction of mighty America taking a loss, he added, was only intensified by Israel's killing last month of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of the Palestinian group *Hamas*.

An Israeli gunship fired three rockets at the elderly sheikh as he left a Gaza City mosque after prayers, sparking massive protests throughout the Arab world.

A shadowy group calling itself Brigades of Martyr Ahmed Yassin claimed responsibility for the Fallujah ambush in a statement that, like the attack itself, received little attention in the Arab world.

"It's not a big incident in the daily litany of woes in the Middle East," Azm said in a telephone interview from his home in Damascus. "The Arab media is full of this stuff every single day.

"Just last week, we saw the mutilated remains of Sheikh Yassin and his wheelchair. Was there similar outrage in America over that?"

Hundreds of American troops in Iraq never saw the gruesome Fallujah footage in full because many satellite TV networks didn't show it and many Internet sites are blocked on U.S. bases.

Marine Lt. Col. John Pioli, however, happened to be in Jordan at the time and watched a snippet of the incident on Arab television.

"For 10 minutes, I was disgusted, upset, extremely angry, and thinking that being here is a waste of my time," said Pioli, who is helping to rebuild the Iraqi military.

"Then I thought, 'Nope, there's still too much work to be done.' I want to do what I need to do so I can prevent my son from ever having to come here."

Contact reporter Hannah Allam at hallam@krwashington.com.

Load-Date: August 24, 2005

Arabs largely unfazed by mutilation incident; The burning and display of American corpses in Iraq last week strikes many as simply just.



READERS WRITE

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
February 18, 2004 Wednesday
Home Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: Editorial;; Letters

Length: 784 words

Byline: VIC JACKSON, BEVERLY MULLINS, KATHY BROWNE, ERIC RIDENOUR, JOYCE M. BUIS, ELLEN

SPEARS, BILL LENTZ, TONY HAMMOCK

Body

Gay marriage: Responses to "Ban of gay marriage advances," Page One, Feb. 17

Amendment denies rights

As a gay black man, I am dismayed that the state Senate has voted for a constitutional amendment that would curtail my civil rights.

After being imprisoned for 27 years for civil rights activism, Nelson Mandela insisted on civil rights protections for gay and lesbian South Africans. This was the first time in the history of the world that gay people's civil rights had been defined in a national constitution. Now in my own country I see my elected leaders doing the opposite --- using their power to enshrine hate and bigotry against gay people in the state constitution.

For the Journal-Constitution

I grew up in a segregated Georgia and have gradually begun to feel that I have achieved a degree of equality. Now it's happening all over again. I am being judged as less worthy and less deserving simply because I am gay.

VIC JACKSON, Atlanta

No, it safeguards an institution

While some would have you believe that SR595 is about hate, it is not.

Gay Americans can celebrate their partnerships, unions --- whatever they prefer to call them. I have no doubt that many of them are loving, caring relationships. But most Americans believe that marriage is between a male and a *female*. It has always been that way, and I hope it will remain so.

BEVERLY MULLINS, Tiger

READERS WRITE

Middle East: Responses to "Palestinians join nonviolent struggle against Israeli occupation," @issue, Feb. 16

Bloodshed still preferred method

Nonviolent Palestinians? Since when? Who blew up a bus in Jerusalem two weeks ago? Swedish terrorists?

<u>Hamas</u>, Fatah and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade are still threatening to destroy the "Zionist Entity" (Israel) and "throw the Jews into the sea." Building the wall of separation is a last-ditch effort by the Israelis to stem the rising tide of terrorism in their country. Nothing else has worked, and at least it is nonviolent.

KATHY BROWNE, Toccoa

Article welcome

Thank you for publishing the article by Adam Shapiro of the International Solidarity Movement.

Such articles, openly critical of Israel's brutal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, are rarely seen in the mainstream U.S. media. You've put your readers in a better position to make a more informed decision about the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

ERIC RIDENOUR, Alpharetta

It poses no threat to mainstream values

My husband and I, who have been married for nearly 50 years and have four children and seven grandchildren, can't see what threat gay marriage poses to our family or to social values.

The writer who equates same-sex unions to child marriages, premarital sex and pornography ("Christians' concerns biblically based," Letters, Feb. 16) sounds hateful and intellectually dishonest. And he says God is on his side. We really doubt that.

JOYCE M. BUIS, Atlanta

Responses to Susan Wells' essay "Gay parents know that love matters more than gender," @issue, Feb. 13

Essay exposes phoniness of foes

Hurray for Susan Wells' forthright article on the importance of celebrating loving families, without regard to gender orientation of the parents. Her candid personal account clearly shows that opponents of same-sex marriage are attacking family values, not defending them.

In fact, current efforts to outlaw gay marriage are driven in part by a cynical, election-year effort to mobilize intolerance to achieve short-term political gain. Georgia's proposed state constitutional amendment is part of a nationally coordinated assault on the rights of gay and lesbian families and should be opposed by all who care about strengthening families.

ELLEN SPEARS, Atlanta

Tired of aggressive push for inclusion

Gay parent Susan Wells asserts that the "right wing of the straight world" is out to get her and her peers. That's an example of the whole "We're here, we're queer and we're in your face" mentality that seems to be a survival response from a small minority.

Most people are not homosexual, but that does not imply this majority seeks to ruin the lives of gay folks. More likely, most people don't spend a lot of time thinking about a subset whose members identify themselves first and foremost by what they like to do in their bedrooms.

READERS WRITE

The gay lifestyle's shouting agenda for recognition and acceptance is perhaps too aggressive. Please --- give it a rest, already.

BILL LENTZ, Cumming

Shame on senator

A citizen tries to make an appointment with his U.S. senator, Zell Miller, and is charged with trespassing after being refused an appointment with his "public servant"? ("Iraq war protester in court today," Metro, Feb. 17)

The real criminal here is not the protester, but the senator. This is a prime example of democracy not at work.

TONY HAMMOCK, Atlanta

Graphic

Photo: Construction continues in Israel on a wall that will separate the outskirts of Jerusalem from the West Bank. / KEVIN FRAYER / AP; Photo: The Rev. Jeffrey Jordan (left) and David Pickett exchange rings Saturday in Philadelphia's Love Park. / MIKE MERGEN / Associated Press

Load-Date: February 18, 2004



Israeli bulldozers flatten Gaza homes

Guardian Weekly
February 5, 2004 / February 11, 2004

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Section: LE MONDE; Pg. 29

Length: 770 words

Byline: Gilles Paris in Rafah

Highlight: Rafah is turning to rubble as army crushes buildings in hunt for tunnels

Body

Two Israeli watchtowers can be seen behind a steel wall that stands several metres high. In the distance an Egyptian flag flaps in the violent wind that often sweeps across this Israeli-controlled section of the border at the southern tip of the Gaza strip. On the far side, between the wall and the first group of Palestinian houses in the town of Rafah that are still inhabited, there stretches a no man's land of sand and rubble.

With each new Israeli incursion, this area of wasteland gets larger. The Israeli army is looking for tunnels that the Palestinians have bored into Egypt, and which, the Israelis claim, are used to bring in arms consignments. Armoured bulldozers are regularly sent in to demolish homes thought to conceal shafts leading down to the secret tunnels.

Fauze al-Shaher, a 43-year-old farmer, is convinced that it will soon be his turn. Between the border and his home the only thing still standing is a house that one of his cousins vacated several weeks ago. And yet Israeli soldiers have already been through al-Shaher's house with a fine-tooth comb. "They came with dogs during the night, threatened us with their guns, grouped us together in the entrance hall and then searched the place from top to bottom," he says. The soldiers did not find anything, but al-Shaher is not reassured: "The tunnels are only an excuse."

Al-Shaher is proud to belong to one of the largest families in Rafah, and one that has given its name to the district of Shahara. Six months ago two of his cousins were killed during an Israeli incursion, bringing to 25 the number of family members who have died since the beginning of the intifada in September 2000. Around his home, houses belonging to other relatives have already been demolished.

Next door one of his aunts, Jundia al-Shaher, is also expecting the worst. She points to the various parts of her house that have been destroyed -- some of them only two days previously. She and her family now camp in rooms on the ground floor. The blade of a bulldozer accidentally made a hole in one of her walls when depositing a load of earth to block access to the no-man's-land. She has plugged it with a piece of mattress.

By the front door of al-Shaher's house, which was recently hemmed in by piles of rubble left by an Israeli earthmover, his granddaughter playfully sticks her school ruler into pockmarks left in the wall by gunfire. His eldest son, Yunes, has decided to leave for Egypt: "I no longer believe in anything or anyone. I have no expectations."

His father agrees: "The Palestinian Authority, <u>Hamas</u> and foreign diplomats come to see us, but none of them does anything for us. The only people I respect are the international pacifists. By stepping in front of the Israelis they have sometimes made it possible for families not to leave empty-handed."

Israeli bulldozers flatten Gaza homes

Two such activists lost their lives in Rafah in 2003 -- an American woman who was crushed by a bulldozer, and a Briton shot by the Israelis. Draconian rules have since been imposed to restrict access to the Gaza Strip.

Rafah is the poorest town in the Palestinian territories. The majority of its people are refugees and, according to estimates by international organisations, more than 70% of the population is unemployed. Cases of malnutrition have recently been observed there. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) says 72 more homes have been destroyed in less than a month; and almost 10,000 Palestinians in Rafah have been made homeless since September 2000.

Talal Hamdan, who works at the town hall, says 1,500 homes have been demolished, 1,000 others damaged and 267 people killed, including 80 children and 27 <u>women</u>. He admits that "there are some tunnels". An Israeli spokesman is more specific: "Thirty-four tunnels were destroyed in 2002, 40 in 2003, and four since the beginning of this year." However, the army has not so far discovered any sophisticated weapons.

Hamdan, like al-Shaher, lives in an exposed part of town. And like him he has not made any particular arrangements for the future. "There's a shortage of housing and I don't have any money. The town hall already has enough trouble paying its staff, so I can't rely on it to rehouse me."

Building work in the less exposed districts cannot keep up with the rate of destruction imposed by the Israelis. "What we need is \$ 25m," says Paul McCann, a spokesman for UNWRA, which faces constant financial problems. So far only 288 homes have been built by the agency throughout the Gaza Strip, and more than 400 other projects are still waiting for finance. *January 30*

Graphic

Photo, A Palestinian woman searches through the wreckage of her house in Rafah, Khalil Hamra/AP

Load-Date: February 13, 2004



Sharon, Abbas to declare formal ceasefire at summit: Highest-level talks since 2000; Canada invited to take the lead in reviving international effort to solve refugee crisis

The Gazette (Montreal)
February 8, 2005 Tuesday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 851 words

Byline: MATTHEW FISHER, MIKE BLANCHFIELD of The Ottawa Citizen contributed to this report, CanWest News

Service; The Ottawa Citizen contributed to this report

Dateline: SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt

Body

Israel and the Palestinians will announce a formal ceasefire today as they begin a historic summit meeting in this seaside resort.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are to use several hours of face-to-face talks to discuss trust-building measures to try to sustain the momentum created by the death of Yasser Arafat 11 weeks ago.

The talks, the highest-level meeting between the two since the intifada broke out in 2000, are aimed at resuming the formal peace negotiations that were abandoned when the violence erupted.

After being largely absent from the Middle East peace process for four years, the United States gave added impetus to the summit meeting by announcing yesterday that a three-star U.S. general would be assigned to oversee crucial security issues.

As U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice emerged from a meeting in the West Bank with Abbas, she said that "this was the most promising moment" for peace in the Middle East in recent years.

"The United States is determined to do all that we can to take advantage of this moment of opportunity in the weeks and months ahead," Rice said.

In Washington yesterday, U.S. President George W. Bush praised Abbas for renouncing terrorism and Israel for easing restrictions in the Territories so that Palestinians could vote last month in an election to choose a successor to Arafat.

"Prime Minister Abbas comes to the table with a mandate from a lot of Palestinians," Bush said. "He has been through an election, he has been endorsed by the Palestinian people."

Sharon, Abbas to declare formal ceasefire at summit: Highest-level talks since 2000; Canada invited to take the lead in reviving international effort to solve r....

To underline its commitment to the revived peace process, the United States was dispatching Lt.-Gen. William Ward, the U.S. army's second-ranking soldier in Europe, to help the Palestinians train and equip their security forces, Rice said. The general would also monitor the ceasefire that Abbas and Sharon were expected to declare.

Ward once oversaw training of Bosnian security forces and has had postings in Egypt and Somalia.

Canada has also been invited to join the peace process by taking the lead in reviving international efforts to solve the Palestinian refugee crisis.

The suggestion came yesterday during meetings between Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew and his Israeli counterpart, Silvan Shalom. Canada chairs the multilateral refugee working group, a committee that includes a number of Middle East countries, the United States and the European Union, but the group has been largely inactive for years.

The Israelis made the suggestion to Pettigrew, who is on a weeklong Middle Eastern swing to find a role for Canada in the peace process. The suggestion was the first concrete one Pettigrew has received so far, and it is one that Prime Minister Paul Martin has identified as a way Canada could contribute toward ending carnage in the region.

"This could be very useful to helping the peace process," said an Israeli government official who provided details of Pettigrew's meetings yesterday.

About 3.7 million Palestinian refugees are registered with the United Nations and are living in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. All parties see resolving their status as an important step on the road to peace.

Sharon and several members of his cabinet have recently said formal talks can resume only if the Palestinians completely renounce violence. This meant not only stopping suicide bombers and rocket and mortar attacks on Israeli settlements in the Territories and in Israel but also that terrorist groups such as *Hamas*, which have not yet given a clear answer as to whether they will honour the ceasefire, must surrender their weapons.

If today's talks at an isolated conference centre surrounded by palm trees and backing on to the Red Sea go well, Sharon and Abbas are to meet again in March.

In another clear signal that the United States was once again heavily engaged in the peace process, Sharon and Abbas had each agreed to go to Washington for separate meetings with Bush, Rice said. Those meetings would take place in the coming weeks.

Having the U.S. president shake hands with the head of the Palestinian Authority represents a huge shift in U.S. policy. Bush had refused since 2000 to have anything to do with Abbas's predecessor, Arafat.

The Israeli daily newspaper Ha'aretz said late yesterday that Rice had told Israel the United States expected the Jewish state would live up to its obligations according to the so-called "road map." Among its many conditions was that Israel abandon scores of West Bank outposts and freeze settlement expansion.

"We did talk about the need to make sure that both obligations are carried out concerning settlements and outposts," the newspaper quoted Rice as saying of her talks with Israeli leaders on Sunday.

"(If) it looks as if there is somehow a continued effort to create facts on the ground, then we do not support that," Rice said, referring to expansion of Israeli settlements that, once built and populated, are difficult to remove.

Online Extra: Read about the fate of Palestinian prisoners, a key summit issue, at our Web site, www.montrealgazette.com

Sharon, Abbas to declare formal ceasefire at summit: Highest-level talks since 2000; Canada invited to take the lead in reviving international effort to solve r....

Graphic

Color Photo: MOHAMMED ABED, AFG, VIA GETTY IMAGES; <u>Women</u> hold photos of relatives held in Israeli prisons at a demonstration in Gaza City yesterday. Israel's 8,000 Palestinian prisoners are a major issue at today's summit in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt.

Load-Date: February 8, 2005



Ballots, but a deficit of democracy MIDDLE EAST: This will be a year of elections in the turbulent region, reports Roula Khalaf

Financial Times (London, England)

January 26, 2005 Wednesday

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Section: FT REPORT - THE WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 909 words

Byline: By ROULA KHALAF

Body

There is little chance that the world's most turbulent region will look more stable in 2005.

Violence continues to wrack Iraq, a crisis over a vast nuclear programme simmers in Iran and religious fanatics challenge Saudi Arabia's regime.

But against this tumultuous background, a wave of elections will sweep the Middle East this year, conveying at least the impression of a more vibrant political life.

Some of the voting will mark a turning point for the nations involved. Other elections will be a disappointing use of a democratic principle to consolidate an authoritarian status quo.

Iraq's first democratic elections on January 30 are taking place amid a surge in attacks and a climate of fear. But the ballot box will establish Iraq's majority Shia community, long oppressed by Ba'athist regimes, as the dominant power.

The poll will follow the January 9 Palestinian presidential elections, the first national vote since 1996. Mahmoud Abbas, a long-time aide to Yassir Arafat who harbours more moderate views, won more than 62 per cent of the vote.

Six months from now, Palestinians will again go to the polls to elect a national legislative council.

Iraqis may have achieved their democratic objective much faster than other Arabs. But it has come at huge cost - an invasion followed by an insurgency that might take years to quell.

The hope is that with an elected government in place Iraq's growing insurgency will be de-legitimised and slowly fade allowing an eventual exit of US troops. But there are serious risks the election will exacerbate, rather than ease the conflict.

The expected boycott by many Sunni Arab parties could provoke even bloodier conflict after the poll. The marginalisation of the Sunnis - which has fed the ranks of the rebels - will be even more strongly felt when a Shiadominated government takes over.

In the Palestinian territories too, it has yet to be seen whether the show of democracy by Palestinians will bring them closer to a viable Palestinian state on lands occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Ballots, but a deficit of democracy MIDDLE EAST: This will be a year of elections in the turbulent region, reports Roula Khalaf

Lack of democracy was never an obstacle to Middle East peace - Yassir Arafat had been the only elected Arab leader in the region. However, the passing of Mr Arafat, who Israel claimed was encouraging violence against it, and the creation of an Israeli coalition that includes the more dove-ish Labour party, have offered a fresh opportunity to revive the peace process.

The election of Mr Abbas had been expected as none of his rivals enjoyed a strong power base.

The Islamist <u>Hamas</u> movement, the main opposition to the Palestinian Authority, did not take part in the vote. Young reformers in Fatah, the mainstream party in the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which backed Mr Abbas, decided not to challenge the old guard.

Mr Abbas is the Palestinian leader favoured by the world community because he has repeatedly voiced opposition to the militarisation of the intifada, the more than four-year-old Palestinian uprising. However, his ability to implement the security reforms that Israel demands and to clamp down on radical groups will depend in large part on how much help he receives from Israel and the US.

In February, attention moves to Saudi Arabia, with the first election since the 1960s to half the seats on municipal councils.

The vote may be trumpeted by the kingdom's western allies as a watershed event - and it may well mark the beginning of more political participation, with a vote the following year to the now appointed Shura Council, the consultative assembly. But it is not likely to have any impact on the way Saudi Arabia is run.

<u>Women</u> are excluded from the poll and only half the seats on the local councils will be elected. The powers of the municipal councils are strictly limited as there is no control over finances.

Iran's presidential election could be more worrying, dealing another blow to the beleaguered reform movement rather than strengthening it.

When Mohamed Khatami, the reform-minded president, was elected in 1997, he promised to lead the Islamic republic through a democratic transformation.

But with most of his reforms blocked by hardliners in non-elected but all-powerful positions, the relevance of his office as a driver of change has been greatly undermined. Iranian voters have also been demoralised and their interest in voting has been weakened.

With the Guardian Council able to block candidates it disapproves of, elections are manipulated long before voters cast their ballots.

Thanks to widespread disqualification of reformists, conservatives regained control of parliament last year.

They are now hoping for a similar outcome for the presidency.

International attention will turn to Egypt in September, where the 76-year-old president, Hosni Mubarak, is expected to seek a fifth term of office. Under the constitution a single candidate is confirmed in a referendum, so another six-year mandate for Mr Mubarak would appear certain.

But at least some Egyptians are now daring to ask for a constitutional amendment. Fearful that Mr Mubarak will not only stay on but is also grooming his son Gamal to succeed him, civil society groups have launched a campaign to collect signatures in support of a pluralist contest, while three prominent Egyptians have said they want to present themselves as candidates.

This is not a mass movement but it points at least to a willingness among government critics to speak out on a subject that until now no one had dared to address.

Ballots, but a deficit of democracy MIDDLE EAST : This will be a year of elections in the turbulent region, reports Roula Khalaf

Load-Date: January 25, 2005



National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

June 13, 2005 Monday

National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1; Peter Goodspeed

Length: 2143 words

Byline: Peter Goodspeed, National Post

Series: Iran on the Edge

Body

Iran is at a crossroads. It is surrounded by U.S. allies, its economy is flat and much of the youthful population is demanding reform. On Friday, a new president will be elected in another effort to force change on the conservative mullahs who hold ultimate authority. In a five-part series that begins today, Peter Goodspeed examines the pressures pulling at the country and its people.

- - -

The drumbeat of war throbs in the background of Iranian politics. From the graffiti still visible on the walls of the old U.S. embassy in Tehran, declaring "USA is Great Evil," to the public appearances of ruling religious leaders who regularly denounce the West, Iran remains in a state of perpetual crisis.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, constantly reminds Iranians that the theocracy he heads is under threat.

"Our people say 'Death to America,' " he said recently in a speech carried on national television. "This is like saying, 'I seek God's refuge from the accursed Satan,' which is recited before any chapter of the Koran ...

"Why is this? So the believer will never forget, even for a moment, the presence of Satan. So he will never forget, even for a moment, that Satan is ready to attack him and to destroy his spiritual shield and his faith. The saying 'Death to America' is for this purpose."

He was interrupted by ritual chants of "Allah Akbar" (God is Great), "Death to America," "Death to Israel" and "Death to those who reject the rule of the jurisprudent."

Twenty-six years after they deposed the Shah and created the Islamic Republic, the ruling mullahs still seek to rally Iranians to confirm their faith and profess their patriotism by nurturing perceptions of an unrelenting external threat.

This Friday's presidential election is no exception.

After two decades of tense and uncertain relations with the West, Iran's leaders find themselves hemmed in by the U.S. military -- with 150,000 U.S. troops next door in Iraq, another 20,000 in Afghanistan, a series of new U.S.

military bases in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia and the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet patrolling the Persian Gulf.

Even more threatening are the repeated hints from the United States and Israel that they could launch pre-emptive military strikes to prevent Tehran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

Since last summer, there have been reports of U.S. Special Forces commandoes carrying out secret reconnaissance missions deep inside Iran, from bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as part of an effort to identify targets for military strikes.

Dick Cheney, the U.S. Vice-President, fuelled Iran's fears further in January when he said the country is "right at the top of the list" of potential world trouble spots and suggested Israel "might well decide to act first and let the rest of the world worry about cleaning up the diplomatic mess afterward."

Weeks later, Israel was reported to be stocking up on bunker buster GBU-28 bombs that can attack hardened underground targets, similar to some of Iran's nuclear facilities buried nearly a kilometre underground.

Iran has responded by conducting high-profile military exercises and upgrading its Shahab-3 intermediate missile, which can hit Israel and U.S. forces in the Middle East.

While Ayatollah Khamenei has glorified shahada (self-sacrifice), religious conservatives have encouraged more than 25,000 Iranians to sign up as volunteers for "suicide attacks" against the United States or Israel.

Ali Shamkhani, the Iranian Defence Minister, has also warned his commanders won't sit back like Iraq's Saddam Hussein and wait for the U.S. to strike the first blow. If it feels threatened, Iran may attack first.

"We will not sit to wait for what others will do to us," he told the al-Jazeera television network last month. "Some military commanders in Iran are convinced that preventive operations which the Americans talk about are not their monopoly."

Ever since a dissident group exposed Iran's secret research facilities in 2002, its nuclear power program has been a source of serious concern in the West. It is a debate that is all too reminiscent of the 12 years of crisis that surrounded Saddam Hussein's intermittent quest for weapons of mass destruction.

While Tehran insists it is pursuing a peaceful nuclear energy program and remains well within its rights as a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, substantial doubts remain about its real intentions.

Two years of international inspections have uncovered a pattern of concealment and deception stretching back over 18 years.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says Iran systematically lied about its nuclear program. It secretly bought equipment on the black market and hid nuclear enrichment technology that could be diverted into weapons production in secret bomb-proof bunkers.

At every step, Iran concealed crucial aspects of its program and in at least two instances Iranian officials refused to let international inspectors tour suspected sites, while incriminating material was being removed.

Still, IAEA officials managed to find evidence of secret experiments and issued a report harshly criticizing Iran's numerous "breaches" of its treaty obligations.

Many experts believe Iran may be only a year away from mastering the technology to build nuclear weapons. But, so far, IAEA inspectors and western intelligence agencies have not found conclusive evidence it has actually tried to build a bomb.

"Nobody knows exactly how they are doing it, where they are doing it and how far along they are -- all the stuff which is critical to know, if you were to launch a [pre-emptive] strike," says Kenneth Pollack, a former analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency, now an Iran expert at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Those uncertainties limit the military options.

It may be impossible to effectively target Iran's nuclear program because sites are widely dispersed and well protected. Bombs might delay Tehran's nuclear ambitions, but they won't necessarily end them.

"Given the farce over U.S. intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, proving that Iran has the bomb will be very difficult, unless Iran obliges by doing something reckless and out of character such as testing a nuclear device," says Geoffrey Kemp, director of strategic studies at the Nixon Center in Washington.

In the long run, any military strike could unify Iranians around the government and guarantee their country becomes a nuclear power.

For many Iranians, the nuclear issue isn't about military strategy or threats of proliferation. It's widely regarded as a symbol of modernity and national pride.

The fact the United States and Israel are the chief opponents deepens their suspicion that the dispute is driven more by hostility than reason.

"Ultimately, there is no way that the United States, Europe or the UN Security Council can stop a proud country of 70 million people with abundant resources from getting the ingredients for a nuclear bomb, if that is what its leaders believe must happen," says Mr. Kemp.

"There is a strong likelihood that while a military campaign against Iran would cause great damage, the net effect would be to reinforce Iran's determination to get nuclear weapons."

So what happens if Iran does get nuclear weapons?

In the worst-case scenario, experts believe a nuclear-armed Iran may be more assertive and aggressive. Its religious hardliners could suddenly and erratically start to throw their weight around. And given its long history of support for radical groups, Tehran could threaten to pass its nuclear capability on to terrorists. That thought chills U.S. officials who have described Iran as the "most active state sponsor of terrorism" for the last nine years.

The United States has been infuriated by Iran's continued arming of Hezbollah in Lebanon and its support for *Hamas* and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in destabilizing the Middle East and attacking Israel.

More recently, the official U.S. commission into the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, claimed Iranian support of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorist network dates back to a meeting in Sudan in 1991.

By 1993, Iranian-backed Hezbollah trainers were instructing al-Qaeda operatives in intelligence-gathering, security and explosives, especially in "how to use truck bombs," the report said.

Iran has also been accused of easing the passage of al-Qaeda through its territory to and from Afghanistan.

"Elements of al-Qaeda and the global jihadist movement are tied to Iran, while both Iranian intelligence agents and surrogates are actively undermining U.S. interests in stabilizing Iraq," says Matthew Levitt, director of the Washington Institute's Terrorism Studies Program

"Iran is apparently a common and convenient meeting place for radical Sunnis affiliated with global jihadist groups and other terrorist organizations, including *Hamas* and Hezbollah.

"The sheer scope of Iranian terrorist activity is remarkable, including both the terrorism carried out by Iraniansupported terrorist groups and by Iranian agents themselves."

More immediately, a nuclear- armed Iran would force the United States to rethink its conventional military operations in the Middle East.

U.S. Navy battle groups in the Persian Gulf and land troops in Iraq would become vulnerable targets.

A nuclear-armed Iran could also threaten the oilfields of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates -- nearly half the world's known oil reserves. It would also dominate the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway at the foot of the Persian Gulf, through which 40% of the world's oil travels each day.

Another possibility might be the intimidation of the Gulf Arab states on issues such as oil pricing and production levels. Iran could press its neighbours to withdraw the basing rights they have granted to the U.S. military.

Iran's historic enmity with Iraq and its hostility toward Israel could further enflame the Middle East, while raising the stakes for any future U.S. involvement there.

In the United States, concerns over a nuclear-armed Iran will immediately spur Washington's demands for developing and deploying a space-based national missile defence.

If Iran crosses the nuclear threshold, it will embolden other would-be nuclear powers, such as North Korea, and could easily set off a regional arms race as Iraq, Turkey and Saudi Arabia seek to counter the new Iranian threat.

For now, the United States and Europe are seeking to freeze Iran's nuclear programs through a combination of diplomatic and economic incentives and threats of far-reaching sanctions.

But in the long run, the standoff may degenerate into a new Cold War. It may be impossible to verify whether Iran is making nuclear weapons or not, or to hammer together an international coalition capable of imposing strong sanctions on Tehran. Veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council, such as Russia and China, have growing economic ties with Iran and may not be prepared to sacrifice them to ease U.S. concerns.

The practical impacts of a nuclear Iran may transform the politics of the Middle East. But, perhaps more importantly, they might also entrench the Islamic Republic's theocracy.

"As in the Cold War, the United States would face an overtly hostile nuclear power," says Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control.

"It would therefore be in America's interest to weaken that power as much as possible without resorting to force. To do so, we would probably embark on a new policy of containment. America would use its resources and influence to undermine Iran on every front."

The mullahs' perception of an unrelenting external threat could then become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

In early June, in a nationally televised address to students, Ayatollah Khamenei lashed out at the West, accusing it of meddling in Iran's affairs and called on his people to elect an anti-Western president.

"Look for a candidate who displeases the enemy," he urged voters. "Do the opposite of Washington's wishes."

IRAN AT A GLANCE:

- Islamic republic ruled by Shiite clerics since 1979 when the Shah was overthrown
- In attempts to create a theocracy, strict adherence to Muslim observance is enforced, with <u>women</u> forced to cover their hair, and Western movies and music forbidden.
- But demographics are against the ayatollahs: in a population of 69.8 million, 50% are under the age of 21
- Voting age is 15

- Young Iranians have embraced new technology as a way of avoiding religious strictures.
- There are more than four million cellphone subscribers, about five million Internet users and 80,0000 webloggers. Weblogs in Farsi are the third most common on the Net, after English and French
- Iranians enjoy the world's cheapest gasoline, at a subsidized price of 8 cents a litre, but the economy has shrunk since the days of the Shah.

Source: National Post

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Morteza Nikoubazl, Reuters; Iranian <u>women</u> walk by an election poster for Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Tehran. Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has called on his countrymen to support conservative religious candidates as an endorsement of the country's clerical establishment.; Black & White

Photo:

Load-Date: June 13, 2005



G2: Girls shot as they baked and swept: Palestinian teenagers among growing number of children hit by Israeli snipers during 'Days of Penitence'

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition
October 6, 2004

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 17

Length: 800 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Jabaliya refugee camp

Body

Islam Dwidar's classmates were still taking in her shocking death - the teacher weeping outside before facing the girls, her closest friend recounting how they walked to school together each day - when the news arrived about Tahreer Abu El Jidyan.

The two 15-year-old pupils at Jabaliya's school were both shot in the head by Israeli soldiers inside their homes just a few blocks and several hours apart. Islam died almost immediately after the bullet smashed through her forehead as she baked bread with her mother in their yard on Sunday. Tahreer is still on life support at a Gaza hospital after an operation to remove shards of shattered skull from her brain.

She lies motionless, with little to suggest she is alive other than gentle breathing. Doctors do not expect her to survive.

Tahreer's mother, Intisar, was at her bedside yesterday.

"Oh Tahreer, my heart. I wish I were lying in this bed, not you," she whispered to her child. "She was sweeping the floor in front of the door," said Mrs Abu El Jidyan. "I was standing talking to her. We knew the Israeli soldiers were around, we knew they had snipers in the buildings on our street but we didn't expect what happened. They just shot her in the head. Her brains spilled out. She said: 'Mum, I'm hit'. She praised God and she collapsed."

There were two bullets. The first struck Tahreer in the head. As she fell, the second hit the wall behind her. "I've no doubt a sniper shot her deliberately. There was no fighting in the area. There were no other shots, only the ones that hit Tahreer," said her mother.

With her stood Tahreer's 14-year-old brother, Naser, who was wounded by shrapnel last week. Israeli forces killed their father 11 years ago during the first intifada.

Mrs Abu El Jidyan regrets preventing Tahreer from walking to school on Sunday morning. She thought it would be too dangerous to venture out of their home in Jabaliya's Sikka neighbourhood because it is on the edge of the area occupied by Israeli troops and tanks last week. Snipers are posted in buildings overlooking their street and a tank is less than a block away.

"I wouldn't let her out of the house but it was dangerous at home too. When there was fighting, bullets came through the walls. We stopped using some rooms on the side where the Israelis are," she said.

G2: Girls shot as they baked and swept: Palestinian teenagers among growing number of children hit by Israeli snipers during 'Days of Penitence'

Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups say that about half of the nearly 80 people killed by the army over the past week of "Operation Days of Penitence" are civilians. The military says it has carefully targeted <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad fighters with missile strikes.

But while the numbers are in dispute - in part because it is often hard to say whether youths in their mid to late teens are bystanders or part of the Palestinian resistance - there is no doubt that a growing number of children have been felled by Israeli snipers.

At Islam and Tahreer's school in Jabaliya yesterday morning, the headmistress, Rukaya Kamal al Budani, fielded calls from parents wanting to know if it was safe to send their girls. "If they can get here, it's safe," was her stock reply. But of 1,150 pupils, fewer than 200 turned up.

Before word reached the school about Tahreer, Mrs al Budani was getting to grips with the death of Islam.

"This is our first casualty at the school," she said. "I don't know how to deal with the girls. It's going to have a big impact on her classmates and friends. I'm shocked that no one in the free world condemns the killing of a child."

Then one of the male teachers tells Mrs al Budani about the shooting of Tahreer the previous day. The headmistress sits in silence.

Until June, the two young <u>women</u> had been classmates, but then Tahreer failed her exams and was held back for a year. Asmaa Abu Samaan walked to school with her each morning. "I met her in front of my house each morning to walk to school. I did my homework with her. I keep thinking that if she is brain-dead and not killed perhaps she is still suffering. I can't stand it," she said.

Asmaa walked to school yesterday morning without her friend."I walked against the wall hoping the soldiers can't see me. I want to go to school because I know the Jews do not want us to study because we need to be educated to build our country," she said.

But the killing went on as the conflict claimed the life of another teenage girl in the Gaza strip yesterday. Palestinian medics said Israeli soldiers fired about 20 bullets into 13- year-old Iman al-Hams, including five into her head.

The military said she had entered a forbidden zone in Rafah refugee camp, and that she dropped a bag that soldiers feared was a bomb.

The Palestinians said Iman was walking to school when troops entered the camp and that she dropped her bag as she ran away in fear.

The bag was not found to contain a bomb.

The Editor, page 26

Load-Date: October 6, 2004



Bin Laden video: Your security is in your hands; In a broadcast believed to be authentic, the al-Qaida leader admits his role in 9/11 and says there still are reasons for a 'repeat'

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)
October 30, 2004 Saturday

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Section: Front; Pg. a1

Length: 868 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: CAIRO, Egypt

Body

Osama bin Laden, injecting himself into the campaign four days ahead of presidential elections, said in a videotape aired Friday that the United States can avoid another Sept. 11 attack if it stops threatening the security of Muslims.

In the segment broadcast, the al-Qaida leader refrained from directly threatening new attacks, although he said "there are still reasons to repeat what happened."

"Your security is not in the hands of Kerry, Bush or al-Qaida. Your security is in your own hands," he said, referring to the president and his Democratic opponent. "Any state that does not mess with our security has naturally quaranteed its own security."

Admitting for the first time that he ordered the Sept. 11 attacks, bin Laden said he did so because of injustices against the Lebanese and Palestinians by Israel and the United States.

It was the first footage in more than a year of the fugitive al-Qaida leader, thought to be hiding in the mountains along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The video, broadcast on Al-Jazeera television, showed bin Laden with a long gray beard, wearing traditional white robes, a turban and a golden cloak, standing behind a table with papers and in front of a plain, brown curtain.

His hands were steady as he spoke and he appeared healthy.

The Bush administration said Friday it believes the videotape was authentic and had been made recently. White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the administration did not plan to raise the nation's threat level for now.

Al-Jazeera said it broadcast one minute of the five-minute tape. The station's spokesman, Jihad Ali Ballout, said they aired what was "newsworthy and relevant" and refused to describe the unaired portions, including whether they included any threats.

There was no way to determine when the tape was made - but it offered evidence that bin Laden was alive and actively following events. Sen. John Kerry emerged as the Democratic candidate in the spring.

Bin Laden video: Your security is in your hands; In a broadcast believed to be authentic, the al-Qaida leader admits his role in 9/11 and says there still are

Bin Laden said he wanted to explain why he ordered the suicide airline hijackings that hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon so Americans would know how to avoid "another disaster."

"To the U.S. people, my talk is to you about the best way to avoid another disaster," he said. "I tell you: security is an important element of human life and free people do not give up their security."

He accused President Bush of misleading Americans by saying the attack was carried out because al-Qaida "hates freedom." Bin Laden said his followers have left alone countries that do not threaten Muslims.

"We fought you because we are free ... and want to regain freedom for our nation. As you undermine our security we undermine yours," he said.

He said he was first inspired to attack the United States by the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon in which towers and buildings in Beirut were destroyed in the siege of the capital.

"While I was looking at these destroyed towers in Lebanon, it sparked in my mind that the tyrant should be punished with the same and that we should destroy towers in America, so that it tastes what we taste and would be deterred from killing our children and <u>women</u>," he said.

"God knows that it had not occurred to our mind to attack the towers, but after our patience ran out and we saw the injustice and inflexibility of the American-Israeli alliance toward our people in Palestine and Lebanon, this came to my mind," he said.

Bin Laden suggested Bush was slow to react to the Sept. 11 attacks, giving the hijackers more time than they expected. At the time of the attacks, the president was listening to schoolchildren in Florida reading a book.

"It never occurred to us that the commander-in-chief of the American armed forces would leave 50,000 of his citizens in the two towers to face these horrors alone," he said, referring to the number of people who worked at the World Trade Center.

"It appeared to him (Bush) that a little girl's talk about her goat and its butting was more important than the planes and their butting of the skyscrapers. That gave us three times the required time to carry out the operations, thank God," he said.

In planning the attacks, bin Laden said he told Mohammed Atta, one of the hijackers, that the strikes had to be carried out "within 20 minutes before Bush and his administration noticed."

The image of bin Laden reading a statement was dramatically different from the few other videos of the al-Qaida leader that have emerged since the Sept. 11 attacks.

U.S. authorities have long said they believe bin Laden is hiding in a rugged, mountainous tribal region of Pakistan that borders Afghanistan, but there has been no firm evidence of his whereabouts for three years.

The last audiotape purportedly from bin Laden came in April. The speaker on the tape, which CIA analysts said likely was the al-Qaida leader, offered a truce to European nations if they pull troops out of Muslim countries. The tape referred to the March 22 assassination by Israel of *Hamas* founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

Al-Zawahri, bin Laden's Egyptian deputy, has spoken on three recent audiotapes that emerged on June 11, Sept. 9 and Oct. 1 this year. In the latest, he called on young Muslims to strike the United States and its allies.

Graphic

Bin Laden video: Your security is in your hands; In a broadcast believed to be authentic, the al-Qaida leader admits his role in 9/11 and says there still are

photo

Load-Date: October 30, 2004



<u>Cheers! Palestinians lift their glasses to the first beer festival in the</u> Occupied Territories

Belfast Telegraph October 4, 2005

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Length: 930 words

Byline: Donald Macintyre in Taybeh

Body

With its arm-wrestling contest for the under 16s, the brisk trade in embroidered cushion covers and home-made pastries made by the local equivalent of the <u>Women</u>'s Institute, a boy scout parade, and the chance to drink draught lager in the afternoon sunshine, Taybeh's festival had more than a passing resemblance to an English country fete.

Yet the more than 5,000 visitors were enjoying the first-ever Palestinian beer festival, in the heart of the occupied West Bank. Even the few setbacks were familiar; the Palestinian National Theatre troupe failed to turn up on the second day because of artistic issues with the noisiness of the child-packed hall they had played the previous afternoon. "If you mention this please say how grateful we are to them for coming at all," said the October Fest coordinator Maria Khoury. "They performed for free and we'll find a quieter venue for them next time."

But if a beer festival in a small and impoverished Arab town in the shadow of conflict represents a triumph of will over circumstance, so too is the entrepreneur whose business sponsored the event. When Nadim Khoury, a Christian Arab, like all of Taybeh's residents, started the only Palestinian brewery back in 1994, when hopes of a lasting peace were at their highest, he was careful to secure Yasser Arafat's endorsement to protect it from militant Islamists.

Unable even so to borrow money because the banks feared an anti-alcohol backlash, he sunk some £800,000 of his family's savings in the imported state -of-the-art microbrewery plant which by the end of the Nineties was producing 600,000 litres a year (70 per cent of it for the Israeli market) of Taybeh Gold, a no-additives, 100 per cent pure, unusually malty and ultra-drinkable lager-type beer.

But then came the intifada, and the multiplication of Israeli checkpoints and road closures that have helped to see his business fall by 75 per cent and his labour force drop from 13 to six.

The drop of more than half in Israeli sales has been compounded by Palestinian centres such as Gaza and Nablus going "dry" under the influence of <u>Hamas</u> and other Islamic groups. But endlessly innovative, Mr Khoury is now harnessing German techniques to develop a non-alcoholic beer for those markets.

It is less easy to overcome the security hold-ups that have undermined his distribution and make export almost impossible. He can't afford the £50,000 pasteurisation plant that would lengthen the six-month shelf life of his beer in the face of the delays his product would face at the Israeli ports of Ashdod and Haifa.

Cheers! Palestinians lift their glasses to the first beer festival in the Occupied Territories

Instead he reached an agreement with a small German firm to brew his beer. For the past few months Rowan Davis, a peace campaigner and Ipswich publican, has been importing 100 cases a month of the European-brewed version to Britain for the ICA, Hackney Empire, Ritzy Cinema and a list of more right-on bars and gastro-pubs listed on Ms Davis's website www.alternativebeer.co.uk.

But she admits it has been hard to break even: she would much prefer to import the beer from the West Bank, "which is what the customers really want and would genuinely help the Palestinian economy".

Even at home, where the beer is the staple at - for example - Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel, Mr Khoury faces problems keeping the brand in the public eye. "Why did Mexican Corona, which is not a good beer, do so well? Because of advertising, but that's something I can't afford," he says.

But the Khoury family say the biggest threat of all to the brewery was an incident a month ago when it came within five minutes of being burned down. This followed a dark period in the history of Taybeh and its normally harmonious relations with its Muslim neighbour Deir Jareer.

Several hundred of the latter's residents torched 14 houses belonging to another Taybeh family, the el Khouriehs, one of whose married members, Mahdi, they accused of being the father of the unborn child of an unmarried woman in Deir Jareer, Hiyam Hijaj, 32, who had been found dead from poisoning.

The crowd, says Mr Khoury, advanced on the brewery. "I stood holding hands with my wife and children and my brother and sister and their families. I told them I refused to leave the brewery. We were only there for five minutes but it was enough to stop them till the police came."

The scars of this episode have yet to heal. The woman's brothers were arrested on suspicion of having forced their sister to take poison in an "honour killing"; the Taybeh man is still in protective custody having volunteered to take a DNA test to show he was not the father. Taybeh's mayor, Daoud Khoury - Maria's husband and Nadim's brother - paid £3,000 of his own money for the test and says: "The Palestinian Authority is still not publishing the results. We are demanding that they be made public so justice can be done." Mrs Khoury charges: "No one seems concerned about who killed the girl, only about who slept with her."

Efforts by a posse of senior Muslim and Christian clerics from Jerusalem to solve the dispute have been made more urgent by the Hijaj family's threat to kill Mahdi el Khourieh if he is released.

So the Taybeh festival was partly a way of rising above these recent afflictions; and partly to spearhead a "buy-Palestinian" campaign among West Bank residents to help the devastated economy in Taybeh and in the rest of the occupied territories. But most of all, perhaps the festival was a clear sign that Mr Khoury is not going to give up before the arrival of peace, a Palestinian state, and the opportunity to sell his beer as freely as he wishes.

Load-Date: October 4, 2005



There is no easy cure for Iraq's kidnap pandemic DAVID GARDNER

Financial Times (London, England)
September 18, 2004 Saturday
London Edition 1

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Section: COMMENT & ANALYSIS; Pg. 13

Length: 936 words

Byline: By DAVID GARDNER

Body

Nobody is safe, absolutely no one. That is the message behind the pandemic of kidnapping in Iraq, and it is undeniably effective.

This week's seizure of two Americans and a Briton from a rich riverside district of Baghdad and the recent kidnapping of two Italian <u>women</u> aid workers may have no intrinsic connection. But they are part of an emerging pattern in which political aims overlap with financial extortion, and in which Iraqis are suffering far more from kidnapping than the foreigners in their country.

For foreigners it would appear to make little difference which side of the war debate their country was on, whether their leaders committed troops to the occupation, or whether they are in Iraq as mercenaries or missionaries, reporters or construction workers. Frenchmen get taken as well as Italians, Russians and Canadians as well as Americans and Britons. Turkey, Iran, Egypt and Lebanon all opposed the war, but that did not protect their (mainly Muslim) citizens from the kidnappers, any more than the citizens of US-allied Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. Nepal, whose only part in the entire affair is the presence of an estimated 15,000 labourers in Iraq, faced the horror of seeing 12 of its nationals murdered by kidnappers in one incident.

"It is painful that the kidnappers do not differentiate between the brother and friend, and the enemy," said Jean Obeid, Lebanon's foreign minister, after a botched kidnapping last week in Baghdad that left three Lebanese nationals dead. He seems to have forgotten what went on in Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, which Iraq is now in real danger of emulating.

Yet almost since the fall of Baghdad 18 months ago, Iraqis have had it far worse. With the collapse of the Iraqi state into lawlessness and banditry - a phenomenon that well pre-dates the emergence of resistance to the occupation - rare is the family of even modest financial substance that has not been afflicted by kidnapping for ransom. Probably even more than the dangers of the ongoing war, the hostage-taking business is causing a big outflow of middle-class Iraqis to neighbouring countries, a haemorrhage no country that needs to rebuild almost from scratch can afford.

Some of the kidnappers are plainly Sunni Islamist militants, their demands, usually for troop withdrawals, set out in communiques, or their savage revenge recorded in grisly webcasts or videotapes. Others are Ba'athists, including former (and, by some accounts, actual) policemen and army officers. Others still are simply brigands, exploiting US inability to control roads, frontiers and an increasing number of towns and cities in central and southern Iraq.

There is no easy cure for Iraq 's kidnap pandemic DAVID GARDNER

The political aim is to trigger a stampede of allied troops, businesses and Iraqi professionals to demonstrate that the occupation can provide neither peace nor reconstruction. The financial aim is equally uncomplicated.

In the same way that Washington and its allies blame much of the resistance on "foreign fighters" (despite finding barely two dozen from over 43,000 people seized in the first year after the fall of Baghdad), they assign too much responsibility for the kidnappings to individuals who are easy to demonise, such as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Mr Zarqawi, a Jordanian Wahhabi whose aims include a civil war to exterminate the majority Iraqi Shia, appears to have personally beheaded the US hostage Nick Berg in May. Chilling and abhorrent as this ritualised slaughter was, it - and indeed Mr Zarqawi - are but a fraction of the problem. That is not least because, as in the Lebanon war, factional chaos and lawlessness lead to multiple but scarcely visible elisions between the politics and the business of kidnapping, creating a market where hostages taken for money are sold on to politico-religious groups. This seems to be the direction Iraqi kidnapping is taking, and it is deeply sinister.

In 1986 in Beirut, for example, three teachers at the American University, two British and one American, were kidnapped and sold on. They were eventually bought by a pro-Libyan group and "executed" in revenge for that year's US air strikes on Tripoli.

France is clearly aware of the Lebanese experience in its approach to trying to secure the release of two French journalists seized last month. It despatched General Philippe Rondot, an experienced Arabist intelligence chief and veteran of the Lebanese hostage crisis, to find who was holding the journalists; it appears, like others, to be prepared to pay for their freedom; and it has launched a diplomatic offensive, drawing support from Arab and western capitals, militant groups and figures such as <u>Hamas</u>, the Muslim Brotherhood and Moqtada al-Sadr, as well as mainstream Muslim clerics.

Paying ransom deepens the hostage market, while headline diplomacy aggrandises the kidnappers and encourages their demands. There is a gathering debate among news organisations about whether publicity is exacerbating the kidnapping problem. But fatwas, religious edicts, have force in the Muslim world.

There are no good options or easy solutions to the kidnapping plague, just as there are none for the chaos of post-war Iraq. But France's ability to mobilise Arab and Muslim opinion, alongside the debate on how much to publicise hostage seizures, is suggestive. If the religious authorities of Iraq and the region were to issue fatwas prohibiting kidnapping, one contractor who withdrew from Iraq after ransoming drivers said this week, many would return. More fatwas and fewer headlines are not much to go on, but not much else seems to be working.

The writer is a member of the FT's editorial comment team

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Hostage-Takers Teach the French the Limits of Diplomacy

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September 12, 2004 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Byline: By ELAINE SCIOLINO

Dateline: PARIS

Body

GEOPOLITICAL question of the week: What do Carlos the Jackal and the pope have in common?

Answer: Both have condemned the taking of two French journalists as hostages in Iraq and appealed for their liberation.

So have Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi of Libya, King Abdullah of Jordan, Iraq's Sunni clerical leaders, the Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u> and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood. Also, some of the world's leading Muslim clerics and assorted political leaders, journalists and humanitarian organizations.

The groundswell is a result of what might be called France's turban diplomacy, an intense public campaign to persuade the Islamic world to throw its support behind the hostages and therefore behind France.

There is a perception in Washington that France was smug, that President Jacques Chirac and his lieutenants felt themselves somehow immune from terrorism emanating from Iraq because of their fierce opposition to the American-led war and their refusal to send troops in the aftermath. Among France's American critics, the events of the last two weeks confirm the view that France cannot protect itself by refusing to embrace the Bush administration's war on terror.

But as the French hostage crisis proves, what animates the French and their Islamic adversaries is not a battle over the future of Iraq. The Muslim militants make no distinctions in their war against the West. The kidnappers' demand dealt with a social problem involving the Muslim population in France: They wanted the French to rescind a new law banning Islamic head scarves and most other religious symbols in public schools, a demand France rejected.

French leaders say they were never naive about terrorism. The official French position from the start, as expressed by Mr. Chirac, has been that terrorism thrives in disorder, and that the prospect of unleashing anarchy in Iraq was one reason for opposing the American-led invasion there. This anarchy, the French say, is the principal reason their journalists were kidnapped, and justifies their global charm offensive.

Support for the view that France deserves a special status has come from some surprising quarters. Jordan's main opposition party, the Islamic Action Front, referred to "France's distinguished position in rejecting the Anglo-

Hostage-Takers Teach the French the Limits of Diplomacy

American occupation of Iraq." And Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (a k a Carlos the Jackal), the terrorist convicted in kidnappings, bombings and killings in the 1970's and 80's, sent a handwritten statement from a prison outside of Paris. It said all nationalities in the "service of the imperialist aggressor" were legitimate targets in Iraq but argued that because of its opposition to the war, "In Iraq, France must not be attacked."

Ten days ago, the turban offensive seemed to be working and France's culture minister expressed hope that the hostages' release was only hours away.

But that hope proved to be a mirage. France learned the hard way -- in Algeria in the 1950's, in Lebanon in the early 1980's -- that the effectiveness of negotiations and public diplomacy and even appeals to logic was unpredictable in dealing with hostage-takers.

If the dashing of French hopes proved anything, many commentators here say, it is that France was right in opposing the Iraq war. Where anarchy rules, and faceless thugs operate, it can be futile to try to figure out what might motivate them to release a hostage.

Hostage-taking in Iraq has included attacks by groups with clear political aims, especially those trying to force American allies into withdrawing troops. The captors of two Italian *female* aid workers kidnapped last Tuesday promised to punish Italy for basing troops in Iraq. There is also kidnapping for money, as in the case of seven foreign truckers ransomed for \$500,000. Or there is kidnapping purely to express hate, the apparent motive behind the slaughter of 12 kidnapped Nepalese contract drivers.

Against that range of possibilities, France has found it difficult to plot a strategy. "These are opportunistic people looking for any target," said Olivier Roy, a prominent French scholar of Islam. "They don't care about Iraq. They are striking at the West as a whole."

The French know better than most that there is no refuge from terrorism. In October 1983, when a suicide truck bomber in Beirut blew up the American Marine barracks there, killing 241 servicemen, another truck exploded at a French barracks two miles away, killing 58 French troops. And when France had citizens taken hostage by Iranian-backed Shiite radicals in Lebanon later in the 1980's, seeking their release proved humiliating, as it did for Americans. The United States sold Iran weapons in a vain effort to get the hostages freed. President Chirac, who was prime minister then, is still suspected of involvement, widely rumored but unproved, in reportedly paying ransoms for French hostages.

Before and since the invasion of Iraq, the French angered the Bush administration when they lectured that the war would produce chaos and breed terrorism. Now, believing they are suffering the consequences of just such disorder, they have tried to curry favor with whichever group or individual, however radical or fundamentalist, might have a chance to win the hostages' freedom.

In their own descriptions of their motives, they sound neither noble nor naive. Just scarred. And, perhaps now, wary. After the open appeals failed to yield results, the French throttled back to a more traditional form of negotiation last week, one of behind-the-scenes diplomacy.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: In Paris, artists have declared war on the war in Iraq. (Photo by Francois Guillot/Agence France-Presse)

Load-Date: September 12, 2004



Windsor Star (Ontario)

March 29, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. B2; News; Brief

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Dateline: Madrid; Rome; Paris; Tunis, Tunisia; Kinshasa, Congo; Baghdad; Beirut, Lebanon; Kabul; Ankara; Taipei,

Taiwan; Rio De Janeiro, Brazil; Orlando, Fla.; Marysville, Ohio; Crawford, Texas

Body

Spanish police stopped terrorists' car, let them go

Madrid

Spanish police were agonizingly close to foiling the Madrid train bombings, it was disclosed Sunday.

A car carrying the explosives used in the March 11 massacre was stopped by police but its Arab driver was fined only for a minor traffic offence, it was reported.

The trunk of the Volkswagen was packed with 100 kg of dynamite which had been stolen from a coal mine at Aviles in northern Spain during the last week of February, the El Pais newspaper said.

The car, which had been stolen, was stopped by two Civil Guard patrolmen near Benavente, north of Madrid. But their suspicions were not aroused when they checked the car's registration as the owner had not yet reported it missing. They failed to recognize that the driver was not the registered owner.

Compiled from Star News Services

The driver was fined for a minor infringement and allowed to drive on. Three of the four bombing suspects are thought to have been in the car.

The terrorists bombed four packed commuter trains during the morning rush hour, killing 190 people and injuring more than 1,500.

Italian mobster used girl as shield, family claims

Rome

The family of a girl shot dead in a Mafia gun battle in Naples claimed Sunday that she had been seized by the intended target of an assassination and used as a human shield.

Annalisa Durante, 14, died Sunday after she was shot in the neck. Police believe that the real target was Salvatore Giuliano, the son of the boss of a local Mafia family.

Witnesses said two hitmen arrived in the Forcella market area on a scooter shortly before midnight Saturday before opening fire. Their target was thought to have escaped unscathed.

But an aunt of the murdered girl said Giuliano had taken cover behind Annalisa on purpose.

"He used my niece as a shield," the woman, who was not named, was quoted by the Ansa news agency. "He grabbed her by the hair. He knew that someone had been looking to kill him."

Police had to intervene as hundreds of angry relatives, friends and neighbours besieged the hospital where Annalisa was being treated.

Saddam's lawyer criticizes Bush presuming guilt

Paris

A French lawyer who claims to be representing Saddam Hussein said Sunday he doesn't think there will be a trial for a long time and criticized U.S. President George W. Bush for pronouncing the former dictator guilty of atrocities.

Jacques Verges said he believes the United States has violated the Geneva Conventions on several counts in its detention of Saddam and said the world must wait for a trial to determine what Saddam did wrong.

"We know that Mr. Bush has said he's guilty," Verges told Associated Press Television News. "But what does that mean? Mr. Bush is not a judge. We cannot accept him as a judge. He is an enemy of Saddam Hussein."

Verges, known for taking on clients including terrorists and a Nazi leader, said he didn't think Saddam's trial would happen "before a long time."

By the most conservative estimates, Saddam's regime killed 300,000 men, <u>women</u> and children during his 23 years as president.

Arab summit postponed amid discord over reform

Tunis, Tunisia

Egypt offered to host a meeting of Arab leaders as governments launched fresh efforts Sunday to convene a summit after Tunisia called off this week's session because of policy divisions.

The two-day Arab League summit, which was to begin today, was postponed indefinitely late Saturday after foreign ministers failed to bridge differences over how to respond to a U.S. reform plan and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Arab leaders intended for the conference to relaunch a Saudi-crafted peace initiative to Israel and to submit their own proposals for political reforms in response to U.S. calls for greater freedoms.

Congo coup attempt by Mobutu loyalists crushed

Kinshasa, Congo

Government forces put down an apparent coup attempt in the Congolese capital Sunday, battling attackers believed loyal to deceased former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

It was the most serious political strife to hit the city since the end of a ruinous war last year.

The government refused to characterize the deadly firefights as an attempted putsch, but Interior Minister Theophile Mbemba said the attack would not destabilize President Joseph Kabila's government -- an administration struggling to reassert control over its vast territory after a 1998-2003 war.

Coalition shuts down Iraq paper run by cleric's allies

Baghdad

The U.S.-led coalition Sunday shut down a weekly newspaper run by followers of a hardline Shiite Muslim cleric, saying its articles were increasing the threat of violence against occupation forces.

Hours after the closure of Al-Hawza, more than 1,000 supporters of cleric Muqtada al-Sadr demonstrated peacefully in front of the newspaper's offices, decrying what they called a crackdown on freedom of expression.

Dozens of U.S. soldiers arrived at the Al-Hawza newspaper offices Sunday morning and closed its doors with chains and locks, Sheik Abdel-Hadi Darraja said in front of the one-storey house. The paper will close for 60 days, officials said.

Hamas leader warns of 'earthquake' of revenge

Beirut, Lebanon

Israel faces an "earthquake" of revenge for killing <u>Hamas</u> founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the militant group's Syrian-based leader said Saturday.

Yassin, a quadriplegic, was killed in an Israeli missile attack last Monday as he was being wheeled out of a Gaza mosque. Israel has accused him of planning attacks.

"I say with absolute certainty that the assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin will cause an earthquake to the Zionists," Khaled Mashaal told Dubai-based TV station Al-Arabiya.

Election in Afghanistan postponed due to violence

Kabul

On the eve of a major international conference to decide future aid for Afghanistan, President Hamid Karzai announced definitively that a much-anticipated general election will be postponed three months, until September.

That is the month after Canada's one-year commitment to a major military deployment with 2,100 troops ends.

It is still up in the air how many troops NATO's member nations will commit after that point and how they will be spread throughout the country.

Until now, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force's troops, from 32 countries, have been confined to the cities of Kabul and Kunduz.

Pro-western ruling party declares win in Turkey

Ankara

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared his pro-western Islamic-rooted party victorious in local elections Sunday -- a major victory that could encourage the Turkish leader to make further reforms toward membership in the European Union.

Erdogan's Justice and Development Party took about 40 per cent of the vote and won key cities, including Istanbul - the largest and Ankara -- the capital. It was also doing well in several other cities in the predominantly Muslim but staunchly secular country, with about 35 per cent of the vote counted.

Opposition agrees to talks over Taiwan vote dispute

Taipei, Taiwan

Taiwan's opposition leader Sunday agreed to meet President Chen Shui-bian to discuss a recount of last weekend's disputed election, bringing the island's political crisis a step closer to a resolution.

A spokesman for the opposition Nationalist party Sunday also welcomed an independent investigation of a puzzling shooting on the eve of the March 20 vote that slightly wounded Chen and might have helped him win his narrow reelection.

Meanwhile, a few hundred pro-opposition protesters rallied at one of the capital's most famous tourist spots, the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall.

Lien Chan of the Nationalist party and his running mate, James Soong, have alleged that the election was marred by irregularities and claimed the shooting gave Chen an unfair boost by winning him sympathy votes. However, they have provided little evidence.

Two die, homes destroyed during Brazilian storm

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

A large storm that was rare for its intensity killed at least two people and destroyed hundreds of homes along the southern coast of Brazil, officials said Sunday.

American officials said winds exceeded 120 km/h, making the storm the first hurricane on record in the South Atlantic. But Brazilian meteorologists said winds were between 80 and 90 km/h, meaning it would only be a tropical storm.

Eleven fishermen were missing off the coast of Santa Catarina state after two boats sank 15 km offshore.

Vitamin E may lower the risk of bladder cancer

Orlando, Fla.

Getting plenty of vitamin E by eating foods like nuts and olive oil appears to cut in half people's risk of bladder cancer, the fourth leading cancer killer among men, a new study suggests.

The research, released at a cancer conference Sunday, is the latest blip in the ups and downs of perceptions about this nutrient's powers to ward off disease. Experts once had high hopes that vitamin E would prove to be an important safeguard against heart attacks. But that idea eventually faded as repeated studies failed to show any protective effect.

Whether vitamin E does anything to stop cancer is still far from proven, but some think the vitamin may be helpful, perhaps by warding off the damaging effects of oxygen. The strongest evidence of this so far has been against prostate cancer and a large federally sponsored experiment is underway to help prove this.

The new study offers a strong hint that dietary vitamin E may also protect against bladder cancer, which kills about 12,500 Americans annually and is four times more common in men than **women**.

The study was based on questionnaires of the eating habits of about 1,000 Houston residents.

Woman faked daughter's cancer to keep husband

Marysville, Ohio

A woman imprisoned for faking her daughter's leukemia to gain thousands of dollars in donations said she concocted the scheme to keep her husband from leaving.

Teresa Milbrandt told the Columbus Dispatch for a story in Sunday's editions that she regrets what she did, which included shaving her daughter Hannah's head and giving her sleeping pills to make it look like she was undergoing chemotherapy. She also made Hannah wear a protective mask and put her in counselling to prepare for death.

"Last week, I said to someone, 'I wonder if I could pay the doctor and have him give me a lethal injection,'" she told the newspaper in an interview at the Ohio Reformatory for *Women*. "I can't hardly live in my own skin."

Milbrandt was sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison after pleading guilty last August to felony charges of endangering children, grand theft and theft.

Authorities said Milbrandt and her husband fooled 65 people and businesses in their hometown of Urbana into donating an estimated \$31,000 US for Hannah's treatment.

Robert Milbrandt was sentenced to four years and 11 months in prison.

Teresa Milbrandt said the ruse began in early 2002 during intense arguments with her husband.

"I knew how much he cared about Hannah and if she's sick, I thought, he's not going to leave us."

Pressure mounts on Rice to testify at commission

Crawford, Texas

White House allies and Republicans investigating the Sept. 11 attacks pressed Sunday to hear open testimony from National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, with one commissioner calling her refusal a "political blunder of the first order."

President George W. Bush, spending a long weekend on his Texas ranch, gave no ground. But he sent Rice back out for another lengthy news interview to rebut fresh criticism on the way his administration has handled the threat of terrorism against the United States.

Graphic

Swinging to the left: Socialist Party supporters in France cheer results from regional elections in Paris Sunday. Early results suggest the Socialist opposition will sweep regional elections in a stinging rebuke to conservative President Jacques Chirac, although the regions exercise little power. His economic reforms, particularly reduced pensions, have been unpopular. AP photo: Michel Euler

Load-Date: March 29, 2004



The Gaza standoff

DAILY MAIL (London) August 16, 2005

Copyright 2005 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: ED_2ND_04; Pg. 4

Length: 923 words

Byline: CON COUGHLIN

Body

DEFIANT Jewish settlers were manning barricades last night as they prepared for armed conflict with Israeli troops.

When the first soldiers came for them early yesterday morning, it was to deliver eviction orders.

When the troops come back tomorrow it will be to remove the settlers by force from what they believe to be their Godgiven land of the Gaza Strip.

From midnight on Sunday it was illegal for Israelis to live in Gaza, bringing to an end 38 years of occupation.

To demonstrate their mission yesterday was peaceful, the soldiers had removed their weapons, but if the remaining settlers have not packed up and left by midnight tonight, they will be back with their guns.

Yesterday the settlers were ready and waiting to strike at the administration HQ of the Gush Katif settlement area. They met the first army unit, dressed in dark green battle fatigues, with barricaded gates and blazing piles of tyres.

The soldiers arrived at Neveh Dekelim on the orders of Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon with eviction papers for the estimated 5,000 settlers bent on resistance.

The government is intent on removing all 21 Jewish settlements from the predominantly Palestinian territory of the Gaza Strip. But before the soldiers even got as far as the settlement gates, a group of 400 came storming out of the compound in a carefully planned ambush.

While <u>women</u> and children formed a human chain on the outskirts of the settlement, the men lit bonfires on the road, blocking it to traffic, and slashed the tyres of army jeeps. For a brief moment the scene took an ugly turn as some of the more excitable protesters hurled abuse at the soldiers, shouting 'shame' and 'traitor'.

'I have lived here for 15 years and turned this land from desert into something full of life,' said Moshe, one of the ringleaders of the demonstration. 'It is a sad day for all of us when a Jew is not allowed to live on the land that was given to the Jews by God. If you have any doubts, just read what it says in the Bible.' It required the intervention of a local rabbi to persuade the rioting settlers to let the soldiers pass, and even he was subjected to barracking as order was finally restored.

An estimated 40,000 troops and police have been deployed to enforce one of the most controversial policies implemented in Israel's history.

The Gaza standoff

Settlers had earlier set up road blocks on the main military road leading into Gaza. They were quickly dismantled by army bulldozers.

But the defiance at Neveh Dekelim paid off when the police announced that it would not serve eviction orders in areas where they encountered strong protest. 'If they do not let us inside we are not going to force our way in,' said police spokesman Eli Levi. 'They have two days to evacuate of their own free will, but at midnight on Tuesday, it is the end.' Yesterday's flare-up at Gush Katif is just the first salvo in what many people believe will be a long hot summer of confrontation.

There are fears that some of the more extreme members of the settler movement may try to shoot their way to an explosive last stand. In the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Khan Younis, Arab youths were burning the Israeli flag and firing home-made rockets at another of the still occupied Jewish settlements.

Last night Mr Sharon threatened Palestinians with the harshest response ever should they attack Israel once the pull- out is over, while insisting he shared the settlers' pain.

'We cannot hold on to Gaza forever,' he said. 'More than a milwe-lion Palestinians live there and double their number with each generation. They live in uniquely crowded conditions in refugee camps, in poverty and despair, in hotbeds of rising hatred with no hope on the horizon.

'The world is waiting for the Palestinian response a hand stretched out to peace or the fire of terror. To an outstretched hand shall respond with an olive branch, but we shall fight fire with the harshest fire ever.' Israeli 'disengagement' is supposed to be a milestone on the road to peace in the Middle East. Losing Gaza also enables Mr Sharon to get rid of a problem costly both in Israeli lives and money, while allowing him to concentrate on settlements in the West Bank.

Gaza has been occupied since 1972 after Israel captured the territory from Egypt during the 1967 Six Day War. Many of the Israelis who settled there did so for ideological and religious reasons, believing they had a Godordained right to live in an area which is the biblical home of Samson.

For many years successive governments actively encouraged Israelis to move to Gaza. But with troops involved in increasing bitter confrontations with Palestinian extremists, Mr Sharon reluctantly came to the conclusion that protecting the 9,000 settlers living there was a military liability.

By last weekend, many had already left, lured away by the handsome compensation packages on offer from the government. An average family can expect to receive about Pounds 140,000.

Some settlements are already deserted. But the potential for trouble remains, particularly as the security forces believe that up to 5,000 outside sympathisers have infiltrated the Gaza Strip to support the embattled settlers.

The other key concern is how the Palestinians will react to the withdrawal.

The militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> is promising to renew its violent campaign to free the West Bank from Israeli control.

In which case any hopes of peace that have been generated by Israel's withdrawal from Gaza might as has happened so often in the past prove to be short-lived.

Graphic

The Gaza standoff

Load-Date: August 17, 2005



Israeli troops quicken pace of withdrawal

The Toronto Star

August 18, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 907 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: NEVE DEKALIM, Gaza Strip

Body

Israel's evacuation forces switched into high gear yesterday, moving from a gentle nudge to a swift and decisive push to empty the Jewish settlements of Gaza.

Mobilizing the full heft of its pullout resources, Israel accelerated the pace of the historic withdrawal in a marathon day marked by tears and trauma. As night fell over the coastal territory, Israeli officials predicted that all but two of Gaza's 21 settlements will be vacant of settlers before the arrival of the Jewish Sabbath at sunset tomorrow.

It was also a day of terror, with the efforts in Gaza all but overshadowed when a Jewish settler in the West Bank ran amok, stealing a gun at knifepoint and killing four innocent Palestinians in an apparent attempt to thwart the withdrawal.

The attack raised immediate fears of Palestinian retaliation. At least two mortar shells landed harmlessly last night in the vicinity of the settlements of Gadid and Morag.

But despite a threat of vengeance by the Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u>, a fragile ceasefire appeared to be holding.

Working on multiple fronts, the combined force of an estimated 55,000 Israeli soldiers and police officers began their day with benign persuasion, attempting to reason with settlers on the inevitability of withdrawal. At Neve Dekalim, that approach was enough for the vast majority of residents.

They left of their own volition, expressing dismay at the eruption of a second day of clashes on their smoke-filled streets led by hundreds of illegal infiltrators from Israel and the West Bank. By nightfall, fewer than 50 of the 520 families remained.

A number of injuries were reported elsewhere, the most serious of which was at Netivot, in Israel proper, where a protesting woman set fire to herself at a traffic intersection, sustaining serious burns to 60 per cent of her body before police were able to douse the fire.

Pullout forces are expected to tackle two significant evacuation targets, the isolated settlements of Kfar Darom and Netzarim, starting Sunday. Both are hotbeds of religious zealotry and both contain newly built tent encampments of anti-pullout infiltrators that may include militant extremists, IDF officials said.

Israeli troops quicken pace of withdrawal

But by concentrating the first phase of withdrawal at Neve Dekalim, home to the largest contingent of radical youth in Gaza, the IDF may have gained the "psychological advantage" of removing the sharpest thorn of resistance, according to Maj. Sharon Feingold, a senior military spokeswoman.

Some settler activists made their own attempts at psychological warfare.

As Feingold spoke at Neve Dekalim, she was offered a baby's toy by a young protestor.

"Give this to your child as a souvenir of what you did to the children here," she was told.

Elsewhere in the settlement, activists pelted military and police vehicles with paint-filled light bulbs and flattened tires before being dragged away in the dozens to buses to be shipped to Israel proper.

Several of the detainees managed to escape by kicking out the rear window of one of the evacuation buses, and rejoined the clashes.

Hundreds of others avoided physical violence and instead resorted to verbal abuse, badgering police and army officers as Nazis. A group of elderly **women** marched the streets carrying banners marked "Destruction" in Hebrew.

Many young children were also involved in the haranguing of pullout troops. And throughout the streets, young children could be seen crying in bewilderment at the chaos around them. In one instance, a departing settler was seen shaking a toddler in the direction of withdrawal troops as he left his home.

The opposition failed to slow the withdrawal and as the day wore on the settlement gave way with a series of deeply emotional acts of surrender.

At the settlement's largest religious school, more than 300 people, settlers and soldiers alike, wept openly through a traditional Jewish prayer for the dead. The participants then climbed peacefully aboard waiting evacuation buses.

Hundreds of outside agitators were last night holed up in the settlement's main synagogue complex, surrounded by an Israeli police SWAT team, for what was expected to be a final showdown today.

None of the diehards are believed to be armed, and pullout officials predicted their removal would be complete in a matter of hours.

Few Israeli politicians dared set foot inside the settlements on a day so fraught with emotion. Among the few that did was Amran Mitzna, former leader of the dovish Labour party, who ran on a platform of leaving Gaza two years ago but lost to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"As one of those who raised my hand to vote for the evacuation of Gaza, I felt I should be here in order to touch and to feel the results of this decision, even if it is very difficult," said Mitzna.

Asked whether he still believes the withdrawal, as constituted by Sharon, can work as a springboard to a better future, Mitzna said he remained optimistic.

"I'm not sure that the prime minister has in his mind what he will do next. But reality will be stronger than anything else," he said.

"And by crossing such red lines - such holy cows - for the Israeli public, I'm sure this is a beginning" that will lead eventually to future withdrawals from the West Bank, resulting in a negotiated end to Israel's 38-year military occupation of the Palestinians, he said.

"We have a long way to go. There will be many ups and downs. But I am optimistic, if I can say such a thing on such a sensitive day as this."

Graphic

Ronen Zvulun Reuters Jewish settlers and an Israeli soldier walk in front of an abandoned house in the settlement of Neve Dekalim, Gaza Strip, yesterday. Ariel Jerozolimski Reuters Israeli soldiers and a rabbi try to pacify a distraught settler resisting eviction yesterday at a synagogue in the Jewish settlement of Morag, part of the Gush Katif bloc. Ronen Zvulun Reuters Jewish settlers and an Israeli soldier walk in front of an abandoned house in the settlement of Neve Dekalim, Gaza Strip, yesterday.

Load-Date: August 18, 2005



A new generation's agony in Gaza; Abandonment of settlements shows young generation doing the struggling

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)

August 19, 2005 Friday Final Edition

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Section: OPINIONS; Pg. A11; OPINION

Length: 911 words **Byline:** PAUL FARHI

Body

The TV images suggested that it's a conflict among young people.

Most of the soldiers, wearing green fatigues but carrying no firearms, are clean-shaven kids of college age. The most confrontational settlers, whom the soldiers have come for, aren't much older. They wear T-shirts and backpacks, and the beards and skullcaps of the religious.

The Washington Post

The soldiers look stern and impassive as the settlers rant and rage. On CNN, a young Israeli woman is weeping; her orange-and-blue cap reads 'New York Knicks.'

Israel's abandonment of the Gaza Strip this month is one more chapter in a long history of turmoil in the Middle East. But from the way it looked on TV this week, it's a new generation that's doing all the struggling. Maybe all the older people are just too tired.

As the Israeli government began its forced removal of Gaza settlers, young people -- Jews -- pleaded with other young people -- also Jews -- who had been dispatched to eject them from their homes.

There has been, perhaps miraculously, very little violence in Gaza -- although helmeted Israeli security forces stormed the rooftop of a synagogue yesterday as they battled dozens of settlers -- but there was lots of confrontation.

TV likes violence, but confrontation will do, too.

And so the cable news networks seemed to loop the same scenes of mostly passive resistance, as their correspondents intoned about the "emotional" nature of the pullout.

Here, a young man with a battering ram breaks in the door of a Jewish home. Over there, young men are being carted off bodily by younger men wearing green. Here again, a young woman in a long skirt is being swept away, this time by a phalanx of *female* soldiers.

From the look of it, the men went quietly -- one even read a prayer book as he was whisked off his feet and hauled to a waiting government bus. The <u>women</u>, on the other hand, seemed to berate and flail against the soldiers who carried them.

A new generation's agony in Gaza; Abandonment of settlements shows young generation doing the struggling

The religious subtext was never far from the frame. There were scenes of settlers praying in synagogues, and a shot of them standing atop the dome of one with defiant fists raised. The cameras also caught men ripping their shirts, a traditional Jewish gesture of mourning. At one point, some settlers linked arms and swayed in prayer, and a few soldiers joined them.

The Palestinians, otherwise reduced to the periphery, seemed awfully young, too.

A march sponsored by the militant group <u>Hamas</u> appeared to be made up solely of men, and none of them appeared much older than 25. CNN had a live shot of a Palestinian refugee camp near one of the Israeli settlements. As a pack of boys scampered over the hillocks near the Israeli line, the crackle of gunfire could be heard, sending the boys scurrying.

Only when it was time for people to talk did older people get in the picture. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the architect of the pullout, apparently gave no interviews but showed up over and over in file footage on American television. But senior members of his cabinet were all over TV, clearly attempting to explain and justify Sharon's deeply divisive policy as a necessary step toward achieving peace with the Palestinians and securing Israel's borders.

There were fewer talking heads for any other point of view. No one spoke -- or at least spoke calmly -- on behalf of the settlers, and almost no one spoke for the Palestinians. CNN did find a dark-eyed young woman named Diana Buttu -- identified as legal adviser to the Palestinians -- who denounced both Israel and the United States for the expansion of Jewish settlements on the West Bank.

The most personal sequence of the day Wednesday may have been captured by Fox News Channel live on its Fox and Friends morning program.

As reporter Jennifer Griffin and crew followed from a few feet away, an Israeli soldier smashed in the front door of a house and came face to face with a family of settlers, who gave their name as Gross.

Then -- with an unseen voice yelling "Stay with it! Stay with it" -- Fox's camera caught the family's angry faces and reactions.

The father recounted, in New York-inflected English, how his firstborn son had been "murdered in cold blood" not long after the family arrived in Gaza 32 years ago.

His distraught wife turned her attention to the soldiers flooding into her living room. "They didn't stop these rockets from falling," she said. "Now they say they are here to protect us. Is there any sympathy in the world? I don't understand this."

All the while, another family member recorded the unfolding scene on his digital camera. The sequence provided unspoken testimony to the extraordinary access that news crews enjoyed throughout the day and into the night.

News cameras seemed to be everywhere, from the inside of homes to synagogues raided by the army.

Despite a volatile situation that easily could have turned violent, it suggested that the Israeli army and government felt they had little to hide and perhaps something to gain from showing the manner in which the evacuation is being handled. Would the Pentagon allow such access in a similar situation involving Americans?

MSNBC offered one brief picture that conveyed a note of finality and perhaps a sense of inevitability about Wednesday's events.

As a network camera watched, a settler with tears in his eyes carried away a Torah. Standing by, an Israeli soldier dipped his head in prayer, kissed his hand in a traditional gesture of reverence, and reached out to touch the passing scrolls.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Israeli policemen evacuate a young Jewish settler yesterday from the beachside Shirat Hayam outpost -- one of Gaza's most hardline Jewish settlements -- as the forcible removal of residents began. Young people have been in the forefront of the forced abandonment of the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: August 19, 2005



We're All Combatants Now

New York Sun (Archive) September 7, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 859 words **Byline:** Hillel Halkin

Body

Some 10 years ago, I wrote a piece on the death, in an Arab suburb of Jerusalem called Bir Naballah, of an Israeli soldier named Nachshon Wachsman.

Some of you may remember the incident. Wachsman, the son of American parents, had been kidnapped by <u>Hamas</u> and held hostage in a two-story house in an Arab neighborhood. His kidnapers asked for the release from prison of a large number of Palestinian terrorists and threatened to kill him if their demands weren't met. An Israeli commando unit stormed the house in which he was held and killed them - but not before they managed to kill him.

Although the story was front-page news in Israel, no journalist actually went to the house, which was cordoned off by the army and barred to the press. No journalist, that is, except me. I slipped - rather easily, as it turned out - through the cordon and spent an hour there, trying to reconstruct what had happened. In the end, I came to a disturbing conclusion. The army had blown it. A different angle of attack, a bolder first few seconds, and Wachsman might have been saved.

As I say, I wrote a piece on it. The only problem was that the editor of the paper it was written for refused to publish it. He would not, he told me, run an article second-guessing the Israeli army.

I was furious. I had a scoop and it wasn't going to appear. I even threatened to resign from my job, but the editor held his ground. He wasn't going to allow armchair criticism of a military operation that went wrong by someone who might be clever but wasn't there when it took place.

Today, I'm not sure he wasn't right. In any case, I couldn't help thinking of that episode in the wake of the appalling events in Beslan. On the face of it, the Russian army's attempt to storm a school building in which hundreds died seems to have been the botched product of faulty intelligence, bad planning, an inept command structure, insufficiently trained troops, and poor discipline. It appears to have been doomed to failure in advance, in which case those who launched it made a terrible mistake.

And perhaps they did. But one must be careful about being clever when one wasn't there. The conditions under which the hostages were being held were terrible; some - particularly the children - were in serious danger from exhaustion and thirst; and it's a cheap shot to say now, "But what was the rush? The Russians should have waited until they were ready to do it properly." Try saying that when children are drinking their own urine a hundred meters away.

We're All Combatants Now

The question goes deeper than that, however. It involves asking: What, in a conflict that more and more is being correctly viewed as a world war against Islamic terror, is the role of you and me - that is, of the 99.999% of the world's population who are neither terrorists, nor soldiers nor policemen fighting terrorists, but ordinary people with a slight yet not non-existent chance of being caught up in acts of terror themselves?

Let's put it more concretely. In a war, we expect soldiers to risk their lives. Sometimes, when their commanders' judgment is poor, military lives are risked in reckless or callous ways that may arouse our anger or condemnation, but we understand that the risk must be there. No one of a logical cast of mind would think, although armies sometimes behave as though this were the case: "The main object of sending troops into battle against an enemy is to ensure that they all emerge safely."

This is precisely, however, what most of us do think about the innocent victims of terrorists, like the children and their parents in the school in Beslan. They were not there as soldiers, nor unlike, say, foreigners working in Iraq did they set that day with the knowledge that they were jeopardizing their lives; therefore, the Russian government's first duty toward them was to extract them unharmed from their situation, any result short of that being a failure on its part.

And yet this attitude, however humane it may seem, turns a blind eye to what terror is about, which is erasing the distinction between legitimate targets like soldiers and illegitimate ones like innocent civilians. Indeed, in the eyes of the terrorist, no one associated in any way with an enemy nation, group, or political camp is innocent. All are legitimate targets - those in street clothes as well as in uniform, children as well as adults, **women** as well as men.

But if we are all the potential targets of terror, we are also all - like it or not - potential combatants in the war against it, since a war against us all is a war we must all be prepared to take part in. And taking part in this war, one of whose military principles is never to give in to the demands of hostage takers because this only encourages the more brutal and audacious taking of ever larger numbers of hostages, can indeed mean taking terrible risks like those taken in Beslan.

This does not mean that the Russian army acted wisely or responsibly in storming a school in so slipshod a manner. It does mean facing the cruel truth that the war against terror has a price that must be paid by ordinary people, too, and that there are, alas, no non-combatants in it.

Load-Date: September 8, 2004



The New York Times
September 2, 2004 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 966 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-12

Armed Rebels in Russia Capture a School

Heavily armed insurgents seized a school in southern Russia, herded scores of children, parents and teachers into its gymnasium and threatened to kill them. As many as seven people are believed to have died. Two police officers who were guarding the school are missing, and at least a dozen others were reported wounded. A1

Israeli Intelligence Criticized

Israeli intelligence came under criticism for its failure to crack the <u>Hamas</u> cell that carried out the twin suicide bombings in Beersheba. The cell is believed responsible for the deaths of more than 80 Israelis. A7

Focus on Iran's Nuclear Agenda

A new assessment of Iran's nuclear program by the International Atomic Energy Agency says that, as early as 1995, Pakistan was providing Tehran with the designs for sophisticated centrifuges capable of making bomb-grade nuclear fuel. A12

U.N. Recommends Darfur Force

The United Nations secretary general, Kofi Annan, said the government of Sudan had failed to keep commitments to rein in the militias terrorizing the Darfur region and that a large international force was required there soon. A5

Iraqi Kidnappers Release Seven

Kidnappers in Iraq released seven foreign truckers held for 43 days after the head of a Kuwaiti transport company said he paid a \$500,000 ransom. Iraqi and American officials have opposed ransom payments. A10

The Iraqi exile leader, Ahmed Chalabi, announced his return to Iraq's political scene. A10

Charges in Afghan Deaths

Army criminal investigators will recommend that about two dozen soldiers face criminal charges or administrative punishment in connection with the deaths of two prisoners at an American detention center in Afghanistan in December 2002. A10

NATIONAL A14-20; P1-16

Republicans Attack Kerry And Praise Bush's Record

Speakers at the Republican National Convention mounted a vigorous assault on Senator John Kerry's domestic and foreign policy credentials and a spirited defense of President Bush's stewardship, with Vice President Cheney saying that national security was the fundamental issue of this year's election. A1

Convention demonstrations have barely interrupted the convention narrative and have drawn relatively little national media coverage despite the arrest of nearly 1,800 protesters. A1

President Bush swept into New York through a convention hall in Queens, where he met with more than 100 New York City firefighters and several widows of those who had died in the Sept. 11 attacks. P12

Senator Kerry forcefully rebuked the president on his handling of the war on terror and the situation in Iraq. P1

Bryant Rape Charges Dropped

The rape case against the basketball star Kobe Bryant was dismissed after the prosecution said his accuser would no longer cooperate. A1

Government Stops Terror Case

The Justice Department asked a judge to end the case that had been hailed as its first courtroom victory in the war on terror after its prosecutors compiled evidence that they said undermined their case. A14

Second Storm Nears Florida

Florida began bracing for the possibility of its second major hurricane in less than a month, with people up and down the east coast lunging for emergency supplies. A14

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Breast Cancer Treatment

Radiation treatments routinely given after surgery to remove small breast tumors may not be necessary for <u>women</u> over age 70 if they take the cancer drug tamoxifen. A19

NEW YORK/REGION B1-5

U.S. Agrees to Restore Planned Housing Aid Cuts

The federal government agreed to restore almost all of the \$55 million in housing aid to New York City that had been slated to be cut under a change to the government's main housing program for the poor. B1

East Side Dispute Over Pit Bulls

Residents of Turtle Bay, a quiet Manhattan neighborhood, are in a heated dispute over the fate of three dog-killing pit bulls. B1

CIRCUITS G1-8

ARTS E1-8

Studio Blocks Antiwar Film

Warner Brothers declined to distribute an antiwar documentary that was to be an add-on to the 1999 Gulf War movie "Three Kings," scheduled for fall release. E1

Conservatives See Book Bias

Conservative authors and commentators deplored the lack of attention being paid to their point of view by book publishers. E1

HOUSE & HOME F1-14

OBITUARIES C14

SPORTSTHURSDAY D1-9

Capriati Wins Opening Round

Jennifer Capriati beat Magui Serna, 6-0, 6-2, in an opening round match at the United States Open. Amelie Mauresmo, of France beat Julia Vakulenko of Ukraine in second round play, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. D1

Downtown Flushing, Queens, one of the city's most vibrant ethnic enclaves, is a virtual stranger to the Open, which is unfolding less than a mile and one subway stop away. B3

BUSINESS DAY C1-13

Masking a Caller's Identity

A technology until now known mainly among software programmers enables customers to create phony outbound phone numbers in order to mask their telephone identities. C1

Military Insurance Inquiry

State and federal investigators and members of Congress are broadening their efforts to address problems in the sale of life insurance and mutual funds to young soldiers and other service members. C1

Cuts in Vehicle Production

General Motors and Ford Motor said that they would cut car and truck production because vehicles are piling up in inventory. Each company saw a sharp drop in sales, along with the auto industry as a whole. C1

Textile Industry to Seek Help

Officials of the United States textile industry said that they would petition the Bush administration to block an expected flood of Chinese imports. C1

Business Digest C1

World Business W1

EDITORIAL A22-23

Editorials: Mr. Bush and the truth about terror; corporate kleptocracy; Lebanon's lost sovereignty.

Column: Maureen Dowd.

Bridge B3 TV Listings B7 Crossword B2 Weather A18

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: September 2, 2004



<u>Declare for Australia or be branded traitors - PIERS PERSPECTIVE - TODAY:</u> London bombers

Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia) (Sydney, Australia)

July 14, 2005 Thursday

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Section: FEATURES; Piers PerspectiveOpinion / Op Ed; Pg. 31

Length: 967 words

Byline: PIERS AKERMAN

Body

SHEHZAD Tanweer padded up for cricket on Sunday and kitted out for a suicide bombing mission on Thursday, how British is that? Or Afghan, or Pakistani, or Sudanese, or Indonesian, Filipino or ... Australian?

Tanweer lived for his cricket, his friends say, but he died for his fanatical belief in a twisted form of Islam which has adherents now embedded in Western communities around the world.

British authorities have identified three of the four suicide bombers responsible for last week's London horror, confirming their worst fear -- native-born Muslims had become sufficiently radicalised to conduct suicide missions in the land of their birth.

It was only a matter of time. Two years ago two young British men -- Asif Hanif and Omar Sharif -- carried out a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv on behalf of terror organisation *Hamas*.

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Far from trying to disguise his identity, Tanweer, 22, and his friends Nassib Hussain, 19, and Mohammed Sadique Khan, 30, made no effort to discard their wallets before they blew up their targets and themselves.

They may even have left wills to be read out by their supporters like their Palestinian counterparts.

Ageing anti-American commentator Phillip Adams, writing in The Australian this week claimed: "The selection of targets is largely based on involvement in, and enthusiasm for, Bush's new world order."

In The Sydney Morning Herald, the equally deluded Tariq Ali said: "It is safe to assume the cause of these bombs is the unstinting support given by New Labour and its Prime Minister to the US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq."

This pygmy view of the world would rather have had no election in Iraq, it would have preferred the Iraqis to continue leading miserable frightened lives under Saddam Hussein, the greatest Satan, the Middle East equivalent of Adolf Hitler.

If there had been no intervention, Palestinians would still be screaming and shouting, Syrians would still be in Lebanon, where there would have been no semblance of an election.

The Iranians would not be looking over their shoulders with some concern, there would have been no **women** elected in Kuwait, and no municipal elections in Saudi Arabia.

The democrats in Kiev wouldn't have felt emboldened enough to overthrow their despotic regime and the incipient democracy in Afghanistan would almost certainly be having a harder time.

Blinded by their ideological loathing of the US, Adams and Ali studiously choose to ignore the reality that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda started its global jihad, before the war in Afghanistan and before the liberation of Iraq.

More troubling than the remarks of these largely unread ideologues however is the support for the jihad in Iraq announced by Sydney's Sheik Taj el-Dene Elhilaly and the claim from Melbourne's Sheik Mohammed Omran -- despite Osama bin Laden's video-taped evidence to the contrary -- that bin Laden was not responsible for the September 11 attacks on the US.

They are of greater concern because these men occupy positions of authority within Australia's Islamic community and clearly are preaching what can most charitably be described as outrageous and at worst as traitorous messages to their supporters.

Sheik Omran in particular foments a radical fanaticism and through the bookshop attached to his mosque distributes vile extremist material encouraging attacks on all non-Muslims.

Britain's tolerance towards all religious faiths led security organisations around the world to dub it Londonistan, the centre of Islamic radicalism in the West. Some 3000 British-born Muslims are believed to have trained in al-Qaeda camps.

Australia has similarly extended hospitality to Muslims of all description and it, too, has seen fanatics take up the cause of Islamic fundamentalism and have their beliefs defended by the morally weak in the community.

One of the first Australians to be identified as a victim of last week's bombings was Adelaide woman Gillian Hicks, who has had her legs amputated in an attempt to save her life.

It is almost impossible not to make the leap in thought to David Hicks, also from Adelaide, who boasted of joining the Taliban and cherished the hope that "Pakistan, Kashmir and Afghanistan join together in a true Islamic state".

Nor is it possible to ignore the claque of sanctimonious clergymen and Howard-haters who have attacked the Government over Hicks' internment in a US facility at Guantanomo Bay.

The British authorities now acknowledge that they are now confronted with the absolute worst case scenario. The British-born bombers made a clear choice between extremist Islam and the society they lived in -- and they chose the fanatical route.

The Australian Islamic community must condemn in the strongest terms this choice and make it clear that they thoroughly condemn all acts of violence, here and abroad.

On the eve of the departure of Australian troops to fight against the remnants of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Sheik Elhilaly's equivocating

remarks about the use of violence in the Israeli-Palestine conflict or against the US in Iraq, where Americans are working alongside our forces, are not sufficient to allay genuine misgivings.

The West has generally shown a remarkable tolerance toward sheiks like Elhilaly and Omran but with the mutation of fanaticism their messages of hate must be questioned.

The Islamic community has been divided about their sermons, now the community owes it to the nation to show how it feels. Is it for Western thought, for liberal democracy, or is for fanatical Islam and theocracy.

The time for pussyfooting around with community leaders who do not fully embrace all the tenets of tolerance and decry all forms of extremist violence must come to an end.

The London attacks have shown that terrorism no longer comes from without, it is the enemy within.

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Load-Date: July 13, 2005



Women step forward in West Bank

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

August 5, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: WORLD; Pg. 01

Length: 898 words

Byline: By Joshua Mitnick Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: KUFR KHALIL, WEST BANK

Highlight: As strife constrains men, women venture into jobs and activism.

Body

The village <u>women</u> who assembled in this hillside hamlet to talk politics came in conservative, drab gowns and head scarves that left only their faces exposed.

But their comments about the approaching municipal elections were anything but traditional. Two said they aspired to become the first *female* members of their village council. Others, like Nivineh Amr, insisted that only a *female* candidate would understand the importance of bringing day-care centers and running water to this West Bank town of 3,500.

Amid the devastation wrought by nearly four years of conflict with Israel, a subtle but significant transformation is under way in the lives of many Palestinian <u>women</u>. Normally confined to domestic chores and child care, they're now playing central roles in the survival of families in which husbands have found themselves without work.

The crisis has emboldened <u>women</u> to assert themselves in new realms, from finding part-time work and taking control of family finances to political involvement. The newfound freedoms are even bucking the rising influence of fundamentalist Islam in the public lives of Palestinians.

"Before the intifada," says Mrs. Amr, a mother of seven, "our husbands would come to us and say, 'Vote for this one or vote for that one,' and we weren't concerned with their qualifications or what that person stood for."

As Israel's military has clamped down on cities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, it has choked off Palestinian activity and sent unemployment soaring. Jobless rates in the West Bank have risen as high as 40 percent. In Gaza, unemployment has surpassed 60 percent.

"Because of the closures, <u>women</u> had to find ways of producing food without going to a market," says Subhiyeh Hamdan, a social worker who facilitates the <u>women</u>'s support group in Kufr Khalil. As a result, she says, "<u>women</u> have gone back to sewing. Any job that was available they took."

Hanging above the entrance of the building where the group meets are faded posters of men brandishing machine guns - ubiquitous images of the uprising's martyred heroes. In a bare room up two flights of an unfinished stairwell, the **women** sit in a seminar-sized semicircle and discuss their struggles at home.

Women step forward in West Bank

Cradling a 10-month old infant, Karine Oded told of an ill-fated chicken-farm venture that left her husband demoralized. That forced her to get support from charity organizations and open a small shop.

"The men are distracted because they are unemployed, and because of the political situation," she says. "All this leads to difficult relations in the family, and **women** have to deal with it."

The past few years have also seen a membership surge in <u>women</u>'s savings and loan cooperatives. By contributing 10 Jordanian dinars (\$ 13.50) a month into the fund, members become eligible for loans as much as 30 times as big to help finance small businesses, tuition, or emergency needs. In the West Bank city of Ramallah, savings funds subsidized by the Working <u>Women</u>'s Society count more than 500 members and \$ 85,000 in assets.

Similar entrepreneurship can be found in the Gaza Strip. In Khan Yunis, wives of fishermen are rejuvenating businesses that have been paralyzed by Israeli blockades preventing the seamen from reaching the coast, says Majeda Alsaqa, a local field worker with the Culture and Free Thought Association in Khan Yunis. The <u>women</u> raised money through nongovernment organizations to refurbish their husbands' boats and are employing Gazans who do have access to the sea to captain the vessels.

"<u>Women</u> are oppressed in our society. So when they have a small space to solve a problem, they will go and do it," she says. "It's the first time you are freeing a woman, and telling her, 'Go and find a job and be creative.' "

UN data show that Palestinian <u>women</u> attend high school and university in roughly the same numbers as men. But instead of starting careers, <u>women</u> get married and remain at home. According to Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, the work force is only 14 percent <u>female</u>.

In some respects, Palestinian society appears to be growing more conservative, influenced by the growing prestige of fundamentalist groups like <u>Hamas</u>, which have persuaded Palestinians to adopt a stricter brand of Islam. Their influence can be seen in towns of the southern Gaza Strip, where <u>women</u> are seldom uncovered, Alsaqa says. But some observers suggest that the dress is a poor indicator of political or religious. "It's mostly a passport out of the house for <u>women</u>," says Randa Nasser, a sociologist at Bir Zeit University in Ramallah. "A lot of <u>women</u> find it easier to go get work, to go get an education, if they put on that dress."

To be sure, there is no lack of resistance to the changes. Mrs. Hamdan says many men in the village have discouraged her from gathering <u>women</u> to discuss the vote as the Palestinian legislature mulls local elections. Other <u>women</u>'s activists have said that men in villages have told their wives that they don't have the right to vote.

Still, interest is on the rise. The Working <u>Women's</u> Society - a sponsor of the <u>women's</u> groups - says it knows of 120 <u>women</u> in the West Bank interested in running. Back in Kufr Khalil, Amr offered an explanation.

"Hard times makes you assess the good from the bad," she says . "These hard times make us realize that we should have a role in this assessment."

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Load-Date: August 4, 2004



TIME TO RECOGNISE WHAT PAKISTAN HAS GIVEN

Western Mail

July 16, 2005, Saturday

Copyright 2005 Western Mail and Echo Ltd

Section: First Edition; NEWS; Pg. 28; Newspaper

Length: 951 words

Byline: BY DUNCAN HIGGITT WESTERN MAIL

Body

The road in which I live in South Canton in Cardiff is a happy mix of races, religion and nationalities.

Among us you'll find Welsh, English, Irish, Dutch, Greeks, Spanish, Filipinos, Malaysians, Chinese and Indians.

After Welsh households, the largest proportion are Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. Many of them know one another, are related to each other, and can often be found in the evenings relaxing outside the front of their houses. They are a happy mix of traditionalism and modernity. The girls wear scarves and listen to hip hop. They are like many other Muslim families in cities across the length and breath of Britain.

But this past week they have not been out on the street. They have preferred to stay indoors, their front doors unusually shut. Perhaps they wait fearfully for the predicted racist backlash. Perhaps they feel ashamed that members of their faith were involved in the London bombings, and used their religion as a justification for the attacks. Perhaps they feel it's the thing to do. I don't know.

What is clear is that events on July 7 have driven a wedge between me and my neighbours.

I'm pretty sure it can be mended in time, mainly because I'm determined to make sure that the attack won't make a difference, not in my road.

And what I've realised this week is that now is the time to realise how important a part Pakistanis have played in shaping this country.

We recognise our other sizeable ethnic communities. The West Indians that first arrived on the Windrush after the Second World War, and who I happily remember living around my nan's home in Catford, south London, in the 1970s, are rightly recognised. As are the millions of Indians who have a home here and fill jobs at every level of society, from the sizeable Heathrow workforce to millionaire entrepreneurs and stockbrokers.

But do we do the same for those whose forefathers came from Pakistan? I'm not sure we do.

Everywhere you look in the workplace in Britain, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are contributing, thriving on an ability for hard work, what we used to call the 'Protestant working class ethic'.

And now the bomb threatens to drive us apart. So far, the signs have been encouraging. All the talk has emphasised the pacifistic cornerstone of Islamic belief, and the expected backlash hasn't arrived. This isn't the Britain of the 1970s, where a programme like Love Thy Neighbour could be screened and billed as comedy.

TIME TO RECOGNISE WHAT PAKISTAN HAS GIVEN

If this continues, Osama bin Laden has failed in what he set out to do. And that is an interesting aspect of bin Laden, whose grand designs were never as well cemented as the London press would have us believe.

He and his number two, Ayman al-Zawahiri - if they are still alive and able to access media from their boltholes - can probably hardly believe their luck. They have made the journey from the very edge of Islamist extremism to become its leading lights in five short years, all because they have been happy to allow their still-not-proven-beyond-reasonable-doubt link to Mohammed Atta and the 9/11 attackers to stand. All I am convinced of is that they gave the plan money and their blessing.

In a perverse way, their rise has been mirrored by the far right Neo-Cons who now surround the US President in the White House. Both movements were dismissed as fringe lunatics in the 1980s, both claimed credit for the fall of communism - bin Laden with the mujahidin in Afghanistan, the Neo-Cons with their financing of the war that bankrupted the Soviet Union into democracy - and now both cast the longest shadow over worldwide foreign policy and international affairs.

What is remarkable is that, unlike the suicide bombers of <u>Hamas</u> or the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, bin Laden has no defined goal. He talks vaguely about Spain being handed back to the Moors.

There is no doubt that among some Islamists there is a feeling the Middle Ages marked the high tide mark of Islamic culture and that it has since been losing ground to Western capitalism, undermined and defrauded by our ways, and the Year Zero aspect of his approach appeals to them. You could see it in the barbarous treatment of **women** at the hands of the Taleban.

But what we have to try to work out is why boys, like those who took part in the London attacks, are prompted to join the madrassas, the Wahabi schools in Pakistan that are the breeding ground of terrorist volunteers. Do they obsessively scour extremist websites, become convinced by their arguments and are prompted into action?

We need to cultivate closer links with Pakistan, to impress upon its military leadership that while the fostering of such extremists may have made sense when it wanted to keep its nearest neighbour destabilised so that it had maintained a degree of control over the anarchy in Afghanistan, it is now having direct consequences here.

When the bombs went off, I told colleagues I believed the perpetrators were British-born, British-speaking Muslims, and that they were all under 30. I based this assumption on the knowledge that more and more younger British Muslims are becoming radicalised, that they had passed relatively unnoticed (not something that a Waziri tribesman would have managed), and because experienced operatives would have killed more people than Madrid by detonating the bombs in a confined Tube train.

While I take no comfort in getting it right, where my thinking takes me now is that this could be the beginning of a new, domestic terrorist movement, like the IRA, only far less discriminatory.

We will only be able to deal with this terrifying prospect if we understand how it comes about, and we take steps to convince our fellow citizens who are interested that there is a far better way of life.

Load-Date: July 18, 2005



ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS GIVEN A SHOCKING TASTE OF EACH OTHER'S LIVES; A BABY IS THROWN LIKE A FRISBEE AND CHILDREN VIE FOR A SUICIDE VEST

The Independent (London)
June 11, 2005, Saturday

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Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 29

Length: 897 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE REPORTS

Highlight: Plonter is the product of an extraordinary collaboration between Arabs and Jews

Body

There's a telling moment in the discussion after the performance of Plonter. A man asks the cast crossly why the settler <u>women</u> depicted in the play in long dresses and hats of the sort worn by many religious Jewish <u>women</u>, all 'look the same'.

No more so, the Jewish director, Yael Ronen, points out, than the mourning Palestinian <u>women</u> grieving over the death of an 11-year-old boy. Or, says one of actors, Asaf Pariente, the equally stereotyped keffiyeh-clad <u>Hamas</u> gunmen who promise eternal vengeance after an Israeli soldier shoots the child dead. Caught out, the audience member lets a rueful half smile, in what just might be sudden self-awareness, flit across his face.

In fact, this play set against the dark background of occupation and intifada repeatedly challenges its audience to realise that the 'others' are individuals too. At the climax of the piece " 'Imbroglio' in English " the haunted Israeli soldier who has helped to cover up the killing, suddenly sees the Palestinian mother and her child in his living room. 'Can't you see there are people there?' he asks his uncomprehending, and of course, unseeing wife. It's one of the oldest of all dramatic devices. But the line has a double meaning, half of which is a resonant appeal to understand the suffering on the other side of the psychological, as well as increasingly the physical, wall separating Israelis from Palestinians.

Without an initial script, Plonter is the outcome of an intense and extraordinary collaboration between Ronen, 29, and a talented cast of young professional Israeli Arab and Jewish actors, who improvised, argued and finally bonded for seven months to create a work which confronts, often painfully but sometimes with savage humour, its audiences with the human realities on both sides.

The sketches weaving together the lives of an Israeli and Palestinian family, each tormented in its own way by the conflict, linger in the memory long after the performance at Tel Aviv's Cameri Theatre ends: the Palestinian husband goaded by his wife over his apparent passivity in the face of their son's death; the young Israeli woman trying to reach out to her soldier husband after her own stridently left-wing activist sister has accused him of being a 'war criminal'; the Palestinian man on a bus who angrily confronts his suddenly terrified fellow passengers by stripping down to his underpants.

ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS GIVEN A SHOCKING TASTE OF EACH OTHER'S LIVES; A BABY IS THROWN LIKE A FRISBEE AND CHILDREN VIE FOR A SUICIDE VEST

The versatile cast set out to confront the complexities of the conflict. For the mainly left-wing Jewish actors, for example, this meant, says Ronen, understanding soldiers and settlers as well as Palestinians. 'The first thing we had to do was to destroy every opinion we had about the conflict,' she says. 'We wanted to expose our own ignorance and prejudice, our lack of knowledge of ourselves and others.'

'We had to try and be neutral and not emotional,' says Ashraf Barhoim, an Arab actor who, in one of several crossovers, plays an Israeli soldier as well as the suspected suicide bomber.

Thus, a settler couple whose child is killed in a Palestinian attack are treated with sympathy; on the other hand a group of settler <u>women</u> evading a soldier trying to evacuate them by throwing a baby like a frisbee from hand to hand until he is, shockingly, dropped, makes a highly charged point about the involuntary exposure of children to the conflict. As does one of the most disturbing scenes: a group of Palestinian children vying, as if in a game, for a suicide vest to avenge their dead 11-year-old schoolfriend.

Ronen says the cast did not, as they worked on the play, think much about the audience 'or whether people would be angry with it'. But she agrees that it is Israelis who have the most to learn from Plonter.

'Unlike for Palestinians what's happening is not a matter of everyday life for them. They have the privilege of behaving as if [the occupation] didn't exist every moment of the day, until, that is, a terror attack comes to their doorstep and then they say 'What do you want from us, why are you trying to kill us." For a symbolic taste of Palestinian life, theatre-goers arriving at the play have to submit their ID to two aggressive actors in soldiers' uniforms.

It has already been shown to Arab and Jewish schoolchildren, in an experiment which the Cameri is busily seeking sponsorship to expand.

The play doesn't seek to come up with a detailed peace plan. But the cast are united by an anti-occupation ethos; they are of a generation marked as teenagers by the rising hopes and then the crushing disappointments of the Oslo agreement era.

Despite the darkness of much of the work, and her own admission that the audience probably 'only come half-way with us', Ronen suggests there are some grounds for optimism in the mutual understanding the cast built among themselves through 'real honesty and real dialogue' in rehearsal. 'Of course if we can do it, and the audience get involved, they will be able to do it too.' She cites one minor example. In one scene, the dead Palestinian child's distraught mother " compellingly played by Raida Adon, composes herself for the TV cameras to say how happy and proud she was to have a 'martyred' son before lapsing back into inconsolable grief.

Ronen says that in the discussion after one performance a Jewish high school pupil 'said she had seen this so often before, but now she understood what the mother was really feeling'.

Load-Date: June 11, 2005



I just hope I die before I get olde

Evening Herald (Plymouth)

April 28, 2004

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Section: Features; General; Columnist; Pg. 6

Length: 816 words

Body

With apologies to Maria and the Von Trapp family, I'm not too keen on singing nuns and crooning kids, either. But what really gets me is the British obsession with anything old.

The word 'quaint' is bad enough.

And as for 'olde' as in 'olde- worlde charm' and 'Ye Olde Tea Shoppe'...

Please, no.

If <u>Hamas</u> would only see the light and target Britain's heritage industry, I'd be first in line for the next suicide bombers' class.

I could stomach it - just - if all the period nonsense were genuine. It's the sight of fake wooden beams and pretend silk flowers, the shine on the horsebrass and the stench of polyester that really offends me.

I can cope with country pubs that are 400 years old - although I'd prefer it if they kept the original ditch toilets.

What I truly cannot understand is the desire to camouflage something built in 1966 as if it dated from 1066, but with a loud carpet and an even noisier fruit machine.

What was so charming about the olde worlde? Was it the bubonic plague in particular or just the insanitary conditions in general? Oh, the joys of dying at 36 from tuberculosis or being worked to an early death in a tin mine.

Yes, the great times enjoyed by 10 children crowded into a two-bedroom house in a terrace where three families share a toilet.

Oh, for the days when kids could play in safety on cobbled streets - before they reached their 10th birthday and were sent down a mine or up a chimney. Bliss, I'm sure.

The World War One millions in the trenches? They'd never had it so good as they choked on the mustard gas.

World War Two and the spirit of the Blitz: how much fun was that, lying awake in terror in your shelter listening to the whistle of an incoming bomb? (I've got misgivings, too, about some of the old soldiers who like to wear their uniforms and medals with pride and march up and down on Remembrance Sunday. I never understood why my dad, who was with the Eighth Army in North Africa and Italy, never wanted to talk about the war until I asked him. "It

I just hope I die before I get olde

was horrible," he said, his final words on five years of his life.) Why are the labels 'antique' and 'vintage' such a selling-point in Britain? OK, with vintage wine you've almost got me - except that you can keep 'em because I can't afford 'em.

But an antique phone only reminds me of the bad old days when lines were usually party, frequently crossed and invariably crackly and calls were scarily expensive.

The whole quaint, olde-worlde, vintage, antique thing reaches its zenith of absurdity in the classic car.

I sometimes forget myself and get caught up in the mass hysteria for objects that were paid for - through the nose and gritted teeth - in pounds and shillings.

The other day we parked next to some pile of rusty, inefficient, unreliable junk which had been repainted and buffed up and taken for its first drive for six months simply because the sun was shining and it was Sunday.

"Look!" I shouted to my seven-year-old, "an old car! All cars used to look like that when mum was a little girl." I got a daggers look from the wife and a puzzled expression from the daughter.

Thank God for children cutting through adults' baloney.

"Why is it good?" asked the littl'un. "It doesn't look like it goes very fast and you must get wet without windows and a roof." She stabbed her finger on a button and closed her window with a satisfying electrical buzz.

Attagirl. I half-expected her to start singing that anthem to youth, 'My Generation'.

She's right: old cars are about rust, fumes, rust, discomfort, rust and standing by the A38 in the rain on August Bank Holiday wondering where the nearest AA box is (no mobile phones in the good old days).

To close the 'vintage' car debate, I'll offer these four words: 'British Leyland' and 'Austin Allegro'.

What about the great stately homes of England, you may ask.

Well, I can cope with the National Trust in small doses. If somebody has to own stretches of the South West coastline it should be a charity dedicated to protecting them from more development.

I guess there's also an argument for keeping some stately homes.

To let them rot would be an insult to the memory of the poor people who gave blood, sweat, tears and even their lives to build these vanity projects for the rich and exploiting so that our lords and masters would have somewhere nice to show off the foreign works of art they looted during their travels.

I can see that the National Trust has to open a tea shop to provide an income to help support the above - I just don't understand why they have to staff them with middle-aged **women** dressed in fake Edwardian/Victorian frocks.

Stuff the British Empire (subjugation and arrogance); let's hear it for the European Union (partnership and tolerance).

Here's to bleach and stainless steel, the Internet and mobile phones, antibiotics and MRI scanners, central heating and fridges.

I just hope I die before I get olde.

Load-Date: April 29, 2004



Bulldozers crush hope in Rafah camp: Palestinians scramble to safety as Israeli attack flattens homes

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

May 21, 2004

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 18

Length: 881 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Rafah

Body

Fatima Sharif Hassan fled the "Block O" neighbourhood of Rafah refugee camp a week ago as Israel's giant mechanical wreckers tore at the home she shared with her son and his family.

The great grandmother, 75, sought refugee in another section of the camp, al-Brazil, where her daughter lived. Mrs Hassan felt certain it was far enough away from the volatile Israeli security strip and Egyptian border to be safe from the bulldozers.

But yesterday Mrs Hassan, who is crippled by diabetes, had to be hauled through a hole in the wall shortly before the building was brought crashing down.

"We heard the Israeli bulldozers starting to demolish the house over us," she said. "We only escaped because the men knocked a hole in the wall and carried me between the buildings. We lost everything. I lost my false teeth. I lost my money. The neighbours had to give me this scarf to cover my head."

After the destruction of nearly 200 homes in Block O and other parts of Rafah last week, the Israeli government vigorously denied that the goal of its sweep through the camp was to break armed resistance through widescale demolition of Palestinian homes - even though the army chief of staff said as much on Sunday before a public change of heart.

But since the army seized control of the al-Brazil district on Wednesday night, leaving at least five people dead and several more wounded, fleeing residents say the military bulldozers have crushed entire rows of homes.

The army says it only de stroys the houses of "known terrorists" or where the buildings are used as cover for fighting by groups such as *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad.

But the Hassans say that, in al-Brazil yesterday, at least eight of the houses on their road, Taha Hussein School street, were bulldozed to rubble. Other residents have reported similar destruction or at least a similar number of homes destroyed.

Mohammed Nerab, a Palestinian ambulance driver dispatched to pick up the wounded from al-Brazil, said he had witnessed the destruction. "I saw three homes demolished in front of my eyes," he said. "There are tanks and bulldozers everywhere. If anything moves, they shoot."

Bulldozers crush hope in Rafah camp: Palestinians scramble to safety as Israeli attack flattens homes

Ayad Rubi, a doctor at Rafah's hospital who has been unable to reach his home in al-Brazil since the beginning of the assault on the refugee camp on Monday, was reeling yesterday afternoon; his wife had told him their house had been destroyed.

"My house has just been demolished," he said. "My wife and four children have made it to the UN school in Rafah town. My mother and father are still in al-Brazil, they've gone to a friend's house nearby. I can't get back because I've been so busy at the hospital."

More than 150 people have registered with the UN's Palestinian refugee agency having been left homeless after the destruction yesterday.

Al-Brazil residents say they are concerned that the destruction will continue while the military retains its grip on the district as it advances into other parts of the camp.

Mrs Hassan and her family took shelter in a toilet as the Israeli tanks entered al-Brazil on Wednesday. It was the only room with a concrete roof, built to support the water tank, and so gave the best protection from the mortars, shrapnel and bullets.

The family spent the night there. Yesterday morning the men emerged to check on the situation and get food and water. Mrs Hassan and the children stayed inside. Shortly after 10am they heard the clank and roar of the giant armoured bulldozers. "We didn't sleep at all because of the shooting," said Nabil Hassan, the owner of the house.

"When they began demolishing the houses there was no way to warn the bulldozer driver we were there. My parents live in the house next door. We called them to make a hole in the wall (to) escape. They brought hammers and they made the hole.

"First of all I helped my children escape and then I carried the old woman through the hole. Then they destroyed my parents' house and we had to run to another, bigger house nearby."

But after a while the bulldozer turned its attention to that property too.

The family was forced to flee with about 60 others from the street to one of the remaining unscathed buildings. But the bulldozers loomed again.

"The foundations and pillars started shaking," said Mr Hassan. "The <u>women</u> started screaming. They shouted, 'we are all going to be killed, let's get out of here'. Then they made white flags and walked with the children until they were all the way out of al-Brazil. We are left with nothing from our homes."

Mrs Hassan was recovering in Rafah hospital yesterday while the children were being sheltered in a UN school.

An army spokesman denied there had been any demolition: "Since the beginning of the activity in the Brazil neighbourhood, Israeli forces did not demolish any structures.

"There are certain routes that forces are going through that Palestinians placed explosive devices over, and in order to continue we have to detonate the device if we cannot neutralise it. Sometimes that damages houses. There are some armoured bulldozers but they are used for clearing work."

Jonathan Steele, page 28

guardian.co.uk/israel

Links www1.idf.il/dover/site/mainpage.asp?sl=EN&id=7&docid=29334.ENIsraeli Defence Forces: tunnels www.un.org/unrwa UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

Load-Date: May 21, 2004



A tragic loss of Arab dignity laid bare in pictures ROULA KHALAF

Financial Times (London, England)

May 8, 2004 Saturday

London Edition 1

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Length: 901 words

Byline: By ROULA KHALAF

Body

In every war there are images that capture the tragedy, that become etched in people's minds and tell the story more poignantly than volumes of words. From the conflict in Iraq, perhaps the most unforgettable image, particularly for the Arab world, was that of Ali Abbas, the 12-year-old boy who lost both arms and his parents in a bombing raid. A symbol of Iraqi suffering, the picture of the terrified boy lying in his hospital bed was eventually eclipsed by the powerful image of the statue of Saddam Hussein falling amid cheering Iraqi crowds.

The falling statue became a symbol of the liberation of an oppressed people, so potent it provoked relief even among the many Arabs who had opposed the war. Eight months later, that image was reinforced by an even stronger one: Iraq's haggard, disoriented dictator being dragged from a hole. Despite Iraq's slide into violence and chaos, the capture of Mr Hussein forced Arabs to remember his tyrannical rule and his humiliating defeat. In the past week, those images associated with America's victory in Iraq have been washed away by the sickening depictions of a hooded prisoner, wired and perched on a box, and the naked bodies of prisoners piled up like animals, all for the viewing pleasure of US soldiers at the Abu Ghraib prison. Throughout the Middle East, the sexual humiliation was played and replayed on television screens, presented as living proof of the decadence of US might and long-presumed American hypocrisy in the Middle East.

But if Arab reaction was even more furious than the disgust expressed by others, it is because the tortured prisoners of Iraq also symbolised a general depression, a reminder of the Arab world's own defeat in a broader war, fought against Israel, against the US and against itself.

Unlike little Ali or the crashing statue, Arabs saw in the images from Abu Ghraib a reflection of everything that is wrong with their region: the perceived arrogance of the US in its drive for domination under the label of the war against terrorism; the denial by Israel - America's close ally - of Palestinian rights to a viable state; and the impotence and repression of their own despotic rulers. Going far beyond Iraq, the most potent impact of the grotesque images, as Ahmad Amorabi wrote in al-Bayan, a United Arab Emirates newspaper, was to remind Arabs that they are "a nation without dignity".

"Had George W. Bush and Tony Blair not been certain of our passivity as Arabs, no American or British soldier would have dared undress any Iraqi detainee to beat them up with a broom while another urinated on them," he says. "Arab regimes would not have been passive in such a situation . . . had it not been, in turn, certain that the Arab nation is dormant and lacks a minimal sense of self-dignity."

A tragic loss of Arab dignity laid bare in pictures ROULA KHALAF

The Bush administration rushed to condemn the abuses and later apologise to Arab audiences for them, presumably because it feared the images would destroy any belief among Arabs in America's commitment to a democratic Iraq. But most never had such beliefs.

For many Muslims, the damage lies in the fact that the pictures are the most disturbing in a string of horrifying pictures from Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territories in recent months. Among the more recent pictures, three images have stood out in the Arab world.

First was the US assault on Falluja - most widely seen by Arab viewers via the passionate TV broadcasts of Ahmed Mansour, the correspondent of al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based Arabic satellite network and the only TV covering the town at the time. Screaming with rage against the killing of <u>women</u> and children, he issued appeals to Arabs to help the people of Falluja.

Then there was the burnt body of Abdelaziz Rantissi, the slain leader of <u>Hamas</u>, the radical Palestinian group, assassinated in an Israeli raid in the Gaza Strip. Dying under the cameras, Rantissi became the latest symbol of Israeli impunity - backed by a US administration that refused to condemn the killing. Commenting on TV, Azmi Beshara, an Arab member of the Israeli Knesset, said the remains of Rantissi were also "the remains of the Arab world".

Between these two images was the most disturbing and significant picture of all: Mr Bush, standing next to Ariel Sharon, Israel's leader, at the White House, declaring that Israel could keep parts of occupied Palestinian lands and reject the right of return of Palestinian refugees.

What US officials insist was a simple statement of the facts on the ground was interpreted in the Arab world as a second Balfour declaration, equivalent to the 1917 British document that promised a home for Jews and was considered a devastating betrayal by Arabs.

"It's not so much about the photos, it's an accumulation of fury in general," says Mohammed al-Sayed Said, an Egyptian commentator who tracks public opinion. "There's a sense of real humiliation in the US-Israeli alliance, in the general American attitude, in the occupation of Iraq itself."

In the most revealing insight - and without minimising the revulsion over Abu Ghraib - he says Arabs know that even worse torture happens in their own countries, yet they are rarely as outraged. "The real fury comes from the feelings of injustice on substantive issues. The US symbolises a total identification with Israel and a degrading of Arab dignity and people feel the injustice but can do nothing about it."

The writer is the FT's Middle East editor

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End of Document



The Gazette (Montreal)

December 26, 2004 Sunday

Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. D4

Length: 1787 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

January

1Clara, daughter of Lina Mailhot and Marc-Andre Stronikowski, was Montreal's first baby of 2004. She made her appearance at 14 minutes past midnight sat Centre Hospitalier de Lasalle.

3A landmark year in space exploration started when NASA's Spirit lander touched down on Mars, and began sending back spectacular pictures of the red planet's surface, enabling The Gazette to use the headline: Greetings from Mars

22Ste. Justine Hospital authorities urged 2,614 former surgery patients to undergo blood tests to determine whether they could have been infected by an HIV-positive doctor at the hospital.

20Vito Rizzuto, 57, a reputed Montreal mafia boss, was arrested at his home on the request of U.S. authorities who alleged he participated in the murders of three members of the Bonanno crime family in New York on May 5, 1981.

February

1 Janet Jackson suffered what co-performer Justin Timberlake called a "wardrobe malfunction" after he ripped off part of her costume, revealing a breast during the Super Bowl half-time show. As an aside, the New England Patriots beat the Carolina Panthers 32-29.

4As thick snowflakes fell on Mountain St., a breathless man pleaded with a bystander to "Call police, call police - they'll kill me." Two men were in pursuit. Within 60 to 90 seconds Daniel Muir, 41, was stabbed to death. He had a criminal record.

6Following two weeks of argument, hockey pundit and motormouth Don Cherry was effectively muzzled by the CBC. Cherry's Jan. 24 statement that visors were for "Europeans and French guys" was investigated by the official languages commissioner. Pressure groups, commentators, even a cabinet minister weighed in on the controversial national icon

March

- 18Four men, including a minor, were arrested after a bizarre kidnapping and standoff. Two Vietnamese men were grabbed outside a Toronto karaoke bar in what appeared to be related to an extortion attempt by an Asian gang, police said. The four surrendered peacefully in Montreal after a tense seven hours.
- 21Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder and spiritual leader of the <u>Hamas</u> terrorist group, was killed by missiles from Israeli helicopters as he left a mosque at daybreak. Yassin, a quadriplegic, was the most senior Palestinian terrorist killed in more than three years of fighting.
- 23 The new Paul Martin-led Liberal government tried to paint itself as prudent and caring in a pre-election budget that contained a relatively modest \$2.2 billion in new spending and tax relief and a promise of stricter controls over future spending.

April

- 5 Prime Minister Paul Martin and Premier Jean Charest expressed revulsion over the firebombing of the United Talmud Torahs School in Montreal. The school's library was destroyed in the attack.
- 9 The Montreal General Hospital got ready to recall more than 200 hip-surgery patients who might have been infected by improperly cleaned instruments. It was the third major recall of patients in less than four months in the Montreal area.
- 17An Israeli helicopter strike in the Gaza Strip killed <u>Hamas</u> leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who assumed the post last month after a similar attack that killed the group's founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin. The Israeli attack came less than five hours after a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up killing one Israeli security worker and wounded three more in an industrial park.

May

- 9 Chechnya's president, Akhmad Kadyrov, was killed in a powerful bomb blast that ripped through a stadium in the capital, Grozhny.
- 6Saying the photographs "made us sick," U.S. President George W. Bush apologized for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers at Abu Ghraib prison. The scandal added pressure on the U.S., under worldwide criticism for its strategy on Iraq.
- 29 Rev. Darryl Gray supporters handed him the pulpit he had been seeking yesterday, electing him leader of Alliance Quebec by an overwhelming majority of 98 to seven. The Union United Church clergyman had been embroiled in controversy since reporters learned of an assault charge police brought against him for allegedly striking his wife during a domestic dispute in January.

June

- 7 Canadian hockey fans rallied behind Jerome Iginla and the Calgary Flames, but the Flames' gallant challenge for the Stanley Cup fell short when they lost game 7, a 2-1 thriller, to the Tampa Bay Lightning.
- 8 The last time it happenedwas in 1882, and the transit of Venus across the face of the sun drew awed gasps from people around the world. The next transit is in 2012.
- 28Liberal attack ads portraying the Conservatives as a threat to Canadian values were credited with saving Paul Martin's Liberals from a stunning general election defeat. After blowing a wide lerad in early polls, the Liberals took 135 seats and ended with a minority governmen that looked likelty to depend on NDP support to survive in Parliament. The Conservatives had 96 seats, the NDP 22 seats, the Bloc 54.

July

2Summer really got underway in Montreal week with the start of the 25th Montreal Jazz Festival. What started as a small mini-fest is now the best-attended jazz festival in the world, with more than 2 million people expected to visit.

4lt's a great day to be Greek, as the national soccer team pulled off one of the great upsets by beating Portugal in the Euro 2004 final. The win sparked wild street celebrations by Greeks in Montreal

- 12 Not a great day to be Greek. The worst blackout in more than a decade hit Athens, leaving millions sweltering and prompting fears for next month's Olympic Games.
- 13 A curfew on teenagers planned by the town of Huntingdon would contravene Quebec's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the province's Human Rights Commission ruled.
- 16 Martha Stewart sentenced to five months jail for lying about a stock trade.

August

- 5 A senior Quebec judge planned to resign after an incident that she described as "extremely unfortunate." Chief Justice Lyse Lemieux was driving home to Montreal after an evening of bridge-playing in Laval when she hit road equipment on Highway 13. She failed a breathalyzer test and faced a charge of impaired driving.
- 12 Former boxing champion Davey Hilton Jr.'s daughters said they will reveal in a book that they were the teenage girls he was convicted in 2001 of raping. Hilton, who is serving a seven-year jail term, would not comment. Both girls are married. They say the revelation is a part of their healing.
- 15 The Canadian Bar Association voted overwhelmingly to reject a proposed ban on sex with clients. amid compolaints that the organization had no place in the bedrooms of its memberts.
- 16 Cadillac Fairview extend ed opening hours at its malls to 9 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Some stores stayed closed in protest, and some workers lamented the loss of family life. Other malls were forced to follow suit.

September

- 16 Kalan Porter won the Cannadian Idol national singing contest in a showdown with folk-pop songstress Theresa Sokyra, 23. Porter, 18, grew up on a farm near Medicine Hat, Alta..
- 16 Hurricane Ivan socked the Gulf coast, killing at least 20.
- 18 The Montreal Impact won the soccer A-league with a 2-0 win over the Seattle Sounders with goals from Mauricio Vincello and Freddie Commodore.
- 29 The Expos finally struck out with their last game in Montreal, a 9-1 loss to the Florida Marlins. The wake was attended by 31,395 fans
- 21Quebec City residents were thrilled as the Queen Mary swung by in its first Canadian port of call
- 22 David Scupenski, 8, died when he ran back into their blazing house in panic. An administrative mix-up by the fire department resulted in a half-hour delay before an ambulance arrived.

October

- 6 Canadian submariner Lieutenant Chris Saunders was killed after a fire broke out in the submarine HMCS Chicoutimi as it was being brought to Canada from a Scottish base.
- 12 A time-honoured Montreal tradition came under fire as police began a campaign to stop people jaywalking downtown.

- 14 Quebec reversed its decision to delay construction of two Montreal superhospitals. Had the province not changed its mind, the city faced the possibility of losing the Shriners Hospital for Children.
- 27 A total eclipse of the moon worried Boston Red Sox fans, who argued whether it was a good or bad omen. It was good, as the Sox eclipsed The Curse by beating the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0. That gave them a stunning 4-0 sweep in the World Series, sparking wild celebrations in Beantown.

November

- 9 The long-awaited U.S. assault on the rebel-held Iraqi city of Fallujah started. The action sprked violence across Iraq.
- 11 Palestinian leader Arafat dies in a French military hospital, sparking wild scenes of grief on the West Bank and putting the entire Middle East on edge.
- 16 The murder of Margaret Hassan, longtime director of the CARE charity was shocking, even by terrorist standards. Al-Jazeera television said it had received a video that appeared to show Hassan being shot in the head. Hassan, 59, held Irish, British and Iraqi citizenship. She had lived in Iraq for 30 years. She was an outspoken critic of prewar sanctions on Iraq and of the U.S.-led invasion.
- 19 To no-one's surprise, Carolyn Parrish was booted form the Liberal caucus after yet another anti-U.S. stunt. On CBC television's This Hour Has 22 Minutes, she stomped on a doll representing U.S. President George W. Bush.
- 21Montrealers looked on sadly as Ottawa staged a party to which we were not invited. A shock 26-18 semi-final loss to the Toronto Argonauts ended the Alouettes' Grey Cup hopes. The Argos went on to shock the favoured B.C. Lions 27-19 in the final.

December

- 1Newly-elected U.S. President George W. Bush visited Canada for two days. He declined to address Parliament amid fears he would be heckled.
- 2 Great news for those who like the countryside tranquil, but bad news for snowmobilers. A judge ruled in favour of a class action by residents of St. Jerome, who claimed their lives were ruined by the noise and smell of snowmobiles on a trail near their home.
- 15 The National Parole Board ruled that Karla Homolka will stay at the maximum security Joliette Institution for <u>women</u>, about 100 kilometres northeast of Montreal. The board says she is still at risk to re-offend. She finishes a 12-year sentence for the sex murders of two Ontario girls July 5, 2005.
- 13 Paul Tellier was ousted as CEO of Bombardier.
- 16 Sleiman Elmerhebi, 19, pleaded guilty to one count of arson. Parents at the firebombed United Torahs Talmud school said it was a hate crime. He will be sentenced Jan. 18.
- 17 One of two mills closed in Huntingdon. When the other closes, up to 900 jobs will be lost. The mayor said there was a lot of interest from investors in locating new indistry in the stricken town.
- 20 Disgraced Quebec entertainment mogul Guy Cloutier jailed ror 31/2 years for sexually assaulting two minors.

Graphic

Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; (Illustration shows Jean Charest in a manhole looking out.);

Color Photo: REUTERS; Pop superstar Michael Jackson arrives for his arraignment mon child-sex at the courthouse in Santa Maria, California, Jan. 16.; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; (Illustration shows a groundhog by the shadow of a breast.);

Color Photo: REUTER; Man walks down the middle of a street in downtown Halifax Feb. 19 after a blizzard prompted a province-wide state of emergency.; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; (Illustration shows George W. Bush campaigning.);

Color Photo: REUTERS/EL PAIS; Victims are helped after a bomb attack at Madrid's Atocha station, March 11 that killed 191 and wounded more than 1,800.; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; (Illustration shows Paul Martin in a bunny outfit.);

Color Photo: AP / U.S. marines pray over a fallen comrade at a first aid point after he died from wounds in Fallujah, Iraq on April 8.; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; (Illustration shows The Canadian flag with the Calgary Flames logo on it.);

Color Photo: REUTERS; A man, who identified himself as Nick Berg of Philadelphia sits in front of five masked men moments before he was beheaded; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; June;

Color Photo: REUTERS; Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin laughs as a supporter tries to put a garland around his neck at his headquarters in Montreal.; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; (Illustration shows Martha Stewart in prison garb.);

Color Photo: AP; A Sudanese refugee cries upon reaching the Chad border, after fleeing political violence in Darfur, Sudan July.; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; August;

Color Photo: CP; A disbelieving Perdita Felicien of Canada, after crashing during the <u>women</u>'s 100-metre Olympics final.; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE / (Illustration shows the White House with an Expos logo on top.);

Color Photo: REUTERS; Here's how Hurricane Ivan looked Sept. 11 from the International Space Station as it was over the Caribbean.; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; October;

Color Photo: AP; Yasser Arafat boards a helicopter as he prepares to leave his headquarters in the West Bank on Oct. 29. He died Nov. 11; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; November U.S. Elections;

Color Photo: AP / Scott Peterson listens to defence arguments Nov. 2. He was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of his pregnant wife, Laci Peterson, in California.; Cartoon: AISLIN, MONTREAL GAZETTE; December:

Color Photo: REUTERS; Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko gives a thumb up at a rally in Kiyiv. He told voters today's election re-run would not be easy.

Load-Date: December 26, 2004



READERS WRITE

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

April 16, 2004 Friday

Home Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: Editorial:: Letters

Length: 878 words

Byline: KENNETH SISSEL, SHAUL LAVAN, JAMES MCCARTHY, DEIRDRE MACNAB, GARY KOLAR, SARA

REAMS, BRENT ESTES

Body

Middle East children: Responses to "Toll of young victims grows," @issue, April 15

Palestinians kill their own

No matter what the children's death count may be, Khalid Amayreh is missing the point. How many Israeli children have been strapped to bombs and sent to murder innocent people on a bus or in a market? The Palestinians also have a higher number of children killed while being used as human buffers.

The real point, however, is that if the Palestinian children are not being killed by Palestinian adults purposely blowing them up, they are killed in the course of justifiable retaliation.

Terrorists will use any tool available, including children, to inflict pain and fear on Israelis. The only thing that deters them is knowing that Israel will retaliate.

For the Journal-Constitution

Keeping score is intellectually dishonest. No numbers on either side can justify the deaths. However, it is Palestinian terrorists who created and purposely manipulate the circumstances under which people die.

KENNETH SISSEL, Lilburn

Israel tries to avoid civilian casualties

More than three-fourths of the more than 1,000 (not 850) Israelis killed in Yasser Arafat's latest war have been civilian victims of suicide bombers. The overwhelming majority of Palestinians killed have been attacking Israel, or killed in crossfire; many have been killed by Palestinian gunmen firing at Israelis while using crowds or homes as cover.

READERS WRITE

Unlike Arafat's Al Aqsa Brigades or <u>Hamas'</u> teenage bombers, Israel tries to avoid civilian casualties. As the United States is discovering in Iraq, it is impossible to avoid civilian casualties when the insurgents hide in ambulances, hospitals and mosques and use children.

SHAUL LAVAN, Atlanta

Terrorists hide behind women and the young

Khalid Amayreh does not take to task Palestinians (terrorists) who commit their acts and then hide behind skirts and playgrounds, hoping not to be held accountable.

The Palestinians martyr themselves by letting terrorists hide among the populace and wail when this results in the deaths of "innocents" --- who, by their own admission, seek the destruction of Israel, making them mortal enemies of the Israelis. Some of the bombers are children.

When the Palestinians cease their aggression, Israel will cease its aggression, but not a moment sooner.

JAMES McCARTHY, Woodstock

Education: Teacher quality bound to decline

Thanks to our state government, new teachers don't need an education degree. They must only pass a test --- no more going to school to learn classroom management skills, no different teaching techniques for different learning styles, no more mentoring arrangements under skilled, proven teachers.

This change, our "Professional Standards Commission" tells us, is so we can keep up the No Child Left Behind requirements for a qualified teacher in every classroom. Voters and parents need to ask: Is this progress?

DEIRDRE MACNAB, Atlanta

It's no wonder children are fat

Oh wow --- it's showtime next week for third-graders ("Futures on the line in a third-grade test," Page One, April 15)! Do or die. Make the cut or be forever cursed with the stigma of retention. Anybody think of blowing the whistle on this craziness?

Do we need this frenzy? What country are we trying to catch up with this year? Where is the threat coming from that so burdens our 8-year-olds and puts them in the media spotlight? Are they in "bad" schools in a "bad" state with "bad" teachers?

I just hope the students get a little time to go out in the nice weather and play off some of that obesity we keep hearing about.

GARY KOLAR, Atlanta

Voters should have a say in Mideast policy

With President Bush's pronouncement on "our" new policy regarding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, I feel as if I am being held hostage ("Bush shocks Arabs with West Bank shift," Page One, April 15). Don't I have any say (through my elected representatives) in our government? Has Bush no advisers who will say the emperor's naked? Would he listen?

When we are embroiled in our own conflict in the Mideast, for him to side so strongly with Israel can mean only more problems for the United States --- both with the Arab world as well as with our European allies (if we have any left).

READERS WRITE

The impression I get from the White House is that the executive branch operates without regard to checks and balances, preferring to ask for apologies later (if at all) rather than consensus before.

SARA REAMS, Fayetteville

Metro Atlantans love to drive, and it shows

Gov. Sonny Perdue's transportation plan misses the mark ("Spending for roads beefed up," Page One, April 15). I can't blame him entirely --- he is, unfortunately, being advised by those who think it wise to look to other cities for solutions to our traffic issues.

Atlanta is large and spread out, not contained in a neat grid-like format. More important, Atlantans love to drive. The idea that spending money on mass transit will alleviate our traffic problem is absurd. MARTA needs to be put out of its misery. The HOV lanes are like ghost towns. Mass transit works in tightly contained cities; it has not and will not work here.

Improve the one and only thing that can help with traffic --- the roads! We have always driven in Atlanta. Accept this premise and then find a solution within it.

BRENT ESTES, Smyrna

Graphic

Photo: Jewish ultra-Orthodox children look from the window of a bus passing by the site of a suicide bomb attack in August 2003 that left 23 people dead and more than 100 wounded. / ODED BAILILTY / Associated Press; Photo: Northbound traffic on the Downtown Connector. / JOHN SPINK / Staff

Load-Date: April 17, 2004

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The Wrong Way to Sell Democracy to the Arab World

The New York Times

March 8, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

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Length: 967 words

Byline: By Zbigniew Brzezinski

Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser in the Carter administration, is the author of "The Choice: Global

Domination or Global Leadership."

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The Bush administration deserves credit for its long-term commitment to democracy in the Middle East. But even a good idea can be spoiled by clumsy execution. Worse still, the idea can backfire -- particularly if people come to suspect that ulterior motives are at work.

This is precisely what is happening with President Bush's "Greater Middle East initiative," which outlines steps the United States and its partners in the Group of 8 industrialized nations can take to promote political freedom, equality for <u>women</u>, access to education and greater openness in the Middle East. Elements of the proposal include the creation of free trade zones in the region, new financing for small businesses and help overseeing elections.

After a draft of the initiative was published last month in Al Hayat, a London-based Arabic newspaper, Arab leaders responded swiftly -- and unhappily -- at what they perceived to be American efforts to impose change. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt went so far as to call the proposal "delusional."

Fortunately, there is still time for the administration to set things right and rescue this potentially worthwhile project. But it must move quickly, particularly if it wants the G-8 to sign on to the plan at its summit meeting in June.

There is no question that the administration has its work cut out for it. For starters, the democracy initiative was unveiled by the president in a patronizing way: before an enthusiastic audience at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington policy institution enamored of the war in Iraq and not particularly sympathetic toward the Arab world. The notion that America, with Europe's support and Israel's endorsement, will teach the Arab world how to become modern and democratic elicits, at the very least, ambivalent reactions. (This, after all, is a region where memory of French and British control is still fresh.) Though the program is meant to be voluntary, some fear that compulsion is not far behind.

There are other reasons to be wary of the administration's plan. Democracy, impatiently imposed, can lead to unintended consequences. If the Palestinians were able to choose a leader in truly free elections, might they not opt for the head of *Hamas*? If free elections were soon held in Saudi Arabia, would Crown Prince Abdullah, a reformer, prevail over Osama bin Laden or another militant Islamic leader? If not genuinely accepted and reinforced by

The Wrong Way to Sell Democracy to the Arab World

traditions of constitutionalism, democracy can degenerate into plebiscites that only add legitimacy to extremism and authoritarianism.

Compounding the problem is the suspicion -- not only among the Arabs but also among the Europeans whose support the United States is seeking -- that the sudden focus on democracy has been promoted by administration officials who wish to delay any serious American effort to push the Israelis and Palestinians to reach a genuine peace settlement. That suspicion was fueled by Vice President Dick Cheney's recent remarks at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The spread of democracy, Mr. Cheney said, was "the precondition for peace and prosperity in Western Europe" after World War II. He went on to assert that democratic reform "is also essential to a peaceful resolution of the longstanding Arab-Israeli dispute."

Mr. Cheney's argument that democracy is the precondition for peace appeared to many to be a rationalization for postponing any effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Moreover, it ignored the historical reality that democracy can flourish only in an atmosphere of political dignity. As long as the Palestinians live under Israeli control and are humiliated daily, they won't be attracted by the virtues of democracy. The same is largely true of the Iraqis under the American occupation.

For the Bush administration's initiative to succeed, it must be more in sync with regional realities. To that end, the administration should take the following steps:

First, the program must be devised with Arab countries and not just presented to them. Egyptians and Saudis will not embrace democracy if they feel that their religious and cultural traditions are being slighted. The Europeans should also be fully engaged, and they should likewise pursue a dialogue of their own with the nations of the region regarding the definition and the goals of the planned undertaking. Any differences in approach could then be reconciled at the G-8 summit meeting.

Second, the initiative must recognize that without political dignity derived from self-determination there can be no democracy. The Germans regained their political dignity in a relatively short time after the end of World War II, and that in turn helped them to revive the democratic traditions of the pre-Nazi era. The program for Arab democracy will be more successful, and find wider acceptance, if it is matched by efforts to grant sovereignty to the Iraqis and Palestinians. Otherwise, democracy will seem to many in the Arab world to be window dressing for continued external domination.

Finally, the United States must define the substance of a peace settlement in the Middle East and then work energetically to put that agreement in place. Doing so will give greater credibility to the constructive motives behind the democracy initiative; it will also show the countries of the Middle East that there is a shared basis for a genuine partnership with the democratic West.

The transformation of the Middle East will be a more complex undertaking than the restoration of postwar Europe. After all, social restoration is inherently easier than social transformation. Islamic traditions, religious convictions and cultural habits must be treated with patient respect. Only then will the time be ripe for democracy in the Middle East.

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How not to spread democracy; Bush's Greater Middle East initiative

The International Herald Tribune

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Byline: Zbigniew Brzezinski

Dateline: WASHINGTON

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The New York Times

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How not to spread democracy; Bush's Greater Middle East initiative

traditions of constitutionalism, democracy can degenerate into plebiscites that only add legitimacy to extremism and authoritarianism.

Compounding the problem is the suspicion -- not only among the Arabs but also among the Europeans whose support America is seeking -- that the sudden focus on democracy has been promoted by administration officials who wish to delay any serious American effort to push the Israelis and Palestinians to reach a genuine peace settlement.

That suspicion was fueled by Vice President Dick Cheney's recent remarks at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The spread of democracy, Cheney said, was "the precondition for peace and prosperity in Western Europe" after World War II. He went on to assert that democratic reform "is also essential to a peaceful resolution of the longstanding Arab-Israeli dispute."

Cheney's argument that democracy is the precondition for peace appeared to many to be a rationalization for post-

poning any effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Moreover, it ignored the historical reality that democracy can flourish only in an atmosphere of political dignity. As long as the Palestinians live under Israeli control and are humiliated daily, they won't be attracted by the virtues of democracy. The same is largely true of the Iraqis under the American occupation.

For the Bush administration's initiative to succeed, it must be more in sync with regional realities. To that end, the administration should take the following steps:

First, the program must be devised with Arab countries and not just presented to them. Egyptians and Saudis will not embrace democracy if they feel that their religious and cultural traditions are being slighted. The Europeans should also be fully engaged, and they should likewise pursue a dialogue of their own with the nations of the region regarding the definition and the goals of the planned undertaking. Any differences in approach could then be reconciled at the G-8 summit meeting.

Second, the initiative must recognize that without political dignity derived from self-determination there can be no democracy. The program for Arab democracy will be more successful, and find wider acceptance, if it is matched by efforts to grant sovereignty to the Iraqis and Palestinians. Otherwise, democracy will seem to many in the Arab world to be window dressing for continued external domination.

Finally, the United States must define the substance of a peace settlement in the Middle East and then work energetically to put that agreement in place. Doing so will give greater credibility to the constructive motives behind the democracy initiative; it will also show the countries of the Middle East that there is a shared basis for a genuine partnership with the democratic West.

The transformation of the Middle East will be a more complex undertaking than the restoration of postwar Europe. After all, social restoration is inherently easier than social transformation. Islamic traditions, religious convictions and cultural habits must be treated with patient respect. Only then will the time be ripe for democracy in the Middle East.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser in the Carter administration, is the author of "The Choice: Global Domination or Global Leadership."

Load-Date: March 9, 2004



<u>NEW IRAQ NOT;</u> QUITE A BEACON RESENTMENT MORE WIDESPREAD THAN REFORM

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 28, 2004 Sunday

FIVE STAR EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 975 words

Byline: MEGAN K. STACK, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Dateline: RIYADH, Saudi Arabia

Body

These are days of heady promises, when kings and despots are making emphatic gestures of reform. There are petition drives in Syria and Saudi Arabia and <u>women</u>'s rights negotiations in the United Arab Emirates. Human rights initiatives are suddenly being aired by members of oppressive regimes.

Saddam Hussein's fall unsettled Arab leaders by demonstrating that the United States is willing to do away with hostile regimes. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said it best: We must shave our beards, he warned, before others shave them for us.

But behind the gestures of political change, contradictions and resentment are as thick and dark as the pools of oil under Saudi sands. One year after the campaign to oust Saddam, other regimes have been stripped of their sense of invulnerability and appear uncertain of the new order. Pro-democracy reformists from Damascus to Dubai took strength from the disintegration of the Iraqi regime -- but were also saddled with the poisonous label of American sympathizer.

The United States has paid for the war and the occupation with a profound anti-American backlash. Jihad has been fired in the hearts of a new generation of extremist recruits. Sectarian tensions are spilling from Iraq, drawing out tribal, religious and ethnic splits in neighboring countries and raising fears of instability.

The United States argued that toppling Saddam would ease the path to peace between Israel and the Palestinians. But another year of horrendous bloodshed in the Palestinian uprising has sunk Arabs deep into despair and intensified rage against U.S. foreign policy. That anger found form in wide-ranging street protests after the assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the militant <u>Hamas</u> movement. "If you ask us whether American foreign policy is working, we will say no," said Mustafa Harmarneh, head of Jordan's Center for Strategic Studies. "We went to American schools, and we will tell you: No."

Western officials point out that change takes time. It's too early to measure Iraq's influence, they say, adding that in the long run, the ouster of Saddam can't help but set off waves of political progress in the region. Optimistic analysts insist that the mere discussion of human rights and democracy is an important step.

"The removal of Saddam Hussein brought politics back to the Middle East," Lebanese lawyer Chibli Mallat said.

NEW IRAQ NOT: QUITE A BEACON RESENTMENT MORE WIDESPREAD THAN REFORM

But others say talk is cheap, and backsliding common. In autocratic regimes such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, they say, discussion of change has become a tool of rulers -- a way to ease American pressure, discourage unrest and, above all, keep a firm grip on power.

"Many, many regimes are very frightened -- they're illegitimate, but they've always been buttressed and covered by American support, which they don't seem able to rely on anymore," Lebanese analyst Michael Young said. "And they realize their own people are not very happy with them, so they're caught in this sort of ambiguous situation."

Reform is an old ghost in the Arab world, frequently discussed and seldom realized. Egypt is a case in point: Aging President Hosni Mubarak this year lightened media constraints, approved the formation of a human rights committee and made several much-studied remarks indicating that he won't bequeath the presidency to his son, Gamal.

But how deep is the change? Egyptians have lived under emergency law almost continuously since 1967. Independent nongovernmental organizations and religious parties are illegal, and human rights groups have criticized Egyptian security forces, saying they torture opposition demonstrators, gay men, street children and Islamists alike.

In many Arab countries, where the status quo means discrimination, the sectarian question distills the tension between democratization and stability. Minorities see a chance for greater freedom; regimes worry that a resurgence of tribal or religious loyalty could provoke violence -- and erode carefully centralized control.

They have watched nervously while Iraq's diverse population, free from brutal ties of enforced nationalism, retrenched along ethnic lines.

"The [Americans] keep talking about Shiites in the south, Kurds in the north -- why don't they just talk about Iraqis?" asked Ihsan Ali Bu-Hulaiga, a Saudi member of the appointed council that advises the royal family. "Now everybody is scared, thinking they need to stick to their tribe. This will drive us back 100 years."

In Saudi Arabia, one of the most troubled and pressured Arab regimes is fighting for survival on all fronts. The House of Saud is battling an armed internal uprising, international pressure to reform its Islamic fundamentalist culture and a clamor for democratization from political activists.

Amid the strife, Saudi Arabia is also trying to find its footing with the United States. Decades of tight, affectionate relations gave way to awkward suspicion and mutual disappointment following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. After the invasion of Iraq, to the quiet relief of officials from both nations, the United States pulled its troops out of Saudi Arabia.

The vast land that yielded Islam's prophet is also the birthplace of the modern jihad movement, fed during the Cold War by Saudi petrodollars and the fiery preaching of the kingdom's conservative Wahhabi clerics.

Asked about the number of men who rushed over Saudi Arabia's long border to fight the Americans, a Western diplomat said, "We're talking thousands, not hundreds."

Saudis aren't the only ones -- from Beirut to Cairo, young men have left home to answer the summons to holy war.

In Saudi Arabia, the lesson is well known: Eventually, jihad finds its way back home. Islamic insurgents turned their firepower against the royal family last year with a pair of devastating suicide bombings in Riyadh and gun battles throughout the country.

Load-Date: March 30, 2004



In Gaza's Berry Fields, a Family Reels After Losing 7 Boys to Israeli Fire

The New York Times

January 9, 2005 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 4

Length: 834 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER

Dateline: BEIT LAHIYA, Gaza, Jan. 7

Body

The neighbors had heard that Muhammad Ghaben, 18, had died in the hospital during the night, but no one wanted to tell his mother.

"How can we tell her?" asked Im Yehya Fadoos, walking along a muddy path between the poor houses and the strawberry fields of northern Gaza. "She was kissing him last night in the hospital. She's lost so much."

Three sons of Mariam Ghaben, 50, died Tuesday, all at once. They were blown apart by a single Israeli tank shell that was aimed at militants firing mortars toward Israel. In all, seven boys from the extended Ghaben family, ages 11 to 17, died in the explosion.

Mrs. Fadoos did not tell Ms. Ghaben that Muhammad had died, and as it turned out, he is still alive. But his legs and a hand were blown off and he lost an eye, and doctors say he is in critical condition, along with three others of the six Palestinians wounded in the same explosion.

On Friday, Ms. Ghaben was already in shock, sitting with her daughter-in-law, whose own son, Rajeh, 12, died in the explosion, and another relative, Halima al-Kaseh, who lost her son, Jibril, 17, while her two other children, 12 and 15, are badly wounded.

"Suddenly I saw everyone running, and I started running, and then I saw them collecting the parts of my children," Ms. Ghaben said, rocking on a cushion against a cement wall. "I don't know what kind of thing the Israelis fired, but my children were torn apart," she said, chopping the air with her hands.

"They showed me this pile of parts, and they said, 'This is your son,' all in a pile, and another was missing his lower half, and the parts were scattered all over," she said, as Ms. Kaseh held her hand.

"The head of my son was on one of the greenhouses," Ms. Ghaben said, still astonished. "Four hundred meters away, the head of my son. And I kissed it," she said softly. "I saw a hand in one of the trees, and I kissed the fingers."

The family had nothing to do with politics, she said.

"I never threw a stone," she said. "My kids never did anything against the Israelis. I work every day to feed my children. I plant strawberries for them to live, and in one minute they were chopped apart, pieces of clothes and pieces of bodies."

She tried to gather what was left of her children from the field and the trees in her head scarf and dress, she said.

There was a young girl in the field, age 6, Ms. Ghaben said. "She saw the parts, and they were burned, and she saw me collecting the parts in my clothes, and she asked, 'Why are you collecting this meat, my mother? Will you eat this?"

Ms. Kaseh said her children in the hospital, Imad, 15, and Ibrahim, 12, asked repeatedly for their brother, Jibril. "Where is my brother, my mother?' they ask," she said. "And I can't tell them he's dead. I told them he's in the other room. They bulldozed my land and then they took my sons, and when I go to the hospital my heart is in pieces."

Ms. Ghaben grew angry. "This is a crime," she said. "This a massacre. I ask those with hearts, not only Arabs but those who still have hearts and a conscience, if this happened in Israel everyone would condemn it!

"But what about us?" she demanded. "I collected the parts of my children. And if someone gives me a gun, I'll kill Sharon," she said, referring to Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister. "Let Sharon lose his son. Let Sharon collect the parts of his son."

She pointed dramatically to her waist. "Put the explosive here!" she shouted. "I'll go to the tank and explode myself!"

She fell silent then, and the <u>women</u> consoled her. "I wanted peace," she said. "I wanted to go to vote. I want to protect my other children. I don't want to lose them."

A spokeswoman for the Israeli Army said the tank fired a single, ordinary shell at a group of Palestinian militants who were firing mortars toward Israel from the strawberry fields. The army said Tuesday night that the shell had hit its target and that five of the dead were <u>Hamas</u> fighters. Later, Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades and the Popular Resistance Committee said they had fired the mortars. The army now says that it is investigating the incident and that it regrets any harm to civilians.

Outside, near the field, another son, Ghasan Ghaben, 32, described the loss of his brothers, Hani, 17, Bassam, 14, and Mahmoud, 13 -- and of his own son, Rajeh, 12. "He was so happy, he was helping me with the strawberries," Mr. Ghaben said. "I have a bad back, and he was helping, but then he went to play marbles over there with his friends." He stopped and looked away. "Can't the Israelis see with their cameras? These are kids playing marbles, just kids. Then they were in little pieces. You see it, but you can't take it in."

He, too, shied away from criticizing the militants who fired the mortars, saying, "As long as Israelis are killing them, they have to respond." But that did not interest him.

"We want peace, only peace," he said. "The Jews are our cousins. Let these children be the last to die."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Mariam Ghaben, right, pointing toward a tree where the hand of one of her sons had been found after he was killed by an Israeli tank shell. (Photo by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

Load-Date: January 9, 2005

End of Document



Arab mother grieves for sons slain by tank; Shell kills several in extended family - Correction Appended

The International Herald Tribune

Correction Appended

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 863 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: BEIT LAHIYA, Gaza Strip:

Body

Because of an editing error, an article on Monday listed incorrectly the number of Palestinian children from the same family killed by an Israeli tank shell. In all, seven boys from the extended Ghaben family, aged 11 to 17, died in the explosion.

The neighbors had heard that Muhammad Ghaben, 18, had died in the hospital during the night, but no one wanted to tell his mother.

"How can we tell her?" asked Im Yehya Fadoo, walking along a muddy path between the poor houses and the strawberry fields of northern Gaza. "She was kissing him last night in the hospital. She's lost so much."

The New York Times

Three sons of Mariam Ghaben, 50, died Tuesday, all at once, according to initial reports. They were blown apart by a single Israeli tank shell that was aimed at militants firing mortars toward Israel. Six boys from the extended Ghaben family, ages 11 to 17, died in the explosion.

Fadoos did not tell Mariam Ghaben that Muhammad had died, and as it turned out, he is still alive. But his legs and a hand were blown off and he lost an eye, and doctors say he is in critical condition, along with three others of the six Palestinians wounded in the same explosion.

On Friday, Mariam Ghaben was already in shock, sitting with her daughter-in-law, whose own son, Rajeh, 12, died in the explosion, and another relative, Halima al-Kaseh, who lost her son, Jibril, 17, while her two other children, 12 and 15, are badly wounded.

"Suddenly I saw everyone running, and I started running, and then I saw them collecting the parts of my children," Ghaben said, rocking on a cushion against a concrete wall. "I don't know what kind of thing the Israelis fired, but my children were torn apart," she said, chopping the air with her hands.

"They showed me this pile of parts, and they said, 'This is your son,' all in a pile, and another was missing his lower half, and the parts were scattered all over," she said, as Kaseh held her hand.

"The head of my son was on one of the greenhouses," Ghaben said, still astonished. "Four hundred meters away, the head of my son. And I kissed it," she said softly. "I saw a hand in one of the trees, and I kissed the fingers."

The family had nothing to do with politics, she said. "I never threw a stone. My kids never did anything against the Israelis. I work every day to feed my children. I plant strawberries for them to live, and in one minute they were chopped apart, pieces of clothes and pieces of bodies."

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Correction

International Herald Tribune

Correction-Date: January 11, 2004 Tuesday

Load-Date: January 10, 2005



The art of biting a helping hand

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

January 27, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: FEATURES-TYPE- FEATURE-COLUMN- OPINION / OP ED; Pg. 18

Length: 899 words

Byline: PIERS AKERMAN

Body

SOCIETY has traditionally been split in its opinion of the ditherings of deluded post-menopausal women.

Shakespeare took the warts-and-all approach and added intrigue to Macbeth with his witches, Hansel and Gretel ran into trouble in the ginger bread cottage, as did Snow White when she accepted a less than delicious apple.

There have been fairy godmothers, as Cinderella found, though they tend to be overshadowed by their loopy doppelgangers.

Germaine Greer revived her bleat about Australia last week, but does anyone care? MATP

Now we have Sydney's high priestess of theatre, Robyn Nevin, babbling on about the Prime Minister's preference to attend the opening of a railway rather than a new theatre at Walsh Bay.

It was a classic direct-from-the-heart to the luvvies. The Labor luvvies.

The theatre in question was delivered despite strong opposition from the in-your-face crowd because it was part of a wharf redevelopment plan which saw the white-ant infested Walsh Bay wharves restored by a developer.

The luvvies know in their hearts that development is evil, and they weren't happy with the thought that expensive units would also be built as part of the deal.

I recall backing the proposal, the development, the theatre and the general revival of the dead precinct and being attacked in The Sydney Morning Herald for my views by Richard Ackland, who falsely stated I had been paid a case of Grange Hermitage for my support.

Absolute nonsense of course, but without any real editorial management overseeing standards, the newspaper is a haven for grossly inaccurate fabulists.

Whether Nevin's remarks were all her own work or merely a script delivered by opponents of the Howard Government is difficult to determine. What is certain, however, is that she failed to acknowledge that Federal Government funding of the Sydney Theatre Company of which she is the CEO has been almost doubled since John Howard replaced Paul Keating as prime minister.

According to the files, the STC received about \$540,000 in 1996 and now trousers some \$1.2 million.

The art of biting a helping hand

If you're going to attack a government, you could at least acknowledge who's carrying the freight.

The arts and business story has been improving in recent years as the partnerships between Sun Microsystems and Musica Viva, and Australia Post's generous support for last week's wonderful tribute to Dame Joan Sutherland and her husband Richard Bonynge demonstrate, but there are more opportunities yet to be realised.

Gratuitous and insulting remarks from the CEO of a leading arts body don't help reassure members of the business community that their contributions will be appreciated by ideologically-driven arts czarinas.

By far the loopiest remarks from a member of the harpies' chorus came from British Liberal Democrat MP Jenny Tonge, however.

Speaking eight days after a Palestinian woman killed four Israelis at a border crossing, Ms Tonge said she understood suicide bombers and would consider becoming a suicide bomber herself if she were a Palestinian.

Most of the suicide bombers have been pathologically damaged kids, brainwashed since early childhood by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority which operates the most foul education system on the planet, teaching hatred, promoting lies and encouraging suicide as a means of advancement.

Ms Tonge, however, might have been thinking of the most recent woman to pull the pin on herself in the hope of a free passage to paradise. (Whether <u>women</u> are promised 70-plus dark-eyed virgins is a moot point.) As it happens, Reem Raiyshi was helped on her way to martyrdom by her cuckolded husband, who felt that she could reasonably atone for her adultery by blowing herself up! How the Australian Family Court would view such a sentence is not known.

The terrorist group **Hamas** supported her all the way.

By the way, when the metal in Raiyshi's bomb showed up on the security screen at the checkpoint, she told the quards she had a metal splint in her leg. The compassionate fools believed her and lost their lives.

Maybe this lethal deception is what Ms Tonge has in mind. What Nevin was thinking of is anyone's guess.

akermanp@dailytelegraph.com

Random thoughts

Governor of Tasmania Richard Butler weighed in on the public-private education debate as the topic for his Australia Day address and, predictably enough, mouthed the Labor party line. But he didn't indicate whether he sent his own children to the local state school or whether he opted for private schooling? My guess is he went private, as did many other leading lights in the ALP. Perhaps he will blame his previous wife, Susan Ryan, for the decision. I attended both public and private schools but sent my children to private. Sure, it meant making some sacrifices in the family, but isn't that what we do for kids? Parents seeking private schools for their children today tell me they think there will be better discipline, less tolerance of disruptive pupils and, they hope, a better education in the private sector. There are good performers in both systems but there are fewer loony union-inspired restrictions on the teachers in the private system and almost none of the politically correct fixation with gender bender issues that seems to inspire and obsess the daft Australian Education Union. A quick skim of the AEU's manifesto should be enough to cause most parents to get their kids into private schools pronto!

Load-Date: January 26, 2004



The Independent (London)
October 4, 2005, Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 930 words

Byline: BY DONALD MACINTYRE IN TAYBEH

Highlight: Hudros el Khourieh, 53, drinks a Taybeh beer during the Christian town's October Fest QUIQUE KIERZENBAUM; A poster advertising Taybeh beer, and its founder, Nadim Khoury, serving draught beer at the

West Bank festival

Body

With its arm-wrestling contest for the under 16s, the brisk trade in embroidered cushion covers and home-made pastries made by the local equivalent of the <u>Women</u>'s Institute, a boy scout parade, and the chance to drink draught lager in the afternoon sunshine, Taybeh's festival had more than a passing resemblance to an English country fete.

Yet the more than 5,000 visitors were enjoying the first-ever Palestinian beer festival, in the heart of the occupied West Bank. Even the few setbacks were familiar; the Palestinian National Theatre troupe failed to turn up on the second day because of artistic issues with the noisiness of the child-packed hall they had played the previous afternoon. 'If you mention this please say how grateful we are to them for coming at all,' said the October Fest coordinator Maria Khoury. 'They performed for free and we'll find a quieter venue for them next time.'

But if a beer festival in a small and impoverished Arab town in the shadow of conflict represents a triumph of will over circumstance, so too is the entrepreneur whose business sponsored the event. When Nadim Khoury, a Christian Arab, like all of Taybeh's residents, started the only Palestinian brewery back in 1994, when hopes of a lasting peace were at their highest, he was careful to secure Yasser Arafat's endorsement to protect it from militant Islamists.

Unable even so to borrow money because the banks feared an anti-alcohol backlash, he sunk some £800,000 of his family's savings in the imported state-of-the-art microbrewery plant which by the end of the Nineties was producing 600,000 litres a year (70 per cent of it for the Israeli market) of Taybeh Gold, a no-additives, 100 per cent pure, unusually malty and ultra-drinkable lager-type beer.

But then came the intifada, and the multiplication of Israeli checkpoints and road closures that have helped to see his business fall by 75 per cent and his labour force drop from 13 to six.

The drop of more than half in Israeli sales has been compounded by Palestinian centres such as Gaza and Nablus going 'dry' under the influence of <u>Hamas</u> and other Islamic groups. But endlessly innovative, Mr Khoury is now harnessing German techniques to develop a non-alcoholic beer for those markets.

It is less easy to overcome the security hold-ups that have undermined his distribution and make export almost impossible. He can't afford the £50,000 pasteurisation plant that would lengthen the six-month shelf life of his beer in the face of the delays his product would face at the Israeli ports of Ashdod and Haifa.

Instead he reached an agreement with a small German firm to brew his beer. For the past few months Rowan Davis, a peace campaigner and Ipswich publican, has been importing 100 cases a month of the European-brewed version to Britain for the ICA, Hackney Empire, Ritzy Cinema and a list of more right-on bars and gastro-pubs listed on Ms Davis's website www.alternativebeer.co.uk.

But she admits it has been hard to break even: she would much prefer to import the beer from the West Bank, 'which is what the customers really want and would genuinely help the Palestinian economy'.

Even at home, where the beer is the staple at " for example " Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel, Mr Khoury faces problems keeping the brand in the public eye. 'Why did Mexican Corona, which is not a good beer, do so well? Because of advertising, but that's something I can't afford,' he says.

But the Khoury family say the biggest threat of all to the brewery was an incident a month ago when it came within five minutes of being burned down. This followed a dark period in the history of Taybeh and its normally harmonious relations with its Muslim neighbour Deir Jareer.

Several hundred of the latter's residents torched 14 houses belonging to another Taybeh family, the el Khouriehs, one of whose married members, Mahdi, they accused of being the father of the unborn child of an unmarried woman in Deir Jareer, Hiyam Hijaj, 32, who had been found dead from poisoning.

The crowd, says Mr Khoury, advanced on the brewery. 'I stood holding hands with my wife and children and my brother and sister and their families. I told them I refused to leave the brewery. We were only there for five minutes but it was enough to stop them till the police came.'

The scars of this episode have yet to heal. The woman's brothers were arrested on suspicion of having forced their sister to take poison in an 'honour killing'; the Taybeh man is still in protective custody having volunteered to take a DNA test to show he was not the father. Taybeh's mayor, Daoud Khoury " Maria's husband and Nadim's brother " paid £3,000 of his own money for the test and says: 'The Palestinian Authority is still not publishing the results. We are demanding that they be made public so justice can be done.' Mrs Khoury charges: 'No one seems concerned about who killed the girl, only about who slept with her.'

Efforts by a posse of senior Muslim and Christian clerics from Jerusalem to solve the dispute have been made more urgent by the Hijaj family's threat to kill Mahdi el Khourieh if he is released.

So the Taybeh festival was partly a way of rising above these recent afflictions; and partly to spearhead a 'buy-Palestinian' campaign among West Bank residents to help the devastated economy in Taybeh and in the rest of the occupied territories. But most of all, perhaps the festival was a clear sign that Mr Khoury is not going to give up before the arrival of peace, a Palestinian state, and the opportunity to sell his beer as freely as he wishes.

Load-Date: October 5, 2005



The Independent (London)
October 4, 2005, Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 930 words

Byline: BY DONALD MACINTYRE IN TAYBEH

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But if a beer festival in a small and impoverished Arab town in the shadow of conflict represents a triumph of will over circumstance, so too is the entrepreneur whose business sponsored the event. When Nadim Khoury, a Christian Arab, like all of Taybeh's residents, started the only Palestinian brewery back in 1994, when hopes of a lasting peace were at their highest, he was careful to secure Yasser Arafat's endorsement to protect it from militant Islamists.

Unable even so to borrow money because the banks feared an anti-alcohol backlash, he sunk some £800,000 of his family's savings in the imported state-of-the-art microbrewery plant which by the end of the Nineties was producing 600,000 litres a year (70 per cent of it for the Israeli market) of Taybeh Gold, a no-additives, 100 per cent pure, unusually malty and ultra-drinkable lager-type beer.

But then came the intifada, and the multiplication of Israeli checkpoints and road closures that have helped to see his business fall by 75 per cent and his labour force drop from 13 to six.

The drop of more than half in Israeli sales has been compounded by Palestinian centres such as Gaza and Nablus going 'dry' under the influence of <u>Hamas</u> and other Islamic groups. But endlessly innovative, Mr Khoury is now harnessing German techniques to develop a non-alcoholic beer for those markets.

It is less easy to overcome the security hold-ups that have undermined his distribution and make export almost impossible. He can't afford the £50,000 pasteurisation plant that would lengthen the six-month shelf life of his beer in the face of the delays his product would face at the Israeli ports of Ashdod and Haifa.

Instead he reached an agreement with a small German firm to brew his beer. For the past few months Rowan Davis, a peace campaigner and Ipswich publican, has been importing 100 cases a month of the European-brewed version to Britain for the ICA, Hackney Empire, Ritzy Cinema and a list of more right-on bars and gastro-pubs listed on Ms Davis's website www.alternativebeer.co.uk.

But she admits it has been hard to break even: she would much prefer to import the beer from the West Bank, 'which is what the customers really want and would genuinely help the Palestinian economy'.

Even at home, where the beer is the staple at " for example " Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel, Mr Khoury faces problems keeping the brand in the public eye. 'Why did Mexican Corona, which is not a good beer, do so well? Because of advertising, but that's something I can't afford,' he says.

But the Khoury family say the biggest threat of all to the brewery was an incident a month ago when it came within five minutes of being burned down. This followed a dark period in the history of Taybeh and its normally harmonious relations with its Muslim neighbour Deir Jareer.

Several hundred of the latter's residents torched 14 houses belonging to another Taybeh family, the el Khouriehs, one of whose married members, Mahdi, they accused of being the father of the unborn child of an unmarried woman in Deir Jareer, Hiyam Hijaj, 32, who had been found dead from poisoning.

The crowd, says Mr Khoury, advanced on the brewery. 'I stood holding hands with my wife and children and my brother and sister and their families. I told them I refused to leave the brewery. We were only there for five minutes but it was enough to stop them till the police came.'

The scars of this episode have yet to heal. The woman's brothers were arrested on suspicion of having forced their sister to take poison in an 'honour killing'; the Taybeh man is still in protective custody having volunteered to take a DNA test to show he was not the father. Taybeh's mayor, Daoud Khoury " Maria's husband and Nadim's brother " paid £3,000 of his own money for the test and says: 'The Palestinian Authority is still not publishing the results. We are demanding that they be made public so justice can be done.' Mrs Khoury charges: 'No one seems concerned about who killed the girl, only about who slept with her.'

Efforts by a posse of senior Muslim and Christian clerics from Jerusalem to solve the dispute have been made more urgent by the Hijaj family's threat to kill Mahdi el Khourieh if he is released.

So the Taybeh festival was partly a way of rising above these recent afflictions; and partly to spearhead a 'buy-Palestinian' campaign among West Bank residents to help the devastated economy in Taybeh and in the rest of the occupied territories. But most of all, perhaps the festival was a clear sign that Mr Khoury is not going to give up before the arrival of peace, a Palestinian state, and the opportunity to sell his beer as freely as he wishes.

Load-Date: October 4, 2005



Bush owes Blair big, and for all our sakes Blair must now make sure that bush delivers

Lincolnshire Echo November 4, 2004 default

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Section: News; Other; Others; Pg. 22

Length: 929 words **Byline:** Boris Johnson

Body

In a hotly contested field, the most dismal awakening of my life took place yesterday morning, alone, hungover, in a hotel bedroom in Tel Aviv, when I found that the television was still burbling from the night before and that Don King, the infamous boxing promoter with the conviction for assault and the Van der Graaf Generator hair, was on screen announcing to an appalled planet that the American people had awarded a second term of office to the cross-eyed Texan warmonger George Dubya Bush. If ever there was a moment for burying your head in the many superfluous hotel pillows, and issuing a groan of self-pity, this was it.

Not four more years of a man so serially incompetent that he only narrowly escaped self-assassination by pretzel, and also managed to introduce American torturers to Iraqi jails.

Who on earth, I moaned, can conceivably have supported this maniac with his monochrome Manichaean rhetoric that has done so much to encourage the nasty strain of anti-Americanism that now afflicts so much of the world? Who did it? Who were the idiots who backed him, I whimpered, in that weak pre-breakfast state.

And then I remembered. I backed him, come to think of it. In fact, not only did I want Bush to win, but we threw the entire weight of The Spectator behind him. We wrote a magnificent leading article in which we recounted these well-known weaknesses of Dubya, and then set them beside the weaknesses of John Kerry: his air of Herman Munster gloom, his flip-floppiness over Iraq, his greater hostility to free trade, his love of higher taxes. We then closed our eyes and, in a tumultuous final paragraph, we exhorted the people of America to vote for Bush, as marginally the less undistinguished of two undistinguished alternatives.

It is well known that Spectator editorials can have an explosive effect. It may even be that we tipped the scales in Ohio, and there will always be part of my heart that suspects it was the Spec wot won it for Dubya.

But not all readers will be satisfied by this account, and will be wondering what other factors saved the President. A certain amount of mild tosh will have been written this morning about the "lessons" for the Tories from the Republican victory, and the way British Conservatives need to become more like their hot-dang Bible-bashing church-going American cousins, and how we need to emulate the family values of the vast suburban flyover country that voted for Bush.

Bush owes Blair big, and for all our sakes Blair must now make sure that bush delivers

I am not certain that these qualities, however admirable, can be easily implanted into the brains of suburban Brits; but in any case, the championing of such attitudes was not the most important cause of the Bush triumph.

As Karl Rove predicted, in a speech I heard him make at the Republican convention, Bush won because of the war. He won not because he'd handled it well (he hadn't), but because he was a president at war, and because in the end an anxious population - especially, I think, <u>women</u> - wanted his certainties rather than the ghastly nuances of Kerry. And in presenting himself as a half-successful war leader, and a man in whom his country could place confidence, he had one invaluable testimonial.

Perhaps even more important than the support of a British weekly, he had the support of Tony Blair. Time after time, on the stump, he invoked the name of our Prime Minister in token of his international approval.

He did not bother with the leaders of Spain, South Korea, Australia, Afghanistan and other such coalition members. Blair was the name that resonated with Americans; Blair is big in America, and now Bush owes Blair big, and for all our sakes Blair must now make sure that Bush delivers.

I have spent all day charging around Israel and the West Bank, the high stony landscape of Judaea and Samaria, where the feeling of injustice is the proximate or anteproximate cause of so much Muslim hatred of America. I can see the limitations of what any American president might accomplish. There is no way he can instantly stop the Israelis building their tragic and disastrous wall; there is no way he can stop <u>Hamas</u> from luring poor confused young men to blow themselves up in markets.

But there is one thing Bush can do in his second term. He can use all his influence - the influence that comes with more than 3 billion of support for Israel - to speed Ariel Sharon in his plan for disengagement from Gaza and, we must hope, from almost all of the rest of the occupied territories. Too few people in Britain understand the immensity of what Sharon is planning to do next year.

He is planning to winkle 6,000 settlers out of Gaza, a territory they consider to be theirs by act of God. He faces the kind of psychotic reprisals the settlers visited on Rabin. Bush needs to help Sharon, to encourage him, and to insist that he stop the evil of building new settlements - an act that is cruel to the settlers themselves, since their houses will one day have to be abandoned.

One other thing. Some of us voted for the Iraq war. We gave Bush and Blair a vote of confidence, and do not feel, to put it mildly, that it has been repaid. Britain went along with an operation without being consulted on the practicalities, and it might, in retrospect, have been better to have had a closer discussion of the Pentagon's plans. If Bush is about to unleash violence against Fallujah, then we deserve, as coalition members, to be consulted.

Bush has a chance to be a great second-term president. If Arafat vanishes, there is a fantastic chance to push for peace in Palestine. If Bush fails to push, it will be Blair's failure, too.

Load-Date: December 3, 2004

End of Document



No Muslim leader would dare retreat from Gaza

Mail on Sunday (London)
August 28, 2005

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Section: FB_04; Pg. 27

Length: 1051 words

Byline: PETER HITCHENS

Body

IF THERE really is a war against terrorism, it has just suffered an astonishing defeat and everyone is very pleased about it.

The Israeli retreat from the Gaza Strip has won much praise.

The people evicted from their homes are 'extremists', so that's all right.

And they are 'settlers', who shouldn't have been there in the first place, so their mass deportation is fine.

And though <u>Hamas</u>, the main employers of suicide bombers, exult over their victory, everyone pretends not to hear their cries of fierce joy.

Israel, the supposedly invincible nuclear power, has once again given up a key defensive position in return for nothing.

The Gaza Strip, an ancient invasion highway, is back in the hands of its enemies.

Well, I'm not wild about Israeli settlers, as it happens.

Their arrogance does grave damage to their cause. And I think the Israeli authorities' tact in handling them has been little short of brilliant.

The shame is that they were acting under the joint pressure of Muslim terrorists and Western governments, including America and our own, who have for years pursued the appearement of those terrorists.

But I wonder what would happen if, for the sake of peace, an Arab government were asked to move thousands of its citizens by force.

The fact that some of them might be 'extremists' who think the land was given to them by Allah wouldn't count against them.

No Arab government would do this. No Muslim conquest can ever be reversed.

No Arab defeat can ever be accepted as permanent.

No Muslim leader would dare retreat from Gaza

The Arab refugees driven from their homes by Israel 57 years ago are still confined in squalid townships, though oil money could long ago have rehoused every one in comfort.

Why? Because to resettle them would be to concede that they and their descendants will never go back.

Most people in the West are fantastically ignorant about the complex Israeli-Arab conflict.

I recently quizzed a noted TV presenter on his knowledge of the area's history and found that despite having strong opinions on the subject he knew next to nothing about it.

This is wise if you wish to be glib. Once you do know about it, you are forced to choose between two thoroughly imperfect causes, each with innocent blood on its hands, each guilty of terrorism, yet each with a good case seldom heard or understood in the West.

FOR me, the thing that decides the issue is that the deadly sickness of Judophobia is still very much alive, and Jews need a reliable refuge from it.

Israel's demands are small, as is the country, and Israelis are genuinely willing to compromise whereas the Arab-Muslim cause will not concede a square inch of the Middle East to a non-Muslim state.

Worse, it consciously and deliberately targets the innocent to get its way.

The retreat from Gaza has solved nothing, has weakened civilisation and has given confidence to the worst and most ruthless factions in the Arab and Muslim world.

A WHOLE world died with poor old Slipper of the Yard, the sort of thief-taker to whom crooks probably really did say 'It's a fair cop, guv' as he fastened the bracelets on them.

I wonder what Jack Slipper would have made of the new 'ThoughtPlod', a police force that arrests people for their opinions. And what he would have said about modern police jargon. You may think the police call informants 'snouts'. Not any more. The official term is 'Covert Human Intelligence Sources'.

President Geena paves the way for Hillary- and her First Guy

THE Hollywood Party, one of America's most powerful lobbies, is preparing the way for a Hillary Clinton presidency.

Americans, remember, have never had a *female* leader and are still unsure about the idea.

So along comes a TV series, Commander In Chief, starring the delectable Geena Davis, in which a woman triumphs over male prejudice and stitch-ups to win the Oval Office. Hillary is not as nice as Geena, as the world will discover if she makes it to the White House.

One compensation will be watching Bill tackling the previously unknown post of First Guy. First Gentleman doesn't really fit, does it?

Clarke's cowardly euro U-turn

IF Kenneth Clarke is so clever, why couldn't he see what was wrong with the euro when it mattered?

How he and his mates sneered at us sceptics all those years ago when we warned the Brussels Rouble wasn't just politically crazy, but economically nuts as well.

Now he admits the doubters had it right. If this U-turn didn't happen to coincide with his bid for the leadership of the Useless Tories, he might get some points for having the courage to admit he was wrong. But, since he still harbours the same old faith in the European Superstate, it is cowardice, not courage, that has prompted this admission.

No Muslim leader would dare retreat from Gaza

He thinks, and he may be right, the remaining Tories are either so doddery or so desperate they may be fooled by this into believing he has actually changed his mind.

Is assassinating tyrants really such a bad idea?

AMERICAN televangelist Pat Robertson wants the US to start assassinating foreign despots again, a habit the CIA gave up after its farcical attempts to poison Fidel Castro's beard were revealed.

It sounds nasty, but is it really so much worse than invading Iraq? Our invasion has drowned Iraq in horrid chaos and conjured a plague of hideous terrorism into being. It also looks as if it will turn Iraq into another Yugoslavia, Kurd against Arab, Shia against Sunni and now pro-Iranian Shia against anti-Iranian Shia as well and everyone against us and the Americans.

President Bush's simpleminded idea that Iraq could become a law-governed democracy like, say, Florida, now appears very foolish indeed. What the place needs, and soon, is a new strong man so that people can live in peace.

Democracy looks centuries off to me.

There's also the matter of casualties. Assassination may be morally dubious, but is it as bad as bombing cities, shaking their foundations so badly that <u>women</u> give premature birth to their babies? St Thomas Aquinas, who devised the theory of the Just War, wasn't around to see the rise of Hitler, Stalin and Mao. But if he had been, might not he have developed a theory of Just Assassination?

Anyway, didn't we try to murder Saddam by rocketing one of his safe houses?

I have stood at the lip of the crater in Baghdad caused by this attempt. I can't see what else we can have been aiming at.

Load-Date: August 29, 2005

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Democratic way must never be torpedoed by terrorism

Lincolnshire Echo
August 19, 2005
Default Edition

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Section: News; Politics; Europe/MEPs; Pg. 31

Length: 1083 words

Body

They came for Lakshman Kadirgamar as the weekend began. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, four times in office, and 73 years old, had taken a swim in the cool of the evening at his Colombo residence. The assassins may have been from the breakaway terrorists of the Tamil Tigers. They have slaughtered thousands. It was a *female* Tamil suicide bomber who blew Rajiv Gandhi to pieces 20 years ago. The current Sri Lankan prime minister lost an eye when the Tigers tried to kill her five years ago. Lakshman was himself from the Tamil minority, but an unswerving foe of terrorism. He had wanted peace but was ambivalent about moving forward from the truce negotiated three years ago. There were hopes that the common misfortune of the tsunami would make relations better; instead they frayed as breakaway Tigers and Sinhalese nationalists fomented fresh violence.

Each of these groups believed Lakshman to be a traitor, and wanted him dead. When he came to visit the EU in Brussels there were watchful bodyguards at every corner in the notoriously lax parliament buildings. It embarrassed him to meet old friends in this way. My mind goes back to my first term at university. The Oxford Union was visited by S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, prime minister of what was then called Ceylon. A former Union bigshot, he was to unveil his portrait. Before he could do it a slender, elegant student got up to berate him for the failure to give proper rights to the Tamil minority - "a failure of statesmanship at the highest level", said Lakshman.

He could have stayed in England and made a fortune at the Bar. But he went home to the rough and tumble of Sri Lankan politics. Bandaranaike was assassinated in his turn. So was the leading Sinhalese student I knew in those days - blown up when Minister of Defence. Lakshman stayed in politics, knowing all the risks, and served Bandaranaike's widow and daughter in turn when they won power through the ballot box. For this is the point. Terrorism is everywhere, at the disposal of nationalist and religious fanatics. The democratic system, however, sinks deep roots, when its contrary merits as the least worse system are understood. When I last saw Lakshman he was going back to his old job once more, supporting the president despite her feuding with her own party. Whoever the snipers were who wanted him dead they will not see Sri Lankan democracy cremated with him.

In the even worse intransigence of the Middle East, where the assassins always sleep with their guns, there is a modest ground for hope. Ariel Sharon eventually came to see what was told to him, forcefully by Chris Patten for the EU, more laggardly by the Americans: there could be no peace process without the removal of illegal settlements.

THIS week a start has been made, with the removal of a few thousand fanatics from the Gaza strip. I must confess that I never thought Sharon would do it. He was, literally, on record telling Israeli troops to stand by settlers, whatever their orders, just a few years ago.

Democratic way must never be torpedoed by terrorism

It will be in his mind that Yiztak Rabin, another general turned peacemaker, was shot by a Zionist fanatic when he too came close to an understanding with the Palestinian leadership. Among the hysterical settlers of Netzarim and Netzer Hazani, with their invocations of the Holocaust and Masada, their rams' horns and rebellion, the young Israeli soldiers have been sorely tried. But those Israeli soldiers represent the clear majority opinion in Israeli itself, that these costly, shameful provocations have to go.

This has all become possible because the Palestinians now have a leader, Abu Mazen, known in the West as Mahmoud Abbas, who can respond. The suicide junkies of <u>Hamas</u> will try to take credit for it, but they delayed it, paralysed it for years.

The Palestinian Authority, which the EU has steadfastly supported as a basis for legitimate dialogue - despite vicious criticism of Chris Patten in Washington - can now move to a proper negotiation.

Everyone knows that the West Bank settlements are the bigger problem, but Gaza had to come first. Sharon moved unilaterally, and his security wall snips off a tenth of the territory. The Palestinians have seen, for the first time, that Israel can be flexible on the ground as well as on paper.

The European role in this next stage will be critical. In Palestine, unlike Iraq, we have worked together, or with the UN. This ought to be too obvious to need stating, but after Robin Cook's funeral there is a need. The buffoon McCririck can let loose his views on Celebrity Big Brother, but to trash the EU (as well as the "snorkelling" prime minister) at the funeral of the most consistently pro-European Labour figure (from commitment not expediency) turned buffoonery into a kind of blasphemy. Never forget; Robin's position on Iraq gave him a credibility in Europe that served us well. His successor now needs the same assured touch with the latest crisis - Iran. The Bush administration may mishandle Iran as they mishandled Iraq. True, the reform process there, with students and women prominent, has stalled. A hard-liner has been elected president. Why? Not because the Iranian revolution has "found its Stalin", the right-wing press now argues, but because from where Iranians sit the world looks very dangerous. Bush linked them into the "axis of evil". Iraq, across the border, has been peremptorily invaded and occupied. To believe that the events of 2003 left Iranian public opinion unmoved is monstrous folly.

Europe wants to talk President Ahmadinejad down from confrontation, after the unsealing of its nuclear enrichment plant.

So does the International Atomic Agency in Vienna. So do the Russians. We should not forget that dire talk about weapons of mass destruction is unpersuasive from those who have them, and constantly threaten force. Equally, we should expect to see some Iranian 'meddling' in the future of their fellow Shiites in southern Iraq. Many of their holiest shrines are held in common, and some Iraqi ayatollahs are Iranian too. Theocracy, with all its hideous inflexibility, may yet come by the ballot box in Basra. But talk we must. There is a sophisticated middle class in Iran, but it is not pro-American. President Ahmadinejad caught one public mood to get elected. Now he is in the world's orbit. As, in the end, was Ariel Sharon. We all know the difficulties of the patient talkers, but does anyone know a better way of rebuilding relations with Iran than our common European approach?

Load-Date: October 14, 2005



Israel seals Gaza: Final deadline looms as historic pullout begins

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

August 15, 2005 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 1121 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: KISSUFIM CROSSING, Israel

Body

KISSUFIM CROSSING, Israel (AP) -- The light changed from green to red and a road barrier went down. The seemingly common occurrence marked a historic change in the Middle East -- the beginning of the end of Israel's 38-year occupation of the Gaza Strip.

The ceremony at the Kissufim Crossing between Israel and Gaza was modest compared to the colossal task at hand: removing 8,500 Jewish settlers from 21 Gaza settlements, demolishing their houses and pulling out troops -- all under the threat of violence by Israeli and Palestinian extremists.

Israel sealed the Gaza Strip to Israeli civilians at midnight Sunday -- signalling the start of its withdrawal that will redraw borders and reshape prospects for peace.

The action made it illegal for Israelis to live in Gaza. Soldiers lowered a red road barrier with a sign on the barrier reading: "Stop, entry into the Gaza Strip and presence there is prohibited by law."

With about 200 people looking on, the barrier was raised and lowered several times, apparently because of technical problems. Soldiers secured it with a wire to keep it shut.

Two large Israeli flags waved beside the barrier. As it went down, a traffic light changed from green to red and three vans carrying settlers and their belongings drove out of Gaza, never to return.

"The Gaza Strip has been closed today based on the decision of the Israeli government and today another phase begins," said Brig.-Gen. Guy Tsur, a senior commander.

The withdrawal, marking the first time Israel gives up settled land claimed by the Palestinians for their future state, comes after months of political wrangling and mass protests. On Sunday, Israeli troops took up positions to launch the evacuation and Palestinian security forces fanned out to prevent militant attacks.

Israel's army chief appealed to troops to show restraint in removing thousands of Jewish settlers from their homes amid concerns that resistance could turn violent after thousands of anti-pullout activists slipped into the territory.

Israel seals Gaza: Final deadline looms as historic pullout begins

The presence of a few thousand Israelis in Gaza, among 1.3 million Palestinians, has become a security burden, said Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. "The state of Israel does not want to be in the Gaza Strip," he told Israel TV's Channel One.

Thousands of Palestinian police moved into positions near Jewish settlements with orders to keep away Palestinian crowds and to prevent attacks by militants during the pullout -- something that Israel warned would bring harsh retaliation.

Officers planted Palestinian flags and pitched tents while some chanted in praise of their late leader, Yasser Arafat. Hundreds of supporters of the militant Islamic Jihad group celebrated in Gaza City, with gunmen firing in the air, and teens setting off fire crackers and distributing sweets. The violent <u>Hamas</u> group organized special midnight prayers of thanks at Gaza mosques.

Palestinian residents watched settlers packing up. "They are actually leaving. Who would have ever thought?" said Palestinian farmer Ziyad Satari, 40, standing on the roof of his three-storey home in the Palestinian town of Khan Younis, which overlooks the Morag settlement.

Many Palestinians had expressed doubt that the withdrawal will take place.

Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas offered the Israelis reassurance.

"We tell the Israeli people, 'You have chosen the right path,' " he told Israel TV's Channel 10. "This is the right path. Don't listen to the voices of the extremists who want a continuation of the occupation. I don't want -- and I will not accept -- any clashes with the army or the settlers."

Early today, the military will distribute eviction notices to the settlers, but it called off plans to enter five of the 21 settlements, said army spokeswoman Maj. Sharon Feingold. She said the reason was to "respect the wishes" of the settlers, who preferred to receive the notices by mail. Earlier, settlers there had said they would block the entrances to their villages.

It was the first hitch in the pullout plan. Shortly after midnight, several hundred people from the largest settlement, Neve Dekalim, blocked the main road, stopping army vehicles and scuffling with soldiers.

The settlers have until midnight Tuesday to leave voluntarily, without suffering a loss in government compensation.

"It is OK to cry with them," the army chief, Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz, told commanders in urging troops to show understanding of the traumatic time for settlers. During the two-day grace period, "we are there to take it and not to dish it out," he added.

However, once forcible removal begins Wednesday morning, soldiers will act with determination, Halutz said.

As part of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's withdrawal plan, which was approved by parliament, Israel also will evacuate four small settlements in the northern West Bank housing some 500 people.

In the West Bank, Israeli troops clashed with settlers trying to reach one of the four settlements due for evacuation, the military said early Monday. An officer suffered a broken hand.

Many hope the pullout from the territory Israel captured in 1967 will be the start of a true partition of historic Palestine between Arab and Jew.

Others fear it is a ploy by Sharon to get rid of areas he doesn't consider crucial to Israel while consolidating control of parts of the West Bank, where the vast majority of the 240,000 Jewish settlers live.

The Palestinians want to create their own state out of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, with east Jerusalem as their capital.

Israel seals Gaza: Final deadline looms as historic pullout begins

Hundreds of Gaza settlers vowed to ignore the deadline and stay in their homes. They were reinforced by hardline activists from outside Gaza. Halutz estimated Sunday that about 5,000 outsiders had managed to sneak into Gaza in recent weeks despite army restrictions.

They planned to try to close off their communities today by massing at entrances and blocking roads to prevent soldiers from delivering eviction notices.

But many families packed their belongings and left the Gaza Strip in recent days, and more were leaving Sunday.

In the Peat Sadeh settlement, Yaakov Mazaltareen set fire to his two warehouses that contained irrigation equipment and two vehicles. He used his forklift to knock down what was left of the structures. Settlers stopped to watch. One crying woman rushed her children away.

Most residents of Peat Sadeh already moved to Israel and were spending the weekend in a hotel.

Dozens of anti-pullout protesters put up tents in the beachfront settlement outpost of Shirat Hayam. They turned a dilapidated house into a storeroom, piling up diapers, bottled water and canned foods.

Women cooked on open fires, children bathed in makeshift bathrooms and people chatted in open tents.

Load-Date: August 15, 2005



Lives in the balance

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia) September 15, 2004 Wednesday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 23

Length: 1019 words **Byline:** John Hartley

Body

The kidnapping of hostages has become an ugly feature of international conflict, writes John Hartley

KIDNAPPING in Iraq is becoming a favoured tactic among a variety of disaffected groups.

So far, the authorities have no effective way of responding to it, suggesting the trend will continue.

Kidnapping by terrorists is well documented in conflicts around the world.

In recent times the most notable cases involved the Lebanese radical Shia group Hezbollah, which detained many Western hostages in the 1980s.

Among them, American journalist Terry Anderson was held for six years and a British hostage negotiator, Terry Waite, for nearly five years. Both wrote extensively on their ordeals.

Kidnapping occurs largely for political or ideological reasons or for ransom. In the latter case there usually is a good success rate of an eventual release. Certainly this was the case with the Philippine-based Abu Sayyaf group and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia. But even in ransom cases, such as that involving Australian backpacker David Wilson, there is no guarantee of success.

Kidnapping can attract considerable public attention. If prolonged and subject to detailed media scrutiny, it can be exploited for its human-interest value as families and communities become emotionally involved. There also is the capacity to pressure governments, particularly if the kidnapping is seen to be linked to a broader policy issue.

Since March, 2003, more than 100 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq by a variety of groups. Most have been freed but at least 25 have been murdered. Although not generally reported, by far the largest number of those kidnapped have been Iraqi citizens with some observers suggesting as many as 10 a day.

Kidnapping of foreigners is carried out by an array of groups with such exotic titles as the Green Brigade, the Black Banners, the Horror Brigade, Islamic Response, the Islamic Army and so on.

Some of these groups undoubtedly are based on criminal gangs that seek to exploit the general lawlessness in Iraq and kidnap victims for ransom, so they can make financial gains.

Others, however, are part of an extremist Islamic group such as that headed by Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi.

Lives in the balance

The Jordanian-born Zarqawi is Iraq's most wanted terrorist and is considered so important authorities have posted a \$US25 million reward for his capture. His group is said to be linked to Al-Qaeda and certainly believes in the Wahhabi doctrine that is shared by so many extremist Sunni groups. Known as al-Tawid wel Jahid (Unity and Holy War), the group has killed a number of its kidnapped victims.

Iraqi citizens targeted tend to be children of middle class parents or professionals such as doctors and teachers. Most of the hostage takers are small-time criminals who seek quick payment.

A recent development, however, suggests that hostages are being sold "up the chain" to larger criminal or militant Islamic groups.

Foreigners in Iraq are kidnapped for a variety of reasons. Pressure is placed on governments to withdraw their troops, to cease reconstruction activity and to end their support for the interim Government.

Aid agencies, civil contractors and journalists also are targets.

The militants also carry out kidnappings to shore up their own support and credibility within the Islamic world. They also see their activities as part of the global jihad.

No country or field of endeavour appears immune. Nor do those of an Islamic faith necessarily have a better chance of survival. Of the 20 or so hostages presently held, at least a dozen nationalities are involved.

The nationality of the kidnapped victim and that country's relationship with Iraq largely will dictate how the kidnapping is handled and what level of support the hostages attract.

Some hostages, such as the two French journalists and the two Italian <u>women</u> aid workers, attract considerable publicity and government support. Others, such as Turkish truck drivers and Nepalese cooks and cleaners, do not.

There is no doubt the willingness of some countries and groups to deal with the hostage takers impacts on their perceived level of success.

Several private firms have agreed to deals that have secured the release of their hostages. In some cases this has involved the payment of ransoms or a decision to suspend further activity in Iraq. There also is a suspicion that a number of countries also have entered into such deals.

By far the best-documented case is the Philippines, which agreed to withdraw its troops to ensure the safe release of one of its nationals. A CNN report also insists that the release of an Egyptian diplomat was the result of a payment of a large sum of money. There also are allegations that money was paid to release three Italians who were kidnapped some months ago.

Regardless of the veracity of these claims, there is little doubt that hostage takers believe they are able to have their demands met.

TO this end the 32-country multinational force agreed in August that they would make no concessions to terrorist demands. A co-ordinated campaign was mounted to this effect.

Hostage-taking also has been condemned by many Islamic organisations, some of which have been involved in militant activity. The Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> has deplored the kidnapping of the French journalist, describing France as a "supporter of the Iraqi cause". Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood described the murder of the 12 Nepalese as "un-Islamic".

The US and Australia have condemned hostage-taking in the strongest of terms. Both Australian Prime Minister John Howard and the Opposition Leader Mark Latham have reiterated their determination not to negotiate with terrorists.

Lives in the balance

The problem for authorities in dealing with the continued use of hostages in the war on terror is that there is always a public response to an alleged or actual hostage taking event.

With human lives in the balance, it is important that authorities find a way of dealing with the issue that offers no concession to the terrorists but also manages public opinion at home.

Major-General (ret) John Hartley was head of the Defence Intelligence Organisation from 1992-95

Load-Date: September 14, 2004



Muslim 'Moderates' And Terrorism

New York Sun (Archive) July 28, 2005 Thursday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 8

Length: 1009 words

Byline: By FIAMMA NIRENSTEIN

Dateline: SHARM EL

Body

SHEIK, Egypt - The poor people dressed in Islamic garb or in dirty blue trousers and T-shirts sitting in 118-degree heat in the hall of the Sharm el-Sheik Hospital were either the brothers, the cousins, or the friends of the people wounded in the terrorist attack of the day before. Just plenty of desperate young people.

No <u>women</u> were there, no mothers, or sisters, or wives. Egyptian <u>women</u> almost don't live in Sharm. The family and children of the workers are in the villages near Cairo, and their beloved men come to visit for one week once a month. Sharm is inhabited by a couple of thousand military people and public officials that President Mubarak, just like President Sadat, keeps as a defense vanguard near his own villa; or by poor workers, waiters, drivers, plumbers, and cooks - lots of day laborers that serve the enormous tourism business. Only a large group of very poor workers, the other face of the holiday town of Sharm el-Sheik, have been the killed and the wounded here.

You understand many things about terrorism when you speak to them; and you understand also, unfortunately, why we will never be able to count on what we call "the moderate Muslims" for the war against terrorism.

What you learn about terrorism from the poor of Sharm, if you still didn't know it, is that its cruelty has no limits, no excuses, and no historical explanation, but only a cold ideological background.

The terrorists know that the men they kill, wound, and destroy economically have nothing to do with imperialism, occupation, Palestine, Iraq, colonialism, and all the other explanations that the mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, finds to explain their crimes. They know who the hundreds they are going to kill are: people who sleep 10 (exactly!) to a room, with no bathroom, one toilet, and one little kitchen; people who define themselves as "good Muslims," go the mosques once a week, pray three times a day, and when they forget, says Khaled, it is because they work too much or it is too hot; people who after the terrorist attack tremble because they will have no work anymore, now that the tourist season is destroyed and this will make them lose their \$100 a month wage in the best cases for a family of five, six, 10 children.

These guys are the typical "moderate Muslim" that the holy rage of the jihadists destroys with fury, the one infected by the contact with the West and also the one that in our Western dreams and in many European and American experts' analyses should suddenly rise against the extreme Islam, their enemy.

So, let's test this thesis and ask: "Do they hate terrorists?" The answer is "Yes, very much so," and they really do, - they close their fists and watch in rage and repeat to me that they deeply hope that Mr. Mubarak will catch them all, will put them in prison, will kill them. Are they ready to fight them? Yes, at every level, with their hands, if requested,

Muslim 'Moderates' And Terrorism

and with demonstrations that actually, while I'm in Sharm, suddenly appear in the hot streets and just in front of the cameras of the international press: "Down with terrorism," "We are against terrorism"...

But then, if it's so, why can the great moderate Muslim world not really fight their own enemy? They themselves give me the answers: "Bin Laden? The Muslim Brotherhood? Certainly the terrorist attacks are not their work, no! This is a lie. A Muslim could never do this. And if they say they do it in the name of Islam, they are not Islamic; or, most likely, this shows, like the television says, that someone uses the name of Islam just to hide the real perpetrators."

Anyhow, Islam is out of the question, And then, we ask again, who is behind the attacks? Well, you know the answer, they smile with a smart expression. Mahmoud, who comes from a periphery of Cairo, where he now cannot go back because he doesn't have the money for a bus ticket, knows the answer, and so do all his other friends, about 10, all from the same town, now all together as one, standing in the corridor of the Hospital of Sharm, no airconditioning, their friend Khaled in bed with a wound in his back ("I was lucky. Nadem had both of his legs amputated," Khaled says).

They know the answer, yes: the television said that only the Israelis and the Americans have a real interest in seeing Egypt on its knees; General Fuad Allam said that the perpetrators of the Taba attack of October 2004 were apparently linked to the Israeli security forces, and so, supposedly, it is today. Also Al-Jazeera and even Al-Arabia interviewed "experts" to confirm this point of view. A big, beautiful guy with a red T-shirt just puts it down bluntly: "We know only what the television tells us."

It's suddenly clear to me that here television is a metaphor for "knowledge" and for "power": printed paper, school texts, Friday sermons in the mosques, everything is "television" for this guy and his hundreds of millions of "moderate Muslim" friends. And everything points to the Israeli as an object of hate. Their poor condition - almost of slaves, of people almost without civil rights and work protections - makes the growth of their knowledge of how this are going a danger for the fascistic power there rules them.

So, we cannot count on "moderate" Arabs, not even on the group of youngsters that I meet later, the girls dressed just like ours: They repeat to me, still with a smart little face, "It cannot be a Muslim, it's certainly the Israelis and the Americans." The dream palace of the Arab, after the terrorist attack in Sharm, just like the thousands of attacks in Iraq and in Israel, is still there; the summer camps of *Hamas* still teach that it's good to kill the Jews; several madrassas work full time as centers of recruitment; the television broadcasts an "analysis" that charges the Mossad and the CIA with mass murders. The dictators of the Arab countries, in this case Mr. Mubarak, don't let Khaled know who the guys that cut their legs are. So, Khaled can be as "moderate" as we want, but so long as that fascist culture of hate is there, we can count only on ourselves.

Load-Date: July 28, 2005



Settlers, Soldiers Clash In Israel Near Gaza Strip

New York Sun (Archive) July 19, 2005 Tuesday

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 1057 words

Byline: By BENNY AVNI, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Dateline: NETIVOT, Israel

Body

In the largest-ever planned march by opponents to Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, tens of thousands of Jewish settlers yesterday confronted Israel's police and army, which together mustered 20,000 officers and troops to disperse those gathered. A month before the planned evacuation of all Jewish settlers from Gaza and certain West Bank settlements, the government and demonstrators accused each other of violating democratic principles.

In an unprecedented move, police prevented protesters from gathering in this southern town about 15 miles from Gaza. Settler supporters said the action violated their freedom of movement and right to free assembly. But in a temporary ruling yesterday, the Israeli Supreme Court said that the violation of a law by demonstrators trumps their democratic rights.

"This is an illegal and dictatorial act," a demonstration organizer, Eliezer Hisdai, told The New York Sun, as thousands poured into an area surrounding the tomb of the late rabbi Baba Sally, whom many in the settler settler movement revere. "Can't we demonstrate?" Mr. Hisday said. "Can't we have one at least one moment of steam-letting?"

In a tactical victory for supporters of the settlers, Internal Security Minister Gideon Ezra last night said the police would allow demonstrators to sleep over at nearby Kfar Maimon. They would not be allowed to advance toward Gaza, he said. After protesters' speeches and prayers ended, the marchers moved to Kfar Maimon, where an advance team had prepared a tent city for the overnight stay. They hoped to enter the main cluster of Gaza Jewish settlements, known as Gush Katif, which yesterday was declared a closed military zone by the army.

A former aide to - but current opponent of - Prime Minister Sharon, Mr. Hisdai said that the police actions might lead to even more violence by young demonstrators. "I am not sure we can control their anger," he said.

"They lied to us," a Knesset member, Yitzhak Levy of the United Religious Party, which represents many constituents in Gaza and West Bank settlements, told the Sun. Police reneged on a promise to allow the demonstration, he said. "We do not want to fight against the army," he said.

Government spokesmen and <u>women</u> said that defying the security forces was an undemocratic act. "They falsely use the language of democracy," Justice Minister Zipi Livni told Israel Radio in reference to the settlers. The settlers' intention to violate a ban on entering Gaza, imposed earlier this week, she said, justified the authorities' actions. According to a poll conducted by Channel 1 Television yesterday, 62% of Israelis believe that the settlers' attempts to prevent the government's disengagement plan are "illegitimate."

Yesterday's march was widely seen as a dress rehearsal for the evacuation of all Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, as well as several in the North West Bank, scheduled for August 15. The plan has divided Israeli society along ideological lines. The Israeli press yesterday pointed to the example of an army captain and Gush Katif resident, Assaf Yemini. Some of the officer's higher-ups told him that he would be forgiven for relinquishing his post commanding a company in the elite Golani force, which has been charged with confronting settlers. Captain Yemini held on. In skirmishes along police barricades, settlers called him a "traitor," even some who knew him from childhood.

Demonstrators sported orange ribbons, orange hats, orange T-shirts bearing messages such as "With Love We Will Beat Separation," and other orange accessories. Wearing the color in solidarity with the orange banner of Gush Katif has become a political statement this summer. The mass-circulation daily Yediot Achronot yesterday reported that most Tel Aviv fashion buyers got stuck with large stocks of orange items, as left-leaning Tel Aviv fashionistas refuse to buy anything in the hue.

According to police estimates, 10,000 demonstrators had arrived in Netivot by late afternoon. Settlers' spokesmen put the number closer to 40,000. The rally came during a week that began with an escalation of mortar shelling by Palestinian Arabs into settlements and border towns from Gaza. Half a dozen Israelis were injured by mortar shells in nearby Shderot on Saturday. Several mortar shells were shot at Gush Katif settlements yesterday as *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad terrorists attempted to present the separation plan, scheduled to begin August 15, as a military loss for Israel.

Both sides in the Netivot demonstration said they want to avoid violence. The Southern District police commander, Uri Barlev, met several times with a leader for the settlers, Pinchas Wallerstein, in an attempt to coordinate movements by their followers. Despite isolated cases of violent skirmishes, most demonstrators avoided heated confrontations.

An unrelated arrest yesterday highlighted to many Israelis the potential for real violence by a small minority among the dedicated settlers opposing the evacuation of Jews from anywhere in the biblical land of Israel. A Jerusalem judge ordered two 20-yearold enlisted soldiers in the Israeli army, Meir Bartler and Haim Katz, to be held without bail after they were accused by police of planting a fake bomb in Jerusalem's crowded central bus station to demonstrate their opposition to the government.

Most demonstrators yesterday, however, said they would defy police only by remaining in place patiently until the government changes its mind about the evacuation plan. Eli Cohen of Mevo Horon, a West Bank settlement, said that 300 of his neighbors drove here in 60 small cars to avoid being stopped, as many in buses were. Before leaving for Gaza, the settlers carefully prepared for a long stay, bringing along large supplies of food and water.

"We are not going to fight our brothers," Mr. Cohen told the Sun. Two of his brothers-in-law, Mr. Cohen said, are policemen who he might meet across a barrier. But he could not swear that no violence would occur once the demonstrators entered Gaza, which, he said, was the main reason for coming here.

Whether to enter Gaza is not his decision to make, he said. "Our Rabbi, Jonah Dovrat, will tell us what to do," Mr. Cohen said, hinting that the almighty and the rabbis overrule the government's ideas of democracy, which were at the center of yesterday's debate in Israel.

Load-Date: July 19, 2005



Government Incitement In Egypt and the Sinai Attack

New York Sun (Archive)
October 13, 2004 Wednesday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 9

Length: 1028 words

Byline: By STEVEN STALINSKY

Body

While the identity of those responsible for the terrorist attacks in Egypt last week is not yet known, the Egyptian government institutions' relentless incitement to violence against Jews and Israelis by its political, religious, and press organizations should in part be held accountable.

Incitement against Jews, and the dehumanization of any people, paves the way for violence against them.

This past year alone in the Egyptian press, there has been rampant anti-Semitism. In August the ruling National Democratic Party's religious weekly magazine Aqidati printed an article spreading blood libels, and in July another article by the ruling party's newspaper ran an editorial stating that the Holocaust is a lie aimed at extorting the West, and that the killing of Jews in Nazi gas chambers never happened.

Dr. 'Adel Sadeq, chairman of the prestigious Arab Psychiatrists Association and head of the Psychiatry Department at 'Ein Shams University, gave an interview on April 24, 2002, in which he, in medical terms, explained that suicide bombers are mentally healthy: "... The psychological structure [of the perpetrator of a suicide attack] is that of an individual who loves life...We know this well, because our

culture is one of sacrifice, loyalty, and honor...When the martyr dies a martyr's death, he attains the height of bliss...As a professional psychiatrist, I say that the height of bliss comes with the end of the countdown ...three, two, one. And then, you press the button to blow yourself up. When the martyr reaches 'one,' and then 'boom,' he explodes, and senses himself flying, because he knows for certain that he is not dead...It is a transition to another, more beautiful world..."

Egypt's government-controlled religious establishment, centered at Sunni Islam's main religious center Al-Azhar, has taken the lead in both inciting anti-Semitism and supporting suicide bombings.

For example, on March 22, 2004, Sheik 'Atiyyah Saqr, former head of the Al-Azhar Fatwa Committee, who in the past issued a Fatwa declaring Jews "apes and pigs," was asked in an online chat room to name, "according to the Qur'an, the main characteristics and qualities of the Jews." Sheik Saqr listed 20 evil traits including: feeling pain at others' happiness; wishing evil on people; vulgarity; murder of innocents; mercilessness and heartlessness; cowardice: and miserliness.

The sheik of Al-Azhar, Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, has frequently spoken in support of suicide bombings and killing Jews. On August 19, 2004, ,he was asked, "There are preachers in mosques in Iraq who say that anyone who kills an American will enter Paradise. Do you intend to issue such fatwas?" Mr. Tantawi responded by praising

Government Incitement In Egypt and the Sinai Attack

suicide bombings: "Don't specify countries and names. I determined a general rule which is based on religious law and that applies to everybody. Anyone who blows himself up amongst an enemies who want to destroy his home and attack his land...is a Shahid, Shahid, Shahid."

A Web site associated with Al-Azhar earlier reported, "[Sheik Tantawi] emphasized that every martyrdom operation against any Israeli, including children, <u>women</u>, and teenagers, is a legitimate act according to [Islamic] religious law..."

It should also be noted that at a March 18, 2002, demonstration at Al-Azhar, eight students who had been trained to carry out suicide attacks against Israelis were paraded, and introduced as a new "martyrdom organization." Mahmoud Al-Zahhar, a <u>Hamas</u> leader, said soon after, "Enrollment began for volunteers for martyrdom [operations]. Two thousand students...signed up to die a martyr's death. This is the real Egyptian people."

Just as Al-Ahzar is under the Egyptian government's control, the mufti of the country also plays an influential position, and those in that position have been equally supportive of suicide bombings. Egypt's former mufti, Sheik Dr. Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, declared on April 4, 2002, that "the solution to the Israeli terror lies in a proliferation of [martyrdom] attacks that strike horror into the hearts of the enemies of Allah."

In an interview conducted in early July 2003 with the Egyptian newspaper Al-Haqiqa, his replacement Sheik Ali Gum'a added, "The world has let the Jews spread corruption...The one who carries out [martyrdom] operations against the Zionists and blows himself up is, without a doubt, a Shahid..." When asked if it is permitted to kill an Israeli traveling outside the borders of his land, he answered, "Yes, it is permitted to kill him."

The Egyptian government press has also consistently supported suicide attacks against Israelis. For example, following the infamous Cafe Moment bombing that killed 11, an editorial in Al-Akhbar on March 12, 2002, labeled that action a "heroic operation."

In an article published by Al-Ahram on August 14, 2001, journalist Fahmi Huweidi described his happiness, and that of many Arabs, following the Sbarro pizzeria bombing in Jerusalem, which killed 15: "I cannot hide my happiness about the martyrdom operation that took place... [It] was, for me, a ray of hope and a life-saver... At first, I thought that this was my own private feeling, but shortly after the news was broadcast, I discovered that many share it with me."

An editorial in another daily, Al-Masaa, on January 2, 2004, also praised suicide operations: "We have no argument regarding the question of the legitimacy of these operations...even if civilians or children are killed...Ultimately, we should bless every Palestinian man or woman who goes calmly to carry out a martyrdom operation, in order to receive a reward in the Hereafter."

Also calling for killing Israelis wherever they can be found was an editorial in the Al-Akhbar daily on August 17, 2001: "All that we have left to say to the sons of Palestine is that although everybody has abandoned you, do not be sad and do not wait for anybody's help...Kill your enemies wherever you may find them."

Whether or not the calls of incitement carried out by official Egyptian institutions were heeded by an Egyptian, the suicide bombings last week prove once again that reform is long overdue. Ending calls for killing Jews and Westerners is a step long overdue.

Load-Date: October 13, 2004



NATION / WORLD DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 4, 2004 Saturday Five Star Lift Edition

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Section: NEWS; Nation/World Digest; Pg. 21

Length: 938 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

SALT LAKE CITY Utah's high court backs anti-bigamy laws

The Utah Supreme Court on Friday denied an appeal from a man convicted of having five wives. He had argued that anti-bigamy laws violated his First Amendment right to religious freedom.

Attorney John Bucher said polygamy was part of Tom Green's religion, and that Utah's laws for cohabitation were so vague that Green had no way to know he was in violation.

A unanimous Supreme Court disagreed, however, noting Utah's bigamy statute "does not attempt to target only religiously motivated bigamy. Any individual who violates the statute, whether for religious or secular reasons, is subject to prosecution."

Green, 55, lived with his five wives and 31 children in a cluster of trailer homes in the remote desert, about 125 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. He was convicted in 2002 of child rape for having sex with one of his five wives when she was 13.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. Astronauts make repairs during spacewalk

Leaving their orbiting outpost unmanned, the international space station's two astronauts floated outside on a spacewalk Friday and plugged in new antennas and replaced a worn-out piece of cooling equipment.

Gennady Padalka and Mike Fincke successfully finished the fourth and final spacewalk of their six-month mission. They installed three antennas for a new type of cargo carrier to be launched by the European Space Agency to the space station late next year and replaced a 2-foot-square Russian pump panel, part of a critical system for cooling station equipment.

Because no one was left inside the 225-mile-high complex, flight controllers in both Moscow and Houston kept close watch over the two men and all systems. The spacewalk lasted 5 1/2 hours, and everything was accomplished.

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. Reservist convicted of abuse is demoted

A Marine reservist who tearfully asked to remain in the Marine Corps after being convicted of abusing inmates in Iraq was sentenced Friday to 60 days of hard labor and demoted to the rank of private.

NATION / WORLD DIGEST

Sgt. Gary Pittman stood stoically as the verdict was read and left without speaking to reporters. Pittman's civilian attorney, John Tranberg, said "This was about as light a punishment as they could give. This was a tremendous outcome."

Earlier Friday, Pittman asked the jury of nine Marine officers to allow him to remain in the Marine Corps. In military court, the jury, not the judge, sentences the defendant. The same panel convicted Pittman on Thursday of one count each of dereliction of duty and abuse. He was cleared of two other charges, including abusing a 52-year-old Iraqi man who died in custody.

PHILADELPHIA State police settle sex case for \$5 million

The state police have agreed to pay \$5 million to settle allegations that commanders failed to rein in a rogue trooper who was sexually assaulting **women**.

The settlement announced Thursday covers civil lawsuits filed in federal court by four <u>women</u>, including one who was 14 years old in the late 1990s when she was assaulted by former Trooper Michael Evans.

Evans pleaded guilty in 2000 of corruption of minors, indecent assault, solicitation to promote prostitution, official oppression and indecent exposure. He is serving a 5- to 10-year prison sentence.

Evans met all the victims while on duty, although the suits do not make clear whether all of the incidents occurred while he was on duty.

ISRAEL Israeli troops kill two Palestinians

Israeli troops killed two Palestinians in two separate incidents Friday, and Israeli helicopters fired three missiles at a Gaza Strip warehouse the army said was used for making weapons.

The airstrike in the Mughazi refugee camp in central Gaza set off a fire but caused no injuries. The army said the building was owned by a well-known *Hamas* activist.

Earlier Friday, Israeli soldiers shot as two Palestinians approached an Israeli-controlled area near the Karni crossing between Gaza and Israel, the army said. One was killed and the second man apparently fled the area. After nightfall, Israeli troops near the Jewish settlement of Rafiah Yam in southern Gaza shot at two Palestinians who appeared to be carrying an explosive device, the army said. One of the Palestinians was killed and the other seriously injured, Palestinian doctors said.

GERMANY Human chain rescues books in library fire

A fire that ripped through one of Germany's most precious historical libraries destroyed or damaged tens of thousands of irreplaceable books, officials said Friday.

About 25,000 books were destroyed, and 40,000 others damaged by water and smoke from the fire Thursday night in Weimar's Duchess Anna Amalia Library, said Ulrike Bestgen, an expert with the Weimar Classics Foundation.

Some 6,000 works, including a 1543 Martin Luther Bible, were spirited to safety by a chain of people. German Culture Minister Christina Weiss pledged up to \$4.9 million to help repair the building and restore damaged books.

LEBANON Parliament's action extends Lahoud's term

Lebanon's parliament amended the country's constitution Friday to extend pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud's term, ignoring U.N. calls to hold an election to choose the head of state.

The result, secured after Lahoud supporters mustered more than the two-thirds of votes needed, had been expected. Neighboring Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, backed Lahoud's bid to extend his six-year term, which was due to expire Nov. 24.

NATION / WORLD DIGEST

Late Thursday, the U.N. Security Council narrowly approved a resolution aimed at pressuring Lebanon to reject a second term for Lahoud and calling for an immediate withdrawal of all its foreign forces -- an indirect reference to Syrian troops.

Graphic

photo; Photo by NORBERT MILLAUER / AFP / GETTY IMAGES - Firefighters on Friday inspect the roof of the historic Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar, Germany, after a fire gutted the building and destroyed tens of thousands of priceless books.

Load-Date: September 4, 2004



Six chicks with picks

The Evening Standard (London)

June 30, 2005

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Section: A_04; Pg. 27

Length: 1002 words

Byline: NICK CURTIS

Body

NEIL Marshall's genial, balding, bearded face betrays none of the hideous things that go on in his imagination. The 35-year-old Geordie is the man who made Sean Pertwee stagger through 100 screen minutes with his entrails hanging out in the rackety, hugely enjoyable squaddies-versus-werewolves horror-comedy Dog Soldiers, the 2002 sleeper hit that earned back its £2.5 million budget during its brief stint in the cinema, and twice that again on DVD and video in the UK alone.

Now Marshall is back with The Descent, a much more sophisticated but equally nasty £3 million followup, which pits six *female* potholers against a race of unevolved, cannibal cavemen, the "crawlers", and against each other.

If it were an American film, at least two of the girls would have taken their tops off, but Marshall is in the vanguard of a new and original brand of British horror filmmaking. His excellent ensemble cast, including Spooks star Shauna MacDonald, shed their humanity rather than their clothes, regressing to a primal state.

"There's been a running joke that this film is about six chicks with picks, but that's simplifying it," Marshall says. "It is about six contemporary, adventurous <u>women</u>'s physical descent into the depths of the earth, but it is also about a descent into madness. It's an allaction, brutal horror movie, shot in Scotland with an all-British crew with six meaty lead parts for girls.

As far as I know, that's never been done before."

He points out that horror is a natural fit for the low budgets available to British filmmakers. The genre requires isolated or confined settings-small casts, un-starry actors and imaginative thinking.

Certainly, the British horror boom, begun a couple of years ago by Marshall's Dog Soldiers, Danny Boyle's 28 Days Later and Christopher Smith's Creep, shows no sign of burning out like the British "geezer" genre.

"The gangster cycle was a perfect example of bandwagon-jumping, where one hit spawned a string of bad movies," says Marshall. "Fortunately, that showed us how not to do it. After 28 Days Later we didn't get a flood of rubbish zombie films."

Marshall, a lifelong horror and action fan, learned his craft as a film editor and a (largely unpaid or unproduced) scriptwriter before he set out to make Dog Soldiers, and says he encountered a lot of resistance to his script in the industry.

Six chicks with picks

"There was, and still is, a terrible snobbery about horror, and at that time a blindness to the way the genre had been reinvented in the States by the Scream movies, and in Asia," he says, "although that's changing now. In fact, at the moment, it feels like horror is sustaining the British film industry."

THE relatively huge profits of 28 Days Later (which cost £4 million and made \$10 million on its opening weekend in America alone) and of Dog Soldiers mean that sequels to both are in the pipeline, although neither original director is involved. And while Dog Soldiers didn't get a theatrical release in the US, The Descent has been snapped up for stateside distribution.

It should do well. Marshall has toned down the homages and injoky references to his favourite films (Deliverance, The Shining, Apocalypse Now) that were so apparent in his first feature, although they are still there for the film buffs. His script is taut, his direction brisk. Watching the film, the cinema starts to feel like an extension of the claustrophobic, oppressive cave.

Most importantly for British or US fans, though, The Descent contains more truly jolting shocks than any recent horror flick, which Marshall believes is the genre's vital function.

"It's the same principle as a rollercoaster: it's a safe scare. We live easy lives, we no longer have to hunt for food. But we need something to get the adrenaline pumping, which I believe is a necessity of life."

The women of The Descent seek excitement in potholing and end up regressing into a primal state.

"Fortunately, for most of us," Marshall concludes, "the most excitement we will get out of life is going to see a movie."

. The Descent opens on 8 July.

esreview ALSO SHOWING WALK ON WATER

Cert 15, 103mins EYAL (Lior Ashkenazi) is an aggressive Mossad agent who'd rather be bumping off <u>Hamas</u> agents than keeping an eye on peacenik German Axel (Knut Berger), whose grandfather was a Nazi. This Israeli thriller is a spellbinding portrait of two men in limbo that manages to be both low-key and intense.

Add humour and a wonderful, kitsch score and it's not difficult to see why it broke boxoffice records in the US. CO'S

WHO KILLED BAMBI?

Cert 18, 126mins THE slickest and most stylish movie of the week. French director Gilles Marchand combines Hitchcockian suspense with more sidelong pleasures. Isabelle (Sophie Quinton) is a trainee nurse, whose suspicions are aroused by handsome Doctor Philipp (Laurent Lucas). He has a habit of returning to the hospital at night; anaesthetic drugs disappear, and then a beautiful Chinese patient ... From the start, you're sucked in by the queasy, authentically modern mood. CO'S

IMAGINARY HEROES

Cert 18, 111mins THIS good-looking black comedy from newcomer Dan Harris tracks the meltdown of a suburban family, following the suicide of its "golden-boy" son. Sigourney Weaver is the brittle bohemian mom, Jeff Daniels the sullen ghost of a dad. There are some pleasantly toxic exchanges between husband and wife, but it's hard to shake the feeling that we've been down this road before. CO'S

CLEAN

Cert 15, 90mins MAGGIE Cheung won the Best Actress gong at Cannes for her portrait of the spiteful, addicted rock singer at the centre of French director Olivier Assayas's film. But the casting isn't appropriate - not least, because she isn't a singer.

Six chicks with picks

The film has her hanging on to the remains of her career after her rock-star lover has overdosed fatally.

Nick Nolte, as her forgiving father-in-law, provides some of the better moments of an uneven film. But after the dire Demonlover, one wonders where Assayas, once married to Cheung, is going next. DM END

Load-Date: July 1, 2005



Bush's uneven road to providence

Australian Financial Review

June 4, 2005 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: PERSPECTIVE; International News; Pg. 28

Length: 1022 words

Byline: Report Tony Walker WASHINGTON. Tony Walker, international editor of The Australian Financial Review,

is a former Middle East correspondent.

Body

George Bush isn't wavering from his chosen path, despite the unruly flock.

United States President George Bush held his seventh solo news conference of his second term during the week, an average of one a month since re-election.

This contrasts with the 15 news conferences (and his father George Bush snr's 83 solo encounters with the press in his one term) in the whole of his first term, when he was notably skittish in dealings with what was perceived as an unfriendly media.

Democracy, it might be said, is on the move in Washington.

But what of the success, or otherwise, of Bush's democracy crusade worldwide?

Let us give credit where credit is due, but also acknowledge that the going is proving difficult and success is far from assured in the place that might be regarded as the centrepiece of the Bush crusade Iraq.

In his press conference during the week, Bush fell back on reasoning that Lewis Carroll might have played around with to explain the inexplicable: the worse things seem, the better they really are. Thus, the upsurge in violence in Iraq is a direct reaction to progress made in efforts to democratise the country.

"What the insurgents fear is democracy, because democracy is the opposite of their vision. Their vision is one where a few make the decision for many, and if you don't toe the line, there's serious consequences. And so what you're seeing is a group of desperate people who kill innocent life," Bush said.

That is all true, but it doesn't really answer the question of whether the experiment in democracy is working or not.

What is the case is that ambitions for an Iraqi-style Jeffersonian democracy on the banks of the Tigris the original neo-conservative dream have now been ratcheted back to something approximating a return to the tribal order of the pre-Saddam Hussein era.

In Washington during the week, at a seminar at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars on US-Australia Co-operation in Asia, the Australian representative, Michael Evans, head of the Land Warfare Studies Centre at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, said as much.

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Success in Iraq will be measured, according to Evans, by a modicum of order based on a sort of consensus among the tribes. If this sounds a bit like a British colonial official talking about an unruly Iraq after the ouster of the Ottoman Turks a century ago, then it's probably a reasonable historical comparison.

The point is that no one can safely predict what will happen in Iraq, let alone anywhere else in countries across the Middle East and elsewhere that are undergoing painful transitions from authoritarian rule.

Certainly not senior members of the Bush administration whose pollyanna-ish view of "mission accomplished" post the fall of Hussein contributed in no small way to the ensuing chaos.

US Vice-President Dick Cheney was at it again recently when he told talk-show host Larry King that the insurgency in Iraq was in its "last throes". We've heard this repeatedly from Cheney and other administration officials so there is no reason to ascribe any greater weight to these observations now than in the past.

For the record, the "last throes" of the insurgency in May produced the fourth-worst fatality count among Americans since the start of the war in March 2003.

Seventy-eight Americans were killed last month, bringing the total to 1665 dead since the invasion of Iraq (three more Americans died on June 1, the latest figures available from the Pentagon).

The deaths of the American servicemen were dwarfed by the deaths of Iraqis. About 670 died last month in insurgent violence, 151 of them policemen.

Bush, in his State of the Union address delivered at a moment of understandable euphoria days after the "purple revolution" in Iraq in which Iraqis voted for an interim parliament (interim until a new constitution is drafted and elections are held on its basis, according to a United Nations timetable) was ebullient.

"That advance [of freedom] has great momentum in our time. We are witnessing landmark events in the history of liberty. And in the coming years, we will add to that story," Bush said to enthusiastic applause.

That was February. This is June and the picture looks somewhat different, although not without hope that the "freedom index", as described by the democracy advocacy group, Freedom House, will keep rising.

In 2003, the year for which Freedom House's latest report is available, good progress was acknowledged in spite of the threats of global terrorism.

The scorecard will look better again in 2004, but gains are fragile.

There have been notable successes and slippages in Bush's God-driven crusade to spread democratic providentialism, the phrase used to describe the linkage between US foreign policy these days and the divine impulses of a born-again president.

So where have the successes and failures come in the past year that might either bolster or call into the question the practicality of the Bush vision.

Iraq is an extraordinarily fragile work in progress, so too is Lebanon, where the first round of elections have been held for a new constituent assembly. Democracy in the Palestinian areas is making unsteady progress and may yet yield an Islamist majority in elections due in July, which would really set the cat among the pigeons.

Israel's Foreign Minister, Silvan Shalom, has said that Israel's disengagement from Gaza should be delayed if <u>Hamas</u> prevails. In other words, democracy is OK for America's ally in the Middle East, but only if the right team wins.

Progress has been witnessed in both Kuwait, where <u>women</u> will now be given the vote, and in Saudi Arabia, where experiments are continuing in grassroots democracy. But there are disappointments. Bahrain has curtailed democratic reforms because of fears on the part of its Sunni rulers that these reforms will merely embolden the Shia

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majority. And in Egypt a promise to open a presidential election to credible candidates has been shown to be a sham and a fraud.

Bush's road to providence might be "uneven and unpredictable", but credibility requires that the shepherd not waver from his chosen path, even if the flock proves unruly.

Graphic

PHOTO: Israeli and Palestinian <u>women</u> dance together during the week at a pro-peace celebration. But not everyone is cheering George Bush's democracy crusade. Photo AP

Load-Date: April 5, 2012



Protesters, Both Jewish and Arab, Rail at the First Lady

The New York Times
May 23, 2005 Monday
Late Edition - Final

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Length: 1029 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER **Dateline:** JERUSALEM, May 22

Body

Laura Bush found herself immersed in the passions of the Middle East on Sunday, as her carefully devised trip to places holy to both Muslims and Jews attracted small numbers of vocal protesters.

Mrs. Bush, on the third day of a five-day trip to the region, faced demonstrators at the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall in Jerusalem. "You are not welcome here!" shouted a woman near the Dome of the Rock. "Why are you hassling our Muslims?" She apparently referred to the mistreatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and in Afghanistan. Another woman said loudly: "Koran! Koran!"

Later in Jericho Mrs. Bush spoke of "what an emotional place this is as we go from each one of these very, very holy sites to the next." After meeting separate groups of Israeli and Palestinian <u>women</u>, she said: "What we all want is peace, and the chance that we have right now to have peace. To have a Palestinian state living by a secure state of Israel, both living in democracy, is as close as we've been in a really long time." The process would take "a lot of baby steps, and I'm sure it will be a few steps backward on the way."

The United States would help, she said. But "it also requires the work of the people here, of the Palestinians and the Israelis, to come to the table, obviously, and we'll see."

The main purpose of Mrs. Bush's visit to the region was to attend the World Economic Forum meeting on Saturday in Jordan, where she highlighted education and <u>women</u>'s rights as central to democracy in the Middle East, a major theme of the Bush administration. But President Bush had encouraged her to visit Israel at the same time, and her schedule was carefully planned to provide parallel gestures to both Palestinians and Israelis.

The Noble Sanctuary is known to Jews as the Temple Mount, and it is a potentially explosive spot of earth. It is the place where the first two ancient Jewish temples stood, the last destroyed by the Romans, and the Dome of the Rock is built over the place where the Prophet Muhammad is believed to have ascended to heaven.

By the time Mrs. Bush, dressed in a black pantsuit with a black shawl over her hair, left the Muslim shrine, where about 20 protesters had gathered, the small crowd of onlookers seemed to better understand who this visitor was and pressed closer.

Mrs. Bush was surrounded by American security personnel and Israeli police officers who pushed back the crowd as she walked to her motorcade. She was never in danger, but the large presence of armed Israeli police officers, some in riot gear, angered the demonstrators.

Israeli security officials fear right-wing Israelis may attack the sacred Islamic structures here, either to try to rebuild the temple or to cause a new conflict between Palestinians and Israelis that could derail the plan to pull Israeli settlers out of Gaza. So tensions were high, and Mrs. Bush's visit, a rare one by an American dignitary, drew a larger police presence than usual.

The ancient man-made plateau also overlooks the Western Wall, the last surviving retaining wall of the Second Temple and a holy site for Jews, which Mrs. Bush also walked through protesters to visit.

She leaned against the massive stones, hot with the bright sun, trying to ignore the crush of photographers, shutting her eyes and praying, then putting a private note -- another prayer -- into a crack in the wall. Her aides said she wrote the note on the flight on Sunday morning from Jordan, but wanted to keep the contents to herself.

At the Western Wall another small crowd of protesters shouted for the release of Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew who was convicted of spying for Israel, and who was recently visited in prison by the Israeli ambassador to Washington, Danny Ayalon.

Mrs. Bush spent an important part of her day Sunday in conversation with a group of well-known Palestinian women, including the legislator Hanan Ashrawi; the Palestinian minister for Jerusalem Affairs, Hind Khoury; Jihad Abu Zneid of the Shufat refugee camp's women's center; and Terry Boullata, an educator from East Jerusalem.

The <u>women</u> spoke to Mrs. Bush of the difficulties of the Israeli occupation for their daily lives, including numerous checkpoints and the separation barrier Israel is building to protect itself from suicide bombers, aides to the first lady said. Ms. Boullata, for example, according to the aides, spoke of how the barrier meant that a 2-minute trip to her school for many children now took 30 minutes. Also on Sunday, the Israeli Army said it intercepted at a checkpoint a Palestinian teenager trying to smuggle two explosive belts into Israel.

Mrs. Bush also spent nearly an hour touring the new Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem, where she laid a wreath to the dead and wrote in the visitors' book: "Each life is precious," adding: "We commit ourselves to reject hatred and to teach tolerance and live in peace."

She said the visit to the region had been "very emotional for me and very moving to be here and to see these sites that are very important to me as a Christian, that are in the Old Testament," and also important to Muslims and Jews, that represent "the cradle of what we think of in our country and around the world as religious thought." She heads to Egypt on Monday.

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, flew to the United States on Sunday to try to explain his Gaza withdrawal to American Jewish organizations. On the plane, he denied reports that he was contemplating more delays in the pullout, and said it would start on Aug. 16 or 17.

In Jordan, at the World Economic Forum meeting Mrs. Bush had attended, the Egyptian foreign minister, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, said Egypt was talking with Israel about deploying up to 2,000 troops along the border between Egypt and Israel, in addition to 750 policemen to be deployed along Egypt's border with the Gaza Strip, to ensure strict border control to guarantee an orderly Israeli withdrawal, Reuters reported. Israel is nervous about arms smuggling into Gaza, but also about Egypt's remilitarizing the Sinai; Egypt is worried about a Gaza where <u>Hamas</u>, the radical Islamic group, has too much influence.

Graphic

Photo: Laura Bush inside the Dome of the Rock yesterday. The Islamic shrine is atop the mount that includes the Western Wall, revered by Jews. (Pool photo by Evan Vucci)

Load-Date: May 23, 2005



Israeli trrops cut off camp in Gaza Attack on homes, buildings in refugee camp leaves three Palestinians dead

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 18, 2004, Tuesday

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Section: News; Pg. P07A

Length: 969 words

Byline: Tamer Ziara The Associated Press

Body

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - Israeli tanks cut off the Rafah refugee camp from the rest of Gaza Monday, sending panicked residents fleeing. Palestinians said an Israeli helicopter fired missiles at the camp hours later that killed three people.

Early Tuesday, Palestinian security officials said armored bulldozers moved to the edge of the camp near the border with Egypt and began leveling land in an Israeli-controlled zone. It wasn't clear if it was the start of a large-scale move against the camp.

Israel wants to widen a military patrol road between Rafah and the Egyptian border after Palestinians blew up an armored vehicle there last week, killing five soldiers assigned to destroy arms-smuggling tunnels.

The Israeli helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, one critically. Hospital officials said at least two of the dead were gunmen, but the wounded were civilians, including a 35-year-old woman.

The Israeli military said the target was a group of armed Palestinians approaching Israeli forces. Israel Radio has reported that troops were prepared to fight from house to house in the camp.

Frantic residents on Monday loaded belongings onto trucks and donkey carts and headed to the neighboring town, also named Rafah. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and pitched a tent camp.

<u>Women</u> balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets and men carted away sofas. One man lowered a cooking gas container by rope from a second-floor window, and another piled fire wood onto a horse cart.

Raouf Abu Jazar said dozens of people crowded his store, stocking up on rice, bottled water and baby food. "Many had no money to pay, but I gave them what they want, because we all are brothers," he said.

Last week, Israeli troops destroyed about 100 houses in the camp, and officials said hundreds more may be torn down. In all, more than 11,000 Palestinians in Rafah - out of a population of 90,000 - have been made homeless by Israeli demolitions since the outbreak of fighting in 2000.

At the United Nations in New York, Arab nations requested a Security Council meeting Tuesday to consider Israel's move against the camp.

Israeli trrops cut off camp in Gaza Attack on homes, buildings in refugee camp leaves three Palestinians dead

The Arab Group called on members to take "necessary measures" against Israel for violating international law.

Palestinian militants planted bombs around Rafah, residents said. A 23-year-old Palestinian was killed early Tuesday when a bomb he was assembling exploded, they said.

Israeli security officials said they plan to expand the patrol road to a width of 250 yards, almost double its current size in some places. The army is also considering digging a deep trench, or even a moat, to block the tunnels that lead from Egypt to Rafah.

The Israeli patrol road was carved out in the 1980s after Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty and Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula.

The international border created then went through the camp, and thousands of houses were destroyed on both sides to create the Israeli-controlled zone, with compensation paid to the displaced.

Yuval Dvir, an Israeli reserve colonel who oversaw that destruction, said Israel must leave Gaza now, and the plan to widen the patrol road would not enhance Israeli security. "We are following our guts and not our brains," he told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a unilateral pullout of soldiers and settlers from Gaza, but his party rejected the plan. Officials said Monday that he would make minor revisions in the plan and present it to his Cabinet later.

A senior Israeli official said an eventual pullout would not stop Israeli operations like the move into the Rafah camp.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israeli intelligence shows the Palestinians, supported by Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> abroad, are trying to create a situation in Gaza like the one in Lebanon, by bringing in longrange missiles.

Hezbollah guerrillas pounded Israel's north with Katyusha rockets for two decades in a guerrilla war that ended with Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon in 2000. Hezbollah is armed by Iran and Syria.

Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships are unintentional but unavoidable. Some people in Rafah, he said, "rent their houses for digging tunnels, so not all of the people there are blameless."

A senior Israeli military official said high-ranking Palestinian security officers are involved in arms smuggling.

Palestinian security officials were not immediately available for comment. Secretary of State Colin Powell denounced the destruction of houses, a rare U.S. criticism of Israeli policy.

On Monday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath pleaded with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Berlin to stop the Israeli offensive. Shaath told Rice he has received calls from fearful relatives.

"She (Rice) said that she and President Bush will act to stop what is going on in Rafah," Shaath said.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, met Sunday with the Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, to discuss the Israeli operation.

"We understand Israel's need to defend itself from attacks, but as a matter of policy we oppose the use of home demolitions to achieve this end and we are concerned about the humanitarian consequences of such demolitions," said embassy spokesman Paul Patin.

Palestinian legislator Mohammed Hijazi said hundreds of families have left the camp since the exodus began Sunday; local officials put the number of evacuees at more than 2,000. UNRWA said Israel has demolished or damaged nearly 2,000 houses in Rafah since 2000.

Israeli trrops cut off camp in Gaza Attack on homes, buildings in refugee camp leaves three Palestinians dead

Amr Moussa, Arab League secretary-general, condemned the destruction and charged that Israel's leaders are wrecking chances for peace. "Who would sit down with these people?" he asked.

Load-Date: May 18, 2004



The democratic conundrum of today's Middle East: OLIVIER ROY:

Financial Times (London, England)

April 12, 2005 Tuesday

London Edition 2

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. 19

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Byline: By OLIVER ROY

Body

From the torrent of analysis about political trends in the Middle East, two contradictory views have emerged. The first is that the Bush strategy of democratising the region is finally proving correct: led by a few prominent examples, the Middle East is definitely, albeit painfully, on a democratic path - as seen in recent elections in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Palestinian territories, and popular demonstrations in Lebanon. The alternative view, however, is that US intervention in the region has exacerbated tension and fuelled Islamist terrorism, in Iraq and now in Saudi Arabia and Qatar; it has underpinned the emergence of a "narco-state" (Afghanistan) or even a militantly Islamic state (Iraq). Lebanon may be on the verge of a new civil war, Arab radical volunteers are flocking to Iraq, Iran is the big winner of the Iraqi elections and an overstretched US army is struggling to cope.

Whatever the view, US intervention in Iraq was clearly a watershed that has changed the political and strategic landscape of the Middle East. Beyond this mix of good and bad news, its impact has to be understood in the context of long-term trends and patterns.

To begin with, democracy is clearly popular in the region and, even if Arab public opinion dislikes America's role in promoting it and suspects Washington's agenda, it favours democratisation. Anti-Americanism is not anti-democracy in this view. But the kind of democratisation we are talking of has little to do with the abstract Jeffersonian-style democracy that Washington wanted to implement in Iraq. Developing a real, working democracy is not some sort of simple, practical challenge, such as the holding of elections or developing good governance.

Another myth was the belief that a democratic regime would be stable and automatically friendly to US interests. But democracy does not necessarily mean the establishment of a friendly and stable regime. In fact, democratisation cannot work without political legitimacy and this legitimacy in the Middle East is rooted first in nationalism and second in Islamic beliefs. The democratisation process should take into account what it was supposed to replace: nationalism and Islam as political tools. Palestinian democrats are no less nationalist than their more militant counterparts, and constitutionalist Iraqi Shia clerics are still calling for Islamic sharia principles in their country's laws.

On a more positive note, the merging of nationalism and pro-democracy sentiments in the region is undermining links between local, mainly anti-western movements (either nationalist or Islamist) and the internationalist radicals who claim to support them against a common enemy, as al-Qaeda is doing in Iraq and Afghanistan. The success of elections and growing perceptions of an open political system are widening this gap.

The democratic conundrum of today's Middle East: OLIVIER ROY:

This slow polarisation is at work in Afghanistan, where the Taliban lost whatever support it had not by opposing the Americans but by calling for violent disruption of the electoral process. And although US troops are still active in Afghanistan, the influx of foreign volunteers has dwindled. When domestic national agendas dominate the political scene there is no room for strangers who are pushing only their internationalist struggle and ignoring local issues. Notably, many former Taliban members are giving up armed struggle to join the political process. The same may be happening in Iraq: foreign volunteers who could have been perceived, at least by the Sunni Arab minority, as allies against a foreign invasion are increasingly seen as foreigners who are killing Iraqi citizens and disrupting a genuine political process.

Ambivalence, however, is still present throughout the region. In Lebanon, for example, Hizbollah, the radical Shia party, still sees Syria as an ally and the US as an enemy and yet is now framing its position in terms of Lebanese nationalism and not revolutionary rhetoric. The internationalists, meanwhile, have less and less to propose in terms of local politics and tend to rely on despair and oppression. But in places where there is an alternative that can reconcile democracy, national ism and Islam, they inevitably lose their local appeal. The good news is that these radical internationalist movements are losing their sanctuary in countries that are turning to democracy. The bad news is that their constituency will not dwindle totally because it is a "globalised" one, recruited increasingly in the west.

There is no way for the region to move further toward democracy without integrating into the political game the "Islamo-nationalist" movements often branded as "terrorist" (*Hamas* and Hizbollah, for example). However, these groups have evolved in the past 15 years, from revolutionary movements into nationalist and parliament-focused groups. The different Shia groups round the Gulf region now stress full political integration of the Shia population into national politics. But by shifting from radical to conservative - or rather, more conventionally framed - political agendas, many such movements are focusing on family law and personal status at the expense of issues such as *women*'s rights. In many instances, democracy and human rights may clash.

By contrast, authoritarian and supposedly secular regimes such as Tunisia and Syria are flailing. The main mistake of the west, and more specifically Europeans, was to favour authoritarian secularism over democracy in the name of curbing the "Islamic threat" - thus delinking secularism and democracy in the minds of many Muslims while still claiming the two were inseparable. Many Europeans are now calling for reform of these authoritarian secular states, rejecting regime change as advocated by Washington, in the name of defending sovereignty and stability. But these regimes are clearly unable to reform themselves. They can neither achieve secularism nor democratisation - let alone promote efficient economic development. Thus, they fuel what could be called "re-Islamisation", either as the only way for people to escape the authoritarian monotony of political life or because they often favour a conservative Islam in the vain hope of enlisting religious conservatives against radical Islamists.

Even if the road to democratisation is far rougher than expected, there is no alternative; along the way, however, nationalism and Islam must be taken into account - and religious movements reached out to.

The writer, a professor at Ecoles des Hautes E tudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, is the author of Globalized Islam (Hurst/Columbia UP)

Load-Date: April 11, 2005



Israel Unveils New Shoah Museum To a World Still Bent on Destruction

The Forward March 18, 2005

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Section: News; Pg. 1 Length: 1127 words Byline: Limor Livnat

Body

World leaders and delegations from more than 30 nations arrived in Jerusalem Tuesday for the inauguration of the new museum at Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust memorial. Rather than further focus on the documentary aspects of the Nazi genocide, the new Holocaust center, which is four times as large as the existing museum, will explore the unprecedented tragedy by stressing the personal stories of the murdered victims and eradicated communities.

The message of the humanitarian obligation of remembrance embodied by Yad Vashem's new museum has never been more current or more vital. With blatant antisemitism experiencing a dangerous renaissance in national capitals from London to Paris to Buenos Aires to Tehran, the new exhibition of the systematic destruction of European Jewry will help visitors better understand the warning bells of unconstrained racial and religious hatred that are sounding globally unchallenged.

For Israelis the lessons of the Holocaust are sadly never permitted to be very far from our minds. Our national homeland, which was molded into being out of the ashes of the concentration camps and the tattered remnants of those who survived the murder of 6 million of our people, has been threatened with destruction since the very hour we proclaimed our independence in 1948. In the nearly 57 years since then, we have fought six major wars and weathered unrelenting terrorist attacks on our civilians both in Israel and abroad.

Barely a week has passed in the last half-century without a new deadly offense being leveled against our cities and towns by our Arab neighbors. This has been coupled with some of recent history's most brutal terrorist attacks on Jewish synagogues, institutions, communities and individuals as a surrogate means of inflicting suffering on our nation.

For too long, our neighbors' mosques, media and even textbooks and school curricula have promoted hatred and the genocide of the Jewish people. Tragically, these days it seems to surprise no one but ourselves to learn of the latest cemetery desecration, antisemitic epithet or violent attack on Jews somewhere in the world.

The expanded museum's inauguration comes against a background of the government of Iran and its proxies - the terrorist organizations Hezbollah, *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad - threatening renewed attacks against Israel that could again destabilize our region and derail peace talks with the Palestinians. Tehran's ongoing refusal to abandon its quest for a nuclear bomb, which it has insistently implied it will use against the Jewish state, has become our number-one security concern. While international conflicts between other nations are mostly limited to border disputes and struggles over maritime rights, when Israel is involved it is always our very future existence that is being threatened, with complete destruction lying at the core of the aggression.

For Israelis, and for Jews everywhere, the awareness of the Holocaust is part and parcel of our very identity. The names Aushwitz, Treblinka, Dachau, Buchenwald and Mauthausen have become a sacred part of our heritage. If the world leaders who visited Jerusalem this week want to better understand our foreign policy concerns and our inflexible demand for security guarantees, then the exhibits and displays at the new Yad Vashem museum will provide invaluable insights. Indeed, for Israelis the lessons of our tragic past are never permitted to be anachronisms; they are always relevant and reflective of our current reality.

In the coming days, Jews around the world will celebrate our most joyful festival of Purim. The holiday, like so many others in our tradition, commemorates the miraculous redemption of the Jewish community of ancient Persia from a wicked antisemite, Haman, who was obsessed with our people's physical and spiritual destruction. Haman, who had managed to ingratiate himself with the all-powerful monarch of the day, utilizes his connections and good will to convince the king to fix a calendar date upon which to murder all the Jews of the vast Persian empire.

Like other fanatical haters throughout the ages, this viceroy employs the classic antisemitic logic to whisper his case in the king's ear: "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your realm. Their laws are different from every other people's. They do not observe even the king's laws; therefore it is not befitting the king to tolerate them. If it please the king, let it be recorded that they be destroyed." (Book of Esther III:8-9)

Through a complex series of wondrous and providential coincidences, however, a Jewish heroine, Esther, is chosen to be queen and the stage is set for her to foil the conspiracy and turn the tables on Haman. As this admirable <u>women</u> of valor vacillates over the life-threatening risk she must personally subject herself to in order to save her people, she is pointedly probed into action by her uncle: "Do not imagine that you will be able to escape in the king's palace, any more than the rest of the Jews.... And who knows whether it was just for such a time as this that you attained your royal position." (Book of Esther IV:13-14) Esther is charged to sacrifice herself if necessary, but most of all she must act.

As such, in our worldview it is a clear line that unifies the ancient Persian tyrants who sought our destruction centuries ago to the murderous Nazis who practiced genocide against us, to the current Islamic suicide bombers who have devastated our Israeli cities, to the modern-day rulers in Persia who scurry to secure an Iranian nuclear weapon with which to destroy our people. All of these, we understand, must be confronted and fought.

In the Israel of my childhood, we used to say about certain people that they "came from there." I use this expression now, knowing that the "there" we whispered about - the Shoah - is not just one place. And we see that even those who "came from there," even they cannot always remember everything. The names. The faces. The loved ones. The world that was - and was destroyed.

None of us could possibly remember the 6 million names. But each of us can assume the responsibility for one personal memory, of an individual or a family. To get to know intimately the story of a single community.

This is the intent of Yad Vashem's new museum - to personalize this complex contemporary story and simply teach it so its universal lessons can be absorbed by all. For Jews, the past merits remembering not solely as an eternal memorial to our past suffering, but also as a shining beacon and guide for all of humanity to avoid the tragedies and horror once again in our shared futures. Indeed, in each generation to remember, and to never again forget.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006



Faithful following on Capitol Hill AMITY SHLAES

Financial Times (London, England)

March 29, 2004 Monday

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Byline: By AMITY SHLAES

Body

Has there ever been an American president as pious as George W. Bush? If press reports and commentaries are anything to go by, you would not think so. Mr Bush's faith is frequently discussed in the media, especially outside the US. That faith is routinely presented as uniquely Republican, extreme and unmodern.

This week, for example, we have been hearing about the Bush administration's righteous efforts to keep the phrase "under God" in the daily "pledge of allegiance" taken in US schools. Then there was the story in the Herald of Glasgow that described Mr Bush as demonstrating an "obsession with religion". This obsession, the article charged, was something Mr Bush shared with Ahmed Yassin, the recently assassinated head of the militant *Hamas* group.

Mr Bush is indeed pious. But the idea that his piety is somehow exceptional or extreme is wrong. In fact, many American presidents - from both parties - have been actively religious, including some relatively recent ones.

Start with the Democrat and Baptist, Jimmy Carter. Mr Carter was not merely religious; he was ostentatious about his religion. As president, Mr Carter attended Bible classes in Washington. When he secured the peace deal between Israel and Egypt, he used the occasion to warn the media against misinterpretation with a fiery quote from Isaiah: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil." Then of course there was the famous 1976 confession in Playboy magazine, in which Mr Carter confessed that he lusted in his heart after <u>women</u> who were not Rosalynn, his wife. But perhaps the best religious factoid about Mr Carter is that he took the opportunity of a private car ride to the airport in 1979 to try to convert Park Chung Hee, then president of South Korea and a Buddhist, to Christianity. What is more, Mr Carter was so proud of his effort that he told his Bible class all about it.

Imagine what would befall Mr Bush if he tried a similar caper with Hosni Mubarak, president of Egypt.

Another pious modern president was Franklin Roosevelt. Like Mr Bush, whose life changed around the age of 40 when he stopped drinking and embraced the Bible, FDR came to a turning-point when he contracted polio in his late 30s. His subsequent paralysis drove him both into seclusion and towards the pursuit of the presidency. Roosevelt, like Mr Bush, came to see faith as a core component of his identity. "I am Christian and a Democrat, that's all," he replied when asked to define himself.

His 1937 tax return shows he made contributions to his church at home in Hyde Park, New York state, several churches in Washington, DC, and a one-off donation of Dollars 2,000 - a lot of money in those days - to the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York city.

Faithful following on Capitol Hill AMITY SHLAES

Frances Perkins, his labour secretary, reported in her memoirs that while FDR regularly attended church when in Hyde Park, in Washington, his attendance at St Thomas's, where he had once been a vestryman, was less regular. This, she notes, was not a lapse but rather a result of FDR's sense of privacy. "I can do almost everything in the 'goldfish bowl' of the president's life," he told her, "but I'll be hanged if I can say my prayers in it."

Roosevelt's sense of religion, Perkins continues, "was so complete that he was able to associate himself without any conflict with all expressions of religious worship". An Episcopalian, he liked the more humble culture of the Methodists and once took Churchill along to a Methodist service. When someone queried his decision he retorted: "What's the matter? It is good for Winston to sing hymns with the Methodys (sic)."

In September of 1933, Roosevelt placed his own New Deal in a religious context. Discussing the impact of the Depression, he said: "We shall not succeed in solving (the problem) unless the people of this country hold the spiritual values of the country just as high as they do the economic values." He went on to exhort believers to use church networks to help the poor - in other words, to deliver faith-based charity. This spiritual side of the Depression tends to get obscured.

When it came to foreign policy, religion also had its role for Roosevelt. Britain had recognised the Soviet Union and pressure was on FDR to follow suit. But first, as Perkins reported, FDR made freedom of worship a condition of recognition, telling Maxim Litvinov, the Soviet negotiator: "When you come to die you are going to remember your old father and mother - good pious Jewish people who believed in God and taught you to pray to God; you know it's important." Roosevelt was naive: the hard-boiled Litvinov would have agreed to just about anything to win recognition. Nonetheless the point is that Roosevelt believed faith mattered. So did Eisenhower, the president who introduced the "under God" phrase into the pledge.

Here a reader might argue that the difference between Mr Bush and previous presidents is that Mr Bush hauls religion into spheres where it did not play a role before - abortion and gay marriage, for example. This argument ignores the fact that for most of US history abortion was unlawful and gay marriage unheard of. It also ignores the reality that changing the status of either would have been unthinkable to most presidents, precisely because they were Christians. Mr Bush is mounting a rearguard action, not an offensive one.

In short, you can take issue with the various Bush stances all you like. You can even dislike him for his occasionally sanctimonious air. In this, he resembles Mr Carter. But when it comes to religion, this president is not unusual, and it would be heresy to argue otherwise.

Load-Date: March 28, 2004



A Heresy About Bush

New York Sun (Archive) March 30, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 938 words

Byline: By AMITY SHLAES

Body

Has there ever been an American president as pious as President Bush? If press reports and commentaries are anything to go by, you would not think so. Mr. Bush's faith is frequently discussed in the press, especially outside America. And that faith is routinely presented as uniquely Republican, extreme, and unmodern.

This week, for example, we have been hearing about the Bush administration's righteous efforts to keep the phrase "under God" in the daily pledge of allegiance taken in American schools.

Then there was the story in the Herald of Glasgow that described Mr. Bush as demonstrating an "obsession with religion." This obsession, the article charged, was something Mr. Bush shared with Ahmed Yassin, the recently assassinated head of the militant *Hamas* group.

Mr. Bush is indeed pious. But the idea that his piety is somehow exceptional or extreme is wrong. In fact, many American presidents - from both parties - have been actively religious, including some relatively recent ones.

Start with the Democrat and Baptist, President Carter. Mr. Carter was not merely religious; he was ostentatious about his religion. As president, Mr. Carter attended Bible classes in Washington, D.C. When he secured the peace deal between Israel and Egypt, he used the occasion to warn the media against misinterpretation with a fiery quote from Isaiah: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil." Then, of course, there was the famous 1976 confession in Playboy magazine, in which Mr. Carter said that he lusted in his heart after <u>women</u> who were not Rosalynn, his wife. But perhaps the best religious factoid about Mr. Carter is that he took the opportunity of a private car ride to the airport in 1979 to try to convert Park Chung Hee, then president of South Korea and a Buddhist, to Christianity. What is more, Mr. Carter was so proud of his effort that he told his Bible class all about it.

Imagine what would befall Mr. Bush if he tried a similar caper with Hosni Mubarak.

Another pious modern president was Franklin Roosevelt. Like Mr. Bush, whose life changed around the age of 40 when he stopped drinking and embraced the Bible, FDR came to a turning point when he contracted polio in his late 30s. His subsequent paralysis drove him both into seclusion and toward the pursuit of the presidency. Roosevelt, like Mr. Bush, came to see faith as a core component of his identity. "I am Christian and a Democrat, that's all," he replied when asked to define himself.

His 1937 tax return shows he made contributions to his church at home in Hyde Park, N.Y., several churches in Washington, D.C., and a one-off donation of \$2,000 - a lot of money in those days - to the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City.

A Heresy About Bush

Frances Perkins, his labor secretary, reported in her memoirs that while FDR regularly attended church when in Hyde Park, in Washington, D.C., his attendance at St. Thomas's, where he had once been a vestryman, was less regular. This, she notes, was not a lapse, but rather a result of FDR's sense of privacy.

"I can do almost everything in the 'goldfish bowl' of the president's life," he told her, "but I'll be hanged if I can say my prayers in it."

Roosevelt's sense of religion, Perkins continues, "was so complete that he was able to associate himself without any conflict with all expressions of religious worship." An Episcopalian, he liked the more humble culture of the Methodists and once took Winston Churchill along to a Methodist service. When someone queried his decision he retorted: "What's the matter? It is good for Winston to sing hymns with the Methodys [sic]."

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Load-Date: March 30, 2004



Love is in the air but not on the court for Anna

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)
February 12, 2005 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: SPORTS; Pg. SP03; Column

Length: 983 words **Byline:** Scott Radley

Body

A Zimbabwean man, who won several track and field championships while competing in <u>women</u>'s events, has been stripped of his titles and criminally charged. Despite his masculine features, he managed to pull off the ruse for several months by claiming to be competing for East Germany. Perhaps the oddest part of the story is the man's defence. Claiming he was born congenitally deformed, he went to a witch doctor to magically turn him into a woman. However, the process stopped when the athlete's family didn't pay the tribal healer's full fee. Who knew Michael Jackson was from Zimbabwe?... ESPN is counting down sports' hottest couples in the week before Valentines Day. The early money is on David Wells' chins ... The Toronto Raptors have finally bought out what's left of Alonzo Mourning's multi-million-dollar contract. An NBA centre hasn't made this much money for being so useless since Shaquille O'Neal's performance in Kazaam! ... So many people in West Hollywood, California, are seeking cosmetic surgery for their pets that city officials are trying to ban the practice. Failing that, they'll just rename the local hockey team the Anaheim Tighty Ducks ... Pavel Bure is suing a cosmetics company whose newsletter claims he bragged that he was the first man to make love with Anna Kournikova. He says it's simply not true. Based on his scoring touch the past few years, I'm inclined to believe him ... In a related story, a 40-year-old man with Anna tattooed on his arm, was charged after swimming nude across Biscayne Bay in search of Kournikova's home.

The Hamilton SpectatorWhich means unlike the object of his affections, he's going to have a few court appearances this year ... Meanwhile, a man convicted of stalking a top skier has been refused bail. This despite pleading for clemency on the grounds that since becomming obsessed with her, his quality of life has been going downhill. Sorry! ... During a tsunami relief concert in Cardiff, Wales, the crowd of 60,000 did the wave. Nice touch ... The first season of Miami Vice is now out on DVD. Which is a bit surprising, since most people aren't aware south Florida even has a curling team ... Hakeem Olajuwon says he had no idea \$80,000 from one of his mosques had been funnelled to al-Qaeda and *Hamas*. He, of course, says he had no idea he might be paying for a bomb. Ironically, that's the exact same thing the Raptors said after signing him ... The Visa commercial you'll never see -- A ticket to a World Cup soccer match: \$57. A ticket to the final game: \$970. A ticket to see Canada play in that final: Hopeless ... Organizers expect 30 million people to enter the on-line, ticket-buying auction to win the right to buy seats to games at the 2006 World Cup in Germany. Or roughly one for every game that'll end nil-nil ... Now that the new elementary school on Kitty Murray Lane is to be called the Ancaster Meadow School, will the teams be known as the Muffins? Just wondering! ... Heinz Inniger and Ursula Bruhin both won gold in the parallel giant slalom World Cup snowboard races this week in Italy. This was news to Ross Rebagliati who just assumed he was seeing double ... Sports Illustrated photographers shot more than 16,000 frames during the Super Bowl to make sure they caught everything. That's almost four-and-a-half pictures every second. Or almost enough to capture every time Rafer Alston melts down ... The former manager of New Zealand's All Blacks rugby squad says something must be done to curb the binge-drinking, which he believes is ingrained in his country's hard-hitting rugby tradition. Because you

Love is in the air but not on the court for Anna

wouldn't want these guys doing anything that might hurt their bodies ... Finally, there are three golf balls sitting on the moon. Contrary to popular belief, none are the result of a David Duval mis-hit. And you said you wouldn't learn anything useful reading the paper today.

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Way Offside runs every Wednesday and Saturday

PAY WHAT...

Who doesn't need a styrofoam cooler -- on sale on eBay -- carved into the shape of their favourite retractable roof stadium? Especially one that when opened looks like a toilet seat. The cooler, that is, not the stadium.

The 10 most unfortunate team names in professional sports

1. Roanoke Dazzle

National Basketball Development League

This was Liberace's fourth choice after the Roanoke Flamboyant, the Roanoke Glitter and the Roanoke Super Spectacular.

2. Columbia Hot Flash

North Carolina Women's Hockey League

If the <u>women</u>'s team is named after something that happens later in life and that nobody really wants, what's the local men's team called, the Columbia Prostate Exam?

3. Southern California Seahorses

Frontier Baseball League

Apparently all the other kinds of horses -- Broncos, Colts, etc. -- were taken. And naming themselves after the Lipizzaner Stallions was just too weird.

4. Swing of the Quad Cities

Midwest Baseball League

Is this a baseball team or Benny Goodman's garage band?

5. Utah Jazz

National Basketball Association

Tough to figure why the name never changed after the move from New Orleans since there's as much Jazz in Utah as there is public nudity in Tehran.

6. Miami Heat

National Basketball Association

Does that make each player a Hot? And shouldn't the city's WNBA franchise then be the Humidity?

7. Toronto Maple Leafs

Love is in the air but not on the court for Anna

National Hockey League

Naming your team after harmless foliage that dies the same time the season starts is brilliant. Mis-spelling it is even better.

8. Chillicothe Paints

Frontier Baseball League

On the plus side, the team name is a complete sentence. On the negative side, who wants to watch paint?

9. Cedar Rapids Kernals

Midwest Baseball League

Hey, corn kernals can be intimidating. Like when their little husks get stuck in your teeth and stuff.

10. West Virginia Chaos

United Soccer Leagues

When you think West Virginia and Chaos, the first things that come to mind are those mountain men in Deliverence and dueling banjos, not soccer.

Graphic

Photo: Anna Kournikova; Photo: styrofoam cooler; Photo: Liberace

Load-Date: February 12, 2005



Mideast Parley Takes Ugly Turn At Columbia U.

New York Sun (Archive) February 4, 2005 Friday

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 1114 words

Byline: By SOL STERN and FRED SIEGEL, Special to the SunSol Stern is writing "Israel without Apology" for Encounter Books. Fred Siegel is the author of the forthcoming "Prince of the City: Giuliani, New York, and the

Genius of American Life," also from Encounter Books.

Body

You might think that Columbia University would be on its best academic behavior on the issue of the Middle East conflict these days. After all, several professors in the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, known as MEALAC, are credibly accused of anti-Semitism and intimidating pro-Israel students. The university's president, Lee Bollinger, has appointed a committee to look into the charges. But even with the media spotlight on, Columbia apparently can't help itself.

Last Monday night we attended a university panel on the Middle East conflict titled "One State or Two? Alternative Proposals for Middle East Peace." Even the panel's title was a giveaway that we were in for more anti-Israel bias on campus. The "one state" solution is a euphemism for the destruction of the Jewish state - a trope of the most extreme rejectionist elements within the Palestinian movement and their allies in Syria and Iran. Terrorist groups such as *Hamas* and Hezbollah want to create an Islamic Republic in place of Israel. A few splinter Marxist groups such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, founded by George Habash, offer the Jews a solution that's far more "progressive." They murder innocents merely to replace Israel with a "secular democratic" Palestine.

The scene at Columbia, with Spartacists handing out literature outside the packed auditorium and proponents of Palestinian military victory in the vast majority, was wildly at odds with the hopeful development on the ground, where Messrs. Sharon and Abbas are now scheduled to meet. One of the panelists was Mark Cohen, a Princeton historian of medieval Islam. He gave a measured scholarly presentation on the subject of Arab Muslim anti-Semitism, insisting that attacks on Jews in the Koran had little to do with hostility to Jews. It's a debatable proposition. But professor Cohen never even engaged the issue at hand. He largely served as a prop for the ranting to follow.

Rashid Khalidi, a Columbia professor whose recent book argues that Yasser Arafat was right to reject the best peace deal he had ever been offered, opening the way to four years of bloodshed, presented a tendentious argument for a one-state solution that strained to stay within the bounds of reasoned discourse.

Then Joseph Massad took the floor, and the floodgates of hatred opened wide. Mr. Massad is one of the MEALAC professors accused of demanding of one Israeli student, "How many Palestinians did you kill today?" At the forum, he used the phrase "racist Israeli state" more than two dozen times. He used seemingly universalist language of anti-racism to drive a fascist argument. Mr. Massad is so extreme that he argued that Arafat was in effect an Israeli collaborator for even talking about compromise.

Mideast Parley Takes Ugly Turn At Columbia U.

Whatever can be said of this rant, its "academic" content was hard to discern. But to judge by the applause he received, Mr. Massad was the star of the evening. Obviously, Mr. Massad, an acolyte of the dear departed George Habash, isn't worried about President Bollinger's panel, which includes three professors who have signed petitions demanding that all universities divest from Israel.

The final act of hatred came from the Israeli quisling "historian" Ilan Pappe, who has stated openly that his so-called scholarly work is an attempt to create a counter narrative to official Zionist historiography and to undermine the international legitimacy of the state of Israel. He bizarrely insisted that the destruction of Israel would pave the way for enhanced rights for <u>women</u>, and the feminist students in the audience cheered.

Instead of providing an alternative to hatred and extremism from both sides, this panel was a hate-fest masquerading as academic discourse. And this was no aberration attributable only to one misguided student group. In addition to Qanun, a Columbia Law School student group, the panel was cosponsored by the university chaplain, the Student Senate, and two of Columbia's most prestigious academic affiliates: the Middle East Institute, headed by professor Khalidi, and the School of International and Public Affairs. SIPA's dean, Lisa Anderson, was appointed by Mr. Bollinger to the committee looking into the charges against professor Massad - whose dissertation adviser she was.

Coming away from Monday night's hate panel and then looking at this tangled web of conflicts of interest within the university, we realized that the issue of misconduct in the classroom by one or two professors, important though it is, is dwarfed by a more fundamental question: How did a great institution of higher learning allow itself to be transformed into a platform for vicious political propaganda and hate speech directed against one country, Israel?

Surely one crucial moment in this transformation was Columbia's decision to raise \$4 million - including a contribution from the United Arab Emirates - to create the Edward Said endowed chair in Arab studies, and then to give the prize to professor Khalidi. We don't doubt that Mr. Khalidi has academic credentials. Compared to professors Massad and Pappe, he is a model of decorum and moderation. But when Columbia academic officials made this choice they knew they were getting a Palestinian political activist. From 1976 to 1982, Mr. Khalidi was a director in Beirut of the official Palestinian press agency, WAFA. Later he served on the PLO "guidance committee" at the Madrid peace conference.

In bringing professor Khalidi to Morningside Heights from the University of Chicago, Columbia also got itself a twofer of Palestinian activism and advocacy. Mr. Khalidi's wife, Mona, who also served in Beirut as chief editor of the English section of the WAFA press agency, was hired as dean of foreign students at Columbia's SIPA, working under Dean Anderson. In Chicago, the Khalidis founded the Arab American Action Network, and Mona Khalidi served as its president. A big farewell dinner was held in their honor by AAAN with a commemorative book filled with testimonials from their friends and political allies. These included the left wing anti-war group Not In My Name, the Electronic Intifada, and the ex-Weatherman domestic terrorists Bernadine Dohrn and Bill Ayers. (There were also testimonials from then-state Senator Barack Obama and the mayor of Chicago.)

The message sent by Columbia University officials by this choice was that they were determined to honor the memory of Edward Said by continuing to have radical Palestinian activism on campus. That's what they now have in spades. The question is whether it's now possible within the university's public space to even make an argument for the only democratic country in the Middle East.

Load-Date: February 4, 2005



The ultimate act of will

Guardian Weekly January 28, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: COMMENT & ANALYSIS; Pg. 13

Length: 928 words

Byline: Tim Lott; The Scent Of Dried Roses, Tim Lott's memoir about his mother, is published by Penguin

Highlight: Tim Lott Suicide is often the choice of physical death over psychological annihilation

Body

The delight of some sections of the press and public at the suicide last week of the doctor and serial killer Harold Shipman left me depressed. I felt that way, not because I am high-minded enough to extract "tragedy" from Shipman's death, but because to express such merriment at the suicide of any human being, evil or good, seems a small triumph for the part of us all that hates life. I wouldn't go as far as John Donne in claiming that "any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind". Yet to clap and dance at the spectacle of people, however wretched, extinguishing themselves, verges on the savage -- and that is what diminishes us.

The public tend to classify self-murder into what you might call "good" and "sad" suicides. The act of suicide is good in inverse proportion to the degree that the person who committed the act is bad. Shipman, being a very bad man, was a "good" suicide. David Kelly, being a good man, was a "sad", that is to say, regrettable, suicide.

Most suicides tend to be thought of as "sad". People evil enough to be thought to deserve it are rare.

Suicide brings into play the deepest religious, cultural and political beliefs and takes on different meanings depending on where you stand. The suicide of a Palestinian terrorist would be a "good" suicide from the standpoint of an Israeli -- if he didn't take out a busload of Jews with him. But if you are in <u>Hamas</u>, the suicide bomber is beyond "good" or "sad". He (or she) is positively noble.

The liberal Western position may be to see the martyr as "sad" -- Britain's foreign minister, Jack Straw, purports to feel a "degree of compassion" for the suicide bombers, as does Cherie Blair.

Our attitudes to suicide are contradictory. Many people choose to think of suicides as "cowardly", whereas practically the only unqualified statement I would venture about suicide is that it is never cowardly. I know, because 15 years ago I stood on top of a tall building and prayed for the courage to throw myself off. I couldn't do it, I was too scared. To survive is the prime biological directive of every human being, however debased. To overcome that takes courage.

The martyrs who flew into the twin towers, Shipman, Fred West -- all in their manner of death were castigated as cowards. But this simply isn't the case, however much our moral urges demand that it be so. Evil, yes. Cowards, no.

More convincing is the conceptualisation of suicide as "selfish". It is selfish, but not in the way that the word is commonly used. It is selfish because it is deeply tied up with how one sees oneself. As the psychologist Dorothy Rowe has pointed out, suicide is a desperate defence of one's identity in the face of encroaching chaos and terror of psychological annihilation. It is to choose physical death over psychological change.

The ultimate act of will

Of course, there are those who kill themselves because they are mad (the fourth category after good, bad and sad) -- schizophrenics, for instance, who might throw themselves out a window believing that they can fly. But the majority know what they are doing. And what they are doing, in most cases, is maintaining a sense of selfhood.

Suicide is an assertion that you will survive as an identity even if you can't survive as a body. For Kelly, perhaps it was a matter of continuing to think of himself as a good man in the face of potential and actual humiliation. For Shipman, it was about protecting fantasies about his blamelessness. For the Palestinian, it is maintaining a sense of selfhood in a place that has robbed individuals of any way of asserting themselves.

Palestinian martyrdom can be seen as a kind of identity crisis. As Professor Mark Harrison of Warwick University comments in his paper, The Logic Of Suicide Terrorism: "I see it as a contract between the young person and the terrorist faction to exchange life for identity. It's hard to construct an identity in a society where nothing works and opportunities are severely restricted." He goes on to claim that young men are prone to adopt the mantle of martyr, while young <u>women</u> have the opportunity to find a sense of meaning in motherhood.

What else is suicide about? It is almost always a matter of control, anger and (connected with anger) revenge. Suicide is the ultimate act of will and, as such, always appeals to those who are overwhelmed by feelings of helplessness. As for anger, it has been said that those who kill themselves are symbolically killing someone else. Shipman and Kelly alike may have been partly "getting their own back" on those whom they perceived as visiting injustice on them. And doubtless revenge and anger would feature highly on the list of any martyr.

The inner world of the suicide is complex, with conflicting, paradoxical and overlapping motives. Disliking complexity, society tries to stuff it into a simple series of pigeonholes. But it is hard to be consistent when using such crude methods. Some who felt Shipman had "cheated justice" and had the "last laugh" by committing suicide, were doubtless baying for his execution at the time of his trial. How can suicide be escape while execution is justice?

Our perception of the suicide almost never fits with the reality, but this will not stop us. Like the suicide, the deepest part of ourselves is angry and afraid, and thus we always consider the assertion of our selves, and the meaning we make of our selves, more important than the facts. That's why suicides aren't all weird, or wicked, or tragic, or cowardly. They are just like us -- only more so.

Graphic

Illustration, no caption

Load-Date: February 12, 2004



Sharon, Abbas fuel peace hopes

The Toronto Star January 11, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 1115 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Embattled Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon answered a breakthrough in Palestinian politics with one of his own last night, winning parliamentary approval for a new coalition to bolster his plan to pull Jewish settlers out of the Gaza Strip.

Sharon's new government effectively steers Israeli politics back to the moderate middle, adding the voices of prodisengagement Labour and its elder statesman, octogenarian peacemaker Shimon Peres, who will assume the controversial new title of vice-premier.

The move came as interim Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas was confirmed as the new Palestinian Authority president, winning the race to succeed Yasser Arafat by a final tally of 62.3 per cent, triple the support of his nearest rival, Mustafa Barghouthi.

Sharon and Abbas exchanged cautious good wishes yesterday, acknowledging the window of opportunity to move beyond an era marked by more than four years of violent intifada.

The Israeli leader said the measure of his new Palestinian counterpart must begin with a crackdown on militants, while Abbas offered an opened-ended overture, telling international election observers: "We are ready to make peace based on justice and we hope that the response will be positive."

U.S. President George W. Bush led a chorus of international welcome, extending a White House invitation to Abbas, in stark contrast to Washington's de facto boycott of his predecessor Arafat.

"It is essential that Israel keep a vision of two states living side by side in peace," Bush said, adding that Abbas must streamline Palestinian security forces to "fight off those few who still have the desire to destroy Israel as a part of their philosophy and those few who fear there to be a free vote amongst the Palestinian people."

In Ottawa, Prime Minister Paul Martin said: "This is a pivotal time in the Middle East. And Canada joins the rest of the international community in urging Palestinians and Israelis to seize this moment and this momentum to work towards a comprehensive and lasting peace."

Martin spoke to Abbas late yesterday afternoon, the Toronto Star's Susan Delacourt reports. An aide to Martin said the call lasted about 15 minutes and served to kick off a relationship that Canada hopes to build upon in the weeks and months ahead.

Sharon, Abbas fuel peace hopes

Martin and Abbas reportedly spoke optimistically about the fact the election - supported by \$1.2 million from Canada for voter registration plus a \$500,000 fund to encourage the participation of <u>women</u> and youth - had been peaceful.

The Prime Minister conveyed Canada's wishes to remain strongly involved in any future peace efforts, explaining to reporters that those efforts would focus on strengthening the Palestinian economy and democratic institutions.

Though they come away from their respective votes newly empowered, both Sharon and Abbas face daunting obstacles as they march forward with political agendas that alienate extremists in their midst.

For Sharon, the challenge remains the violent implications of increasingly strident protests emanating from Israel's messianic settler movement, which bitterly opposes the government's plan to uproot all 21 heavily guarded Jewish enclaves from the Gaza Strip this summer.

The plan also calls for withdrawing from four small settlements in the northern West Bank, where the vast majority of Israel's settlers reside in hilltop communities overlooking Palestinian towns.

As many as 20,000 settlers and their supporters attended a protest vigil last night outside the Israeli Knesset as Sharon's coalition was approved by a slim margin of 58 to 56 with six abstentions in the 120-seat parliament. Among the opponents were 13 rebels from Sharon's own hardline Likud party.

For Abbas, political survival depends on the veteran Palestinian politician's ability to balance the heightened expectations of the international community against a Palestinian militancy that has yet to be tamed.

The militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u>, which together with Islamic Jihad had boycotted the elections, signalled its acceptance of the outcome.

But the fragility of the new political order was immediately apparent in the epicentre of the conflict when Jerusalem security forces imposed a "Red Alert" on the city immediately after Abbas was declared the winner.

Flying checkpoints along the seam separating Jewish West Jerusalem from its Arab east side sent the city into virtual lockdown. But the Israeli roadblocks were lifted late yesterday afternoon, with no details give to explain the sudden panic.

International support, likely beginning with an infusion of American financial aid, has been promised to the fledging Palestinian leadership, in an effort to shore up Abbas, or Abu Mazen, as he is known colloquially.

A small army of more than 800 international election observers - including 20 from Canada - released a series of independent reports yesterday that all spoke favourably of Sunday's exercise in Palestinian democracy.

But each identified a series of troubling irregularities that could have proved disastrous, had Abbas' margin of victory not been so vast.

"The election was contested vigorously and administered fairly," the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) concluded in a nine-page assessment, authored in part by former U.S. president Jimmy Carter.

Carter, a team leader among NDI's 80 observers, was forced to abruptly end his tour of East Jerusalem polling sites early Sunday when it became apparent his celebrity presence was a disruption that clogged the pathway to voting with curious onlookers.

The NDI leaders stayed up through the night collating data before heralding the Palestinian election as "a major accomplishment" in its preliminary statement.

But observers also noted a series of irregularities that must be addressed quickly if Palestinians are to successfully undertake legislative elections planned for July. Much of the criticism centred around the confusion stemming from two voter lists and the potential for fraudulent voting inherent in such a system.

Sharon, Abbas fuel peace hopes

Last month, Palestinian Central Election Committee officials were instructed by the Palestinian Legislative Council to add an out-of-date census registry to its more accurate voter registry as a basis for Sunday's vote. But officials acknowledged yesterday many of the Palestinians whose names appear on the old census have since died or left the territories to live abroad.

As a consequence, Palestinian officials were unable to determine precisely the percentage of voter turnout, a key measure of the strength of the winner's mandate. Some analysts estimated as few as 50 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots, a figure substantially below Palestinian officials' earlier expectations.

Graphic

ODED BALILTY ap Israeli settlers and supporters of the settlement movement pray during a demonstration in front of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, yesterday. As many as 20,000 protesters attended the vigil, part of an ongoing protest against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Gaza evacuation plan. Sharon plans to uproot 21 Jewish enclaves from the Gaza Strip this summer as well as four in the West Bank.

Load-Date: January 11, 2005



Charles has lost his bearings in the desert

The Times (London)
February 10, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; 18 Length: 982 words Byline: Michael Gove

Body

By visiting the Middle East's tyrannies, the Prince lends them legitimacy

Is the heir to the throne French? I know the Prince of Wales looks quintessentially English -double-breasted, silk handkerchiefed and traditionally barbered. But he certainly acts like a Frenchman.

His approach to marriage was nothing if not Gallic. After all, no other phrase quite captures Camilla Parker Bowles's position in our national life as well as the French coinage maitresse en titre. The Prince's views on agriculture are as French as they come. He hates genetically modified crops and fast food with all the passion of a Jose Bove, while idealising the closeness of the feudal paysan to his organic terroir after the fashion of Jean de Florette. The Prince is also a stickler for linguistic correctness. His support for the traditional English of the Prayer Book and Shakespeare is the sort of stand against the modernisation of language which the Academie Francaise loves to make.

It is, however, in his attitude to abroad that the Prince is most fully French.

Like Jacques Chirac, and other French leaders, he seems curiously comfortable in states which are strangers to democracy. Especially if they happen to be Islamic.

So it shouldn't come as that much of a surprise that the Prince of Wales has been visiting Iran and Saudi Arabia this week.

In the recent past Charles has visited the Gulf autocracies of Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. He is particularly keen on Saudi Arabia, having made public visits there on a practically biennial basis, dropping by in February 1997, November 1999 and February 2001. It should be noted that the Prince has never visited the Middle East's only fully functioning democracy, Israel.

Prince Charles's trips to Saudi are only the most visible evidence of his interest in a state where public displays of Christianity are impossible, while <u>women</u> are denied the right to drive, walk alone in public, dress as they wish or follow the profession they choose. He has feted Saudi royals and businessmen, inviting them to dinner at Highgrove and supporting their sponsorship of educational ventures.

One wonders whether the Prince has ever used his close relationship to inquire into Saudi funding of suicide bombing in the Middle East? Or has he questioned Saudi support for extremist madrassas across the Islamic world? Might he even have taken his Saudi friends to task for their countrymen's habit of buying off fundamentalism in their own country by providing it with the funds to wreak havoc elsewhere?

Charles has lost his bearings in the desert

I suspect not. In a speech he gave in 1993, to mark the opening of the Saudi-funded Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, the Prince went out of his way to see only the best in the Islamic world, arguing that it had retained an "integrated, spiritual view of the world in a way we have not seen fit to do in recent generations in the West". He went on to say, "There is much we can learn from that Islamic world view in this respect".

I suppose there is an "integrated, spiritual view of the world" prevailing in Saudi Arabia and other states run on a properly Islamic basis, such as Iran. There certainly was in Afghanistan when the Taleban were in charge. But I don't think we have that much to learn from countries which flog <u>women</u> who socialise in the wrong way, practise routine censorship, deny basic democratic rights and export terrorism.

There is something admirable, of course, in seeking to build understanding across cultures and there is a huge amount that could be done by the West to help the lives of those in Saudi Arabia, Iran and other Islamic states. But we don't help them at all by contrasting our democratic freedoms with their religious tyrannies and suggesting that they are the ones who are more enlightened. The Muslims who really are better off in this world are those who do not live in fear of religious police or fundamentalist oppression, those who breathe free in countries such as our own, Turkey and the newly liberated Iraq. If the Prince really wanted to do more to help Muslims then he could have used his trip to Iran to ask some pertinent questions.

He could have drawn attention to the absence of a free press, free elections and free speech. He could have asked why the tragic people of Bam were condemned to live in jerry-built housing in an oil-rich country that uses its resources to fund terror abroad and build nuclear weapons rather than provide the level of decent support which, say, Turkey extends to its citizens. He could also have inquired why in the week that he is visiting Iran, its mullahs are also playing host to a terrorist summit with representatives from <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and the al-Qaeda affiliate Ansar-al-Islam.

The Prince should have known, before he made his trip to Iran, that his visit would be seen as a blessed conferral of legitimacy on a tightly controlled religious tyranny. Many in the West have been guilty of wishful thinking towards Iran, believing that President Khatami is a moderate, even a democrat, leading a "reformist" faction.

The truth, sadly, is very different. Khatami was certainly elected, in 1997. But only after the mullahs of Iran's Guardian Council had decided that he, and three other stooges, were pliant enough to be trusted with office; 234 other candidates were denied the chance to run because they were insufficiently Islamic. In office, Khatami has supported the brutal crushing of student pro-democracy demonstrations and done nothing to prevent the imprisonment of dissidents or the exporting of terrorism.

The Prince of Wales has been brave in standing up for human rights in the past, not least by snubbing the Chinese premier Jiang Zemin in solidarity with the oppressed people of Tibet. What a pity that the Prince's traditional English love of liberty seems to vanish in the desert air.

michael.gove@thetimes.co.uk

Load-Date: February 10, 2004



What will Ahmad do? Peaceful soap opera gripped Palestinians

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

January 7, 2004, Wednesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 01

Length: 982 words

Byline: By Nicole Gaouette Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Ahmad is fighting the tidal pull of violence, but the Palestinian high school student is slipping.

He skips classes, breaks up with his girlfriend, and nurses the angry belief that the only way to end Israel's presence in the Palestinian territories is to fight.

At the cafe where Ahmad works part-time, the regulars fret about him, especially after he fails his exams. Will Ahmad resist the conflict's call? Or is there another way?

For 13 weeks last summer, thousands of young Palestinians hung on these questions, scrolling through radio static twice a week to find stations playing "Home Is Our Home," the soap opera about Ahmad and his friends and family.

The first of its kind here, the radio soap is meant to promote nonviolent resolution to conflict. Similar programs in Africa have helped ease ethnic tension and given communities a new vocabulary of coexistence.

With the widely acclaimed success of "Home Is Our Home," the program's creators are launching a second soap in an effort to help Palestinians find creative resolutions to conflict with Israel and among themselves.

"We want to try to engage everyone in this dreadful situation, where people need to find nonviolent means to end it," says Lucy Nusseibeh, director of the Middle East Non-Violence and Democracy (MEND), the group behind the soap opera. "Any way we can do this is worth doing."

Based in Jerusalem, MEND trains political leaders and community activists in peaceful alternatives, and had been searching for a way to deliver that message to a broader audience.

When the idea of a soap opera came up in late 2001, the Washington-based group Search for Common Ground (SFCG) stepped forward.

SFCG runs conflict-resolution programs in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. The creator of seven radio dramas in other conflict-torn areas, SFCG knows firsthand the subtle healing power of storytelling.

In Burundi, some 85 percent of the population tunes in to "Our Neighbors, Ourselves," the group's radio soap about Hutu and Tutsi families living side by side.

What will Ahmad do? Peaceful soap opera gripped Palestinians

One independent evaluation credited the show, on air since 1997, with having a fundamental impact on people's attitudes. The soap has "had a positive effect on ethnic relations," the Washington-based Management Systems International wrote in a September 2000 assessment for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which funded the program.

The program also opened up taboo subjects. "The soap has given people a language with which to discuss things like genocide and the role of politicians, conflict, and ethnicity," says Francis Rolt, the director of Common Ground Radio and an adviser to the Palestinian project.

He adds that some Burundian characters have become archetypes.

"In conversation, people will say 'Oh, you're behaving just like Pierre!" says Mr. Rolt.

Targeting a young audience

The Palestinian creators of "Home Is Our Home" aspire to the same iconic status for their show, written for 15- to 25-year-olds.

"The general message is to promote active nonviolence as an alternative resistance and as a philosophy," says MEND project coordinator Fadi Rabieh. "It's about respect, individual responsibility, self-confidence, and educating people that nonviolence is the way to build a civil, democratic society. If people keep resisting in a violent way, that will be the same tool they use to solve conflict within their state."

In more than three years of conflict with Israel, it has been hard for Palestinians to publicly oppose the violent strategies of groups like <u>Hamas</u> and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, which has ties to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. As the violence continued, any inclination to dissent declined.

This worried Fuad Najab, the head of Sky Advertising Co. in Ramallah, who promoted the series.

"We had many concerns about talking about nonviolence in a situation where everybody wakes up in the morning to news of houses being destroyed and people killed by Israeli incursions," he says. "Radio stations expressed concern that they would be criticized for airing ... a USAID-funded soap opera. They connect the US with its presence in Iraq and the positions it is taking, not exactly against the Palestinian people but with [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon."

Najab says it's time to show young Palestinians that "you can join hands with your family, your neighborhood, your buddies, and express yourself nonviolently."

Even so, he says, "we expected resistance."

It's not about taking sides

The key to disarming this opposition, says Holt, lies in the writing. "You don't tackle issues head-on," he says. "You do it in a parallel way so that listeners identify with ideas, not a side, and recognize themselves in a middle ground."

Holt says sympathetic, realistically drawn characters who undergo an evolution pull listeners along with them.

In "Home Is our Home," Ahmad hits rock bottom when he fails at school, and his future and relationship are in shambles.

A male friend is headed for jail; a *female* friend, shamed by divorce, has attempted suicide. The soap follows their trajectories.

"Home Is Our Home" began airing in June on nine stations across the West Bank and Gaza in 15-minute installments. Najab estimates the show reached 60 percent of its target audience.

Give us more

What will Ahmad do? Peaceful soap opera gripped Palestinians

The response was immediate: Listeners wanted more episodes, more often, for more time.

"We got a huge amount of calls asking when it would air," says Kifah Awad from Ramallah's Amwaj Radio. "It appealed because the material and the accents reminded us of our own lives."

MEND Project Coordinator Rabieh has high hopes for the second soap.

"It will make a difference," he says. "Maybe not right away, but people became really attached to the [first] series. It raised important questions about how we resist occupation, how we treat <u>women</u> in our society, how we treat each other."

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Load-Date: January 6, 2004



American freedoms are based on humanistic principles

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

November 29, 2004 Monday 0 South Pinellas Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 10A; LETTER

Length: 1083 words

Series: YOUR LETTERS

Body

Re: Values vote argument reveals bias, Nov. 24.

John Leo's column makes a valid point that individual values have been fought for and voted on in the past, particularly civil rights for African-Americans, <u>women</u>, disabled people and others.

But he is wrong in his history when he credits equality and many of our other American freedoms as due to "Christian principles."

These concepts were not mentioned or fostered in the Bible. Nor were they cultivated or promoted by most forms of Christianity through the ages. In fact, most Christian groups resisted them on the basis of their "Christian principles."

They largely came about through the humanistic principles developed during the Enlightenment which, in turn, led to the founding of a new secular nation that promoted freedom of religion (and nonreligion) for all its citizens, including a constraint against imposing the rites and practices of any one religion upon all the citizens unless a general agreement is established in the citizenry that any certain precept is seen to be an ethic that benefits our society and does not restrict the rights of minority citizens.

Although some Christians and churches have participated in our various civil rights movements, in abolition efforts and in antiwar protests, that does not make those "principles" Christian. Many atheists, secularists, humanists and members of other religious faiths also participated in these efforts to ensure that America remains a principled, free country. I don't think Leo would be comfortable in saying that these principles belong to any one of these other groups that participated in their development - groups that, in fact, often led the way.

Nan Owens, Seffner

Remember reason for border delays

Re: Gaza-to-Israel crossing: bring a book, Nov. 23.

Susan Taylor Martin's description of Palestinians crossing into Israel would seem to evoke pity. We hear about Sami, the engineer, the amorous European couple, families with small kids, all of whom must endure border crossings, hours of waiting, and what surely sounds like a dehumanizing entrance to the Israeli side, as checks are

American freedoms are based on humanistic principles

made for explosives. Only one sentence provided any context for the delays: "after several people died in suicide attacks . . . "

Let's provide some context. Let's ask the family of newlywed Avi Yazdi, 25, one of six killed at a Bat Mitzvah. He was only married four months, and I bet he and his wife must have looked just like that amorous European couple. But no more. Let's ask the father of Yael Ohana, 11-years-old, shot and killed by a terrorist in her home. We can't ask her mother, since she's dead too. My guess is they looked just like some of those families with kids.

Of course, the list goes on and on, about a thousand Israeli civilians killed by terrorists. The Gaza Strip, of course, is a stronghold of terrorist activity, with much of its population imbued with a mission to destroy Israel. It is a population that allows and celebrates its children being sent, strapped to bombs, to blow apart the bodies of as many Israelis as possible.

Perhaps one day, when we start seeing photos of Palestinians wailing on hearing the news of the death of a teenage suicide bomber (as some mothers surely must wail in sorrow), and stop seeing celebrations, when we stop seeing the hijacking of legitimate Palestinian aspirations by <u>Hamas</u> or Islamic Jihad, and when we start hearing loudly from those Palestinians hungering for peace in their homes and a peaceful coexistence with all their neighbors, then, perhaps, Susan Taylor Martin won't have to bring a book when she crosses the border.

Sheldon Scheinert, Largo

A commendable contribution

Re: Lessons of Kabul, Nov. 25.

Bravo, St. Petersburg Times, for the well done profile of Bill Falzone's service in Afghanistan. I have read the paper regularly since moving to the area 18 months ago and have grumbled and ranted as the paper repeatedly profiled "down and outers" across our community.

I hope this is a beginning of a pattern of acknowledging many in our community. It takes determination and great sacrifice by individuals and their families to make mature decisions that better our community and world. Bill and his family stand as an example of what people of character can contribute and accomplish.

Thank you, Bill and your family, for your support in developing a free and democratic Afghanistan. As we support our brave civilian and military personnel with our thoughts and prayers, each of us should consider how we, too, can contribute.

Anne Kordish, Clearwater

Caution is called for

Re: Girl, 5, killed in hit-run crash near beach, Nov. 24.

Until that perfect day when no one speeds on Gulf Boulevard (as well as on our residential streets), and no one is out there driving when it is time to give up their driver's license, people need to remember to take the time to walk the extra few feet and cross the street at the cross walks.

What a terrible tragedy to happen. The Daddio family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Erin Thompson, St. Pete Beach

Gulf Boulevard isn't tourist friendly

American freedoms are based on humanistic principles

Three days before the tragic accident that recently occurred on Gulf Boulevard in St. Pete Beach, I was considering contacting someone about the speeding and careless driving on Gulf Boulevard. I knew it was inevitable that a fatal accident would occur. I often walk to the beach and am shocked at the speed at which people drive.

A half hour before the accident, I saw a couple of tourists crossing Gulf Boulevard and felt sorry that tourists had to put up with our traffic. It's too bad Gulf Boulevard isn't more tourist friendly. Speed limit signs are not very noticeable and crosswalks are few and far between. If something isn't done after this accident, I have no doubt another one will occur soon.

Suzanne Armstrong, St. Pete Beach

A meatless Thanksgiving

Re: Protecting poultry, editorial, Nov. 24.

Our family was so happy to see your editorial about the horrible treatment of birds raised for food. Our Thanksgiving is so much more pleasant since we stopped supporting this industry.

There are so many choices in food that do not include animal products. Most people would be absolutely amazed. I made a vegetarian meatloaf with sauteed mushrooms, onions, celery, walnuts, tofu, bread crumbs and herbs. I served it with mashed potatoes, roasted rosemary sweet potatoes, mushroom gravy, salad and dinner rolls.

The best part is that no one needs to take a nap after! Thank you for bringing this issue to light.

Linda Bower, Miami Springs

Load-Date: November 29, 2004



<u>Take Elmasry 'to task' over comments: Muslim panellist urges Islamic leader</u> to explain controversial statements

Ottawa Citizen October 26, 2004 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Length: 1013 words

Byline: Joanne Laucius and Joe Paraskevas, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

Jewish and Muslim panellists who appeared on TV with Canadian Islamic Congress president Mohamed Elmasry say they don't buy his explanation of the controversial remarks he made on the show.

Mr. Elmasry, a member of a four-person panel on the Michael Coren Show, said last Tuesday that all Israelis over 18 are valid targets of terrorism. Late Saturday, the Canadian Islamic Congress issued a statement saying Mr. Elmasry was "misunderstood" and the position was a "widely-held Palestinian view" and not the position of the Islamic Congress.

Yesterday, two of the three other guests on the show said they were shocked by Mr. Elmasry's comments and expected him to clarify them immediately -- something he never did, despite several openings.

"On something like this, you can't keep silence," Toronto Muslim lawyer Irfan Syed said yesterday. "Even if you love the man, you have to take him to task on his words."

The public affairs panel typically includes four guests, with Mr. Coren as moderator. This episode, which is to be rebroadcast tomorrow at 6 p.m. on the Crossroads Television System, centred around the definition of a terrorist.

Mr. Elmasry, a professor of computer engineering at the University of Waterloo, said all Israeli civilians are targets for Palestinian suicide bombers because all Israelis over 18 are called to serve in the military.

"Anyone over the age of 18 in Israel is a valid target?" asked Mr. Coren.

"Anybody above 18 is a part of the Israeli popular army," Mr. Elmasry responded.

"Everyone and anyone in Israel, irrespective of gender, over the age of 18 is a valid target?" Mr. Coren pursued.

"Yes, I would say," Mr. Elmasry responded.

"We were all caught by surprise," said Mr. Syed, who added the statement is not in the character of Mr. Elmasry or his organization.

After the commercial break, Mr. Syed distanced himself from Mr. Elmasry's remarks.

Take Elmasry 'to task' over comments: Muslim panellist urges Islamic leader to explain controversial statements

"All of us on the panel were surprised. It didn't make sense," he said yesterday.

However, when asked if Mr. Elmasry should resign, Mr. Syed said it is up to the constituency of the Canadian Islamic Congress. He is not a member of the group. "A broader issue is who speaks for the Islamic community?" he said.

Co-panellist Adam Aptowitzer, Ontario chairman for the Institute of International Affairs at B'nai Brith, said he is sure Mr. Elmasry was not arguing someone else's views.

"These are obviously his beliefs," he said. "He is representing his own views."

Off-camera, Mr. Elmasry continued to argue for the position. He did not once discredit that position, even when Mr. Syed gave him an opening, said Mr. Aptowitzer. "This Elmasry guy considers any Jew to be a valid target," he said. "Bottom line, I was appalled."

Mr. Aptowitzer said not only should Mr. Elmasry resign, he should also be investigated for advocating terrorism. There are former members of the Israeli military living in Canada.

But Mr. Syed said while the comments were anti-Israeli, at no time did Mr. Elmasry say anything about Judaism or Jews.

Amidst calls for his resignation, Mr. Elmasry did not return phone calls yesterday.

Conservative foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day called for his immediate removal.

"Everybody has known that groups like <u>Hamas</u> and other assassins have always proudly proclaimed the right to slaughter the innocent," Mr. Day said, referring to the Palestinian group, which regularly claims responsibility for suicide bombings in Israel.

"Now, with Elmasry's statement, it's confirming the fears many Canadians have that Muslims in general accept the view that slaughtering the innocent is acceptable," he said.

"I don't believe that most Muslims do accept that view ... but unless this guy is unceremoniously punted out of his position and unless there are very strong and clear statements refuting what he says, then that fear that many Canadians have will unfortunately grow."

Other members of Parliament hope Mr. Elmasry will explain himself.

"It would be incumbent on Mr. Elmasry and the association which he represents to clarify the record, that they do not in any way, shape or form, condone any type of violence towards any group of any type," said Dan McTeague, parliamentary secretary to Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew.

The National Council on Canada-Arab Relations executive director Mazen Chouaib said the comment was unacceptable and so was the later clarification from the Canadian Islamic Congress.

"The comments do not reflect those of the Canadian-Arab community that is dedicated to peace, justice and the rule of law. The ensuing comments that implicated Palestinians as subscribing to this view are most disturbing. Canadians of Palestinian origin oppose such views, as do most Arab-Canadians."

Verbatim

An excerpt of the televised exchange between Mohamed Elmasry and Michael Coren.

Coren: I can't remember one case where the French resistance ... or even the Allies, communists or Gaullists or nationalists would go into a school where German children were and kill them all.....

Take Elmasry 'to task' over comments: Muslim panellist urges Islamic leader to explain controversial statements

Elmasry: We're saying totally innocent people.

Coren: OK

Elmasry: And totally innocent people obviously are the children. But they are not innocent if they are part of a population, which is ... total population of Israel is part of the army.

Coren: OK (other voices)

Elmasry: Age 18 on they are part of the army, even if they have civilian clothes.

Coren: If Israeli children are killed that is a valid use of military force by Palestinians?

Elmasry: No, they are not valid.

Coren: What are you saying?

Elmasry: I'm saying that it has to be totally innocent. Totally innocent are the children, obviously. OK? But they are not innocent if they are military in civilian clothes. OK?

Coren: What civilians?

Elmasry: The same if they are **women** in the army.

Coren: Anyone over the age of 18 in Israel is a valid target?

Elmasry: Anybody above 18 is a part of the Israeli popular army.

Coren: Everyone in Israel and everyone and anyone in Israel, irrespective of gender, over the age of 18 is a valid

target?

Elmasry: Yes. I would say.

Coren: We will break at that point. Commercial, then back to the Michael Coren Show.

Load-Date: October 26, 2004



Life without Arafat

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

November 8, 2004 Monday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A13

Length: 1077 words **Byline:** National Post

Body

No people on Earth have been worse served by their purported champions than the Palestinians. When Israel was born in 1948, a sovereign Palestinian nation might have been established alongside it in the West Bank and Gaza. But Arab rulers occupied those lands instead. The refugees were herded into camps, where their offspring still fester. No effort was made to resettle these migrants: They've proven far too useful as imprisoned monuments to alleged Israeli cruelty.

Then came the Six Day war of 1967. Israel's seizure of the West Bank and Gaza created a new wave of refugees, and the pattern was repeated. This second Israeli victory convinced Palestinians that they could not depend on Arab leaders to defeat the Jewish state. Yasser Arafat sold the idea that Israel might instead be defeated through a homegrown campaign of terrorism. Two generations of Palestinians had already been taught to view Israel as a temporary cancer that would soon be exterminated. Arafat, an inveterate murderer with a carefully cultivated revolutionary image, presented himself as a man who could accomplish the task.

The Palestinian leader's genius -- and it is no exaggeration to call it that -- lay in his ability to charm Arabs and Western leftists alike. He was a man of two intellectuals worlds. From his Egyptian family, he learned the language of Islam and jihad, as well as the poisonous anti-Semitism that would eventually dominate the region's attitudes. But he was also a creature of the anti-colonialist era, and he knew how to package his people's cause in a way that would resonate among First World intellectuals. Israel is the Middle East's only democracy, and the only nation in the region that respects the rights of <u>women</u> and minorities in a way a Westerner would recognize. That such a nation would come to be casually equated with Nazi Germany on protester's placards and in the opinion columns of European newspapers is perhaps the ultimate testament to Arafat's special gift.

But propaganda victories were all Arafat could deliver. In the arena that mattered -- the political and military map of the Middle East -- he hurtled from catastrophe to catastrophe. In 1970, the PLO was expelled from Jordan; in 1982, from Lebanon. In 1990, he became a pariah in the Arab world after openly backing Saddam Hussein.

Arafat was able to regain his stature only by Israel's grace. The Oslo peace process yielded a state-in-embryo to the Palestinians, but at a cost: He was forced to renounce his pledge to wipe Israel from the map, and to nominally confine his ambitions to the West Bank and Gaza. This meant he could no longer play the role of revolutionary. The man who had once inspired legions of Western college students to don kafiyehs was now the administrator of a small, impoverished land one-20th the size of neighbouring Jordan.

Life without Arafat

It was a role Arafat was existentially unqualified to play. In flagrant contravention of the Oslo Accords, he used his schools and mosques to incite a systematic campaign of hatred against Jews the likes of which had not been seen since the age of Hitler. The promise of democracy evaporated: Arafat became a corrupt Arab dictator like all the others who had sold the Palestinians out, buying off local warlords with aid money that came pouring in from abroad.

When Ehud Barak and Bill Clinton offered Arafat his own country at Camp David in 2000, he panicked. Falling back on a terrorist's instincts, he called for a "million martyrs" to free Jerusalem, and abetted a nihilistic campaign of suicide bombings.

Arafat's sense of world opinion, which had served him so well in his career to date, abandoned him. Western intellectuals might tolerate -- even glorify -- civilian-directed violence in the name of "national liberation." But there are limits, and sending brainwashed teenagers to explode themselves among children eating pizza slices and riding the bus to school lie well beyond them. When it became clear that Arafat would not stop the terror, Ariel Sharon declared him "irrelevant" as a peace partner. Behind closed doors, even the Europeans agreed with the assessment. Thus did the erstwhile revolutionary live out his last years as a globally despised icon of squandered Palestinian hope.

Arafat's death, which reports suggest will come any day, would be the greatest boon to Middle East peace hopes since Anwar Sadat's courageous overtures of the 1970s. His subjects are hardly blind to the ruin his policies have caused. But emotionally felt loyalties die hard. And it has long been clear that Palestinians will not transfer their allegiances to more civilized men until the Reaper himself supplies his imprimatur.

This death watch comes at a crucial juncture. Israel will soon begin moving its troops and settlers out of the Gaza Strip, leaving a power vacuum that Palestinians themselves must fill. Gazans will effectively be handed statehood by default, and what they do with it will go a long way toward showing the world what a Palestinian state in the much larger West Bank would look like. For decades, the Palestinians -- indeed, the entire Arab world -- have laid their problems at the feet of the Zionist bogeyman. In Gaza, at least, that will no longer be possible.

Until recently, conventional wisdom had it that Gaza would erupt in internecine violence once Israel withdrew -- with <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad, PA security forces and Fatah's assorted offshoots all vying for control. Civil war may still lie in the Palestinians' future. But with Arafat out of the picture, another scenario presents itself.

In recent years, an assortment of Palestinian pragmatists have bristled under Arafat's autocratic rule -- including Mahmoud Abbas, Mohammed Dahlan and Ahmed Qurei. One of these men might now ascend to the Palestinian leadership and become the peace partner Arafat was not. This, in turn, would raise the possibility that Israel might withdraw from the disputed territories on negotiated terms, and under circumstances permitting a reformed Palestinian Authority to keep the peace and build something resembling a nation.

Arafat's death will no doubt provoke dramatic outpourings of grief among ordinary Palestinians. But historians of the Middle East will likely take a very different view. After decades of murder and manipulation, the people of the West Bank and Gaza have finally been rid of the one man who's done more than anyone else on Earth to thwart the dream of a sovereign Palestinian homeland.

Load-Date: November 8, 2004



GOP EXPLOITATION OF 9/11 WAS DISRESPECTFUL, DISGUSTING

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 4, 2004 Saturday

REGION EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL, Length: 1086 words

Body

As I sit writing this, I shake with rage. I quiver with disgust. After watching Monday night's coverage of the Republican National Convention, I cannot imagine ever being this angry again. Yes, I expected distortion of facts, misrepresentation of Democratic points of view and the accounts of all of the "wonderful" things this current administration has "accomplished" since it snuck into the White House four years ago.

What I was not prepared for was the shameless manner in which the events of Sept. 11 and the universal sympathy they generated were exploited to serve the interests of the Republican Party ("Bush Hailed for Resolve on 9/11," Aug. 31). I thought that maybe the party was ready to stop using the corpses of the victims as props and let them rest with the peace and respect they rightly deserve. I thought that maybe, just maybe, the memory of the immense and tragic blow suffered by all American people on that day belonged to all the American people. I guess I was wrong.

Monday's gratuitously emotional rape of that memory has lowered my already sea-level expectations regarding the lengths to which the Republicans will go to win. Watergate pales in comparison to the perverse, craven manipulations I witnessed Monday night. It was the work of an absolutely power-crazy group of individuals masquerading as compassionate human beings, and it makes me physically ill to imagine that it may just work. May God have mercy on their souls, if they have them.

BRANDON McCARTHY

Franklin Park

Iraq opportunities

In their introduction of their mother at the Republican National Convention Tuesday night, Bush daughters Barbara and Jenna mentioned that now that they had graduated from college, they were "looking around for something to do for the next few years." I'm certain my 22-year-old niece (a naval officer serving in Iraq) could recommend plenty of opportunities for young college grads -- in the Gulf. Perhaps driving a Humvee in Najaf? Or maybe directing air traffic out of Baghdad?

Barb and Jenna would look just as fetching in fatigues and body armor (their parents could surely afford to buy them their own) as they do in their designer gowns. How about it, girls? Sign right up.

LISA RULONG

GOP EXPLOITATION OF 9/11 WAS DISRESPECTFUL, DISGUSTING

Bethel Park

Bravo, Ms. Dowd

I have to take exception to your editorial downplaying of Maureen Dowd's "Bushworld" ("Publishing World: Maureen Dowd Offers Reheated Morsels," Aug. 16). You stated that you expected a better book. Better than what?

"Bushworld" is a selection of Dowd's columns from 2001 to the present and represents a collection of indictments of the Bush administration that no other journalist -- with the possible exception of Paul Krugman and Lewis H. Lapham -- can match. It is to the credit of the Post-Gazette that it carried her columns over this period. Now to have in a single volume the complete record of her singular literary style and courageous intelligence is something to celebrate, not demean.

The aforementioned Mr. Krugman and Hendrik Hertzberg have published their collected columns over this same period to high praise, and there is no reason why Maureen Dowd should not be accorded the same -- if not even more -- credit. How many other journalists -- male or <u>female</u> -- have been as undeceived and outspoken as she about the casualty-producing, debt-creating, hardship-spawning policies of the Cheney-Bush junta since its selection in 2000? To my knowledge, none.

SAMUEL HAZO

Upper St. Clair

What we want

Enough of this "war hero" stuff. That was 30 years ago. What I want (and I bet everybody else does, too) is my life back the way it was on Sept. 10, 2001.

How does being or not being a war hero serve that purpose?

ARLINGTON G. KUKLINCA

Warren, Ohio

The impact of help

I am in complete agreement with the Aug. 14 letter by Steve Patterson ("America, Start Being Modest and Spread Compassion)."

If Mr. Patterson wants to see the points of his letter in action, he can spend one week "dodging cars" with me on Washington Boulevard (near the Highland Park Bridge). There he will see drivers who feel that "the road exists for me alone."

Between once a week and once a month, I find myself cast in the Good Samaritan role (such as helping to push vehicles off the street), deeds that are ignored or cursed at by other drivers.

I challenge any church leader to peddle flowers with me for a week and see what it is like to view the world as I do. However, I must differ from Mr. Patterson's statement that "Pittsburgh has no money." I routinely see many expensive cars and individuals who smoke cigarettes like chimneys.

In a speech early in 2002, President Bush spoke of fighting terrorism by aiding those in need. Americans, especially Republicans and evangelical Christians, are grossly neglectful.

Every historian who has ever written about the early Christian church has written that the Christians of the first two centuries outlasted multiple extermination attempts by providing a "social safety net." Al-Qaida, <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah draw their pools of kamikazes by providing for the needy, not being "social Darwinists" as is the dominant

GOP EXPLOITATION OF 9/11 WAS DISRESPECTFUL, DISGUSTING

trait among American Christians. Any church in southwestern Pennsylvania that would provide "living wage" jobs and affordable health/dental insurance would, within five years, outdraw the Steelers.

DAVID ISH

Sheraden

Making us better

Regarding the Aug. 28 letter from Frank Skraly ("Just Stoking Fears"). He asked sarcastically if we were voting for a president or a pope. I believe most people who believe in God or at least a higher being want a president who understands how important it is to have these faith-based organizations. These types of organizations do so much for the community and also help in times of need.

I do not think President Bush meant to offend anyone who does not believe the same way. The majority of America is "religious" in some way, shape or form, and I believe we could all use a little soul enlightening by a higher power, especially in these troubled times. I pray for my country every day, and I pray that my leaders will make right choices for the sake of me and my family.

It is your decision to believe in what you want, but you're not losing anything by having faith. When this country was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, there was an outpouring of love and humanity in this country; "whatever" that may have been from doesn't matter. What truly matters is, if believing in something makes people "better" people, then I'm all for it and you should be, too.

DANIELLE TORREP

North Side

Load-Date: September 4, 2004



Logic has got lost in Iraq

The Times (London)
September 30, 2004, Thursday

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Section: Features; 17
Length: 1041 words

Byline: Anatole Kaletsky

Body

The Prime Minister is dangerously unable to make reasoned judgments about the War on Terror

POLITICIANS, like people in general, should normally be judged by their actions not words. But after a chain of events has been set irrevocably in motion, when it is too late for actions to change history's course, there are times when words can speak louder than deeds. Tony Blair's address to the Labour Party conference was such a moment.

As I listened to Mr Blair in Brighton on Tuesday, I suddenly -and totally unexpectedly -felt a twinge of the same physical panic which engulfed us all on that horrible Tuesday three years ago. As the Prime Minister's speech veered from a perfectly lucid account of domestic policies in Britain into a tangled and incoherent apologia for the disaster in Iraq, it suddenly struck me that Britain was led by a man who had lost his reason. This sounds exaggerated, so let me be precise.

To judge by the three pages on Iraq in his speech to the party conference, Mr Blair has "lost his reason" in two very literal ways: He has lost his ability to make reasoned judgments about the War on Terror. And he has therefore lost the primary raison d'etre of any prime minister, which is to protect Britain and British interests in a dangerous and complex world.

I recognise that this is a terrible accusation to level against any politician - and that none of the other commentators in Brighton seemed to react in the same way as I did. I will therefore quote at length from Mr Blair's speech, so that readers can judge for themselves whether I am the one whose reason has disappeared.

But first, let me explain why I attach such significance to a single speech. What Mr Blair said about Iraq in Brighton was not just some thoughtless off-the cuff comment. This was the most self-conscious passage in the most heartfelt speech he has delivered -the outcome of weeks, maybe months, of introspection, analysis and mental struggle. By all accounts, it was written by the Prime Minister himself, not by a spin doctor or PR hack. This was, in short, the distillation of all Mr Blair's wisdom on the most important question of his political life. So if I am right in judging this passage confused to the point of unreason, serious questions must be raised about his capacity to stay in his job.

Here is Mr Blair's main justification for invading Iraq, offered with more than a hint of intellectual pride:

"There are two views of what is happening in the world today. One view is that there are isolated extremists engaged in essentially isolated acts of terrorism.

Logic has got lost in Iraq

That what is happening is not qualitatively different from the terrorism we have always lived with. If you believe this, we carry on the same path as before September 11. We try not to provoke them and hope in time they will wither.

"The other view is that this is a wholly new phenomenon, worldwide terrorism based on a perversion of the true, peaceful and honourable faith of Islam; that its roots are in the madrassas of Pakistan, the extreme forms of the Wahhabi doctrine in Saudi Arabia, in the former training camps of al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. If you take this view, the only path to take is to confront this terrorism, remove it root and branch and at all costs stop it acquiring the weapons to kill on a massive scale."

What is wrong with this analysis? Only that the logical implications of Mr Blair's dichotomy are exactly the opposite from the ones that he draws. If the "new" terrorists are isolated gangs of madmen with no defined objectives, then the fear of "provoking" them is irrelevant, since nihilists cannot, by definition, be provoked. Such nihilists, far from being "traditional" terrorists, as the Prime Minister suggested, are the opposite of traditional groups such as the IRA, Basque militants, Hezbollah or *Hamas*, all of which have clearly defined objectives. The right course to follow against the first type of terrorists is what Mr Blair recommends for the second type: destroying them with overwhelming force. This, indeed, was the argument presented for the invasion of Afghanistan.

If, on the other hand, the "new" terrorism is really a malignant offshoot of the Wahhabi religious movement -then it is similar to traditional Irish and Palestinian terrorism, albeit more vicious and destructive. In that case, needless provocation should be avoided and the response must be political as well as by force. Moreover, if fundamentalism is at the root of the problem, why attack Iraq, a secular country where Wahhabis were almost unknown? Far from justifying the Iraq invasion, Mr Blair's logic points towards regime change in Saudi Arabia or armed action to seize nuclear weapons in Pakistan.

The confusion gets even worse. Mr Blair points out that some of the terrorists now in Iraq are the same religious fanatics who oppressed the **women** of Afghanistan.

But how does this justify the overthrow of the largely secular Saddam regime, which has sucked these maniacs into Iraq, while leaving much of Afghanistan to be reoccupied by the Taleban? Mr Blair's answer would be funny if it were not so scary.

"But Iraq was not a safe country before March 2003," he states. Then, to prove this contention and somehow link it with the invasion he makes his final leap of illogic: "Few had heard of the Taleban before September 11. Afghanistan was not a nation at peace...but the terrorists trained in the Hindu Kush could end up in British streets threatening our way of life."

In sum, Mr Blair, seems to have convinced himself that Iraq and Afghanistan are effectively one country and that al-Qaeda, the Taleban and Saddam Hussein are all the same. Britain's chattering classes haughtily patronise the 60 per cent of American voters who apparently believe that Saddam was behind 9/11. Yet in Britain we now have a Prime Minister whose whole Middle Eastern strategy rests on this same fiction, and whose analysis of global terrorism is so illogical that it makes President Bush sound like Socrates.

Mr Blair was once an intelligent and convincing leader. But Iraq has caused his brain to short-circuit, much as John Major's did after the exchange-rate debacle.

A prime minister who has lost his power to reason is too dangerous to keep in the job.

Load-Date: September 30, 2004



Hostages in Iraq: For Europe, it's personal

The International Herald Tribune September 30, 2004 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1 Length: 1100 words

Byline: Katrin Bennhold

Dateline: PARIS:

Body

Paola Di Franco of Rome was speaking for much of Italy on Wednesday when she said that she felt intense joy and relief on learning of the release of the two Italian hostages affectionately known as the "two Simonas."

Indeed, like many Europeans, Di Franco has been caught up in the wave of emotion that has swept the Continent caused by the deliberate targeting of civilians in Iraq, the graphic brutality of the captors and 24-hour media coverage.

Across Europe, the fate of the hostages has become a personal matter.

"Something like this is atrocious, you don't know what they're doing to them, you worry that they're being raped, or beaten," said Di Franco, 63, who has two daughters in their 30s. "I kept thinking about the fear they must have felt." International Herald Tribune

As Italians celebrated the release of the two aid workers on Tuesday night, anxiety in Britain and France mounted about the fate of an engineer and two journalists held captive in Iraq.

The British news media firmly focused their attention Wednesday on the situation of Kenneth Bigley, who has been held hostage in Iraq for two weeks, after the Arabic news network Al Jazeera released footage showing a sobbing Bigley dressed in an orange jumpsuit and kneeling in a prison cell.

As he did in an earlier videotape released last week, Bigley pleaded with Prime Minister Tony Blair to engage with his captors to help save his life. Two American engineers, who were kidnapped with Bigley on Sept. 16, were beheaded last week, with gruesome footage of their executions circulating on the Internet.

Meanwhile, in France, the fate of a Radio France correspondent, Christian Chesnot, and Georges Malbrunot, of the daily Le Figaro, remained uncertain Wednesday. Unconfirmed assertions by a French national in Iraq, Philippe Brett, claiming their liberation had been agreed on with the hostage-takers, raised hopes for the release of the two men. But after being criticized for misplaced optimism in announcing that the journalists' release was imminent in late August, officials shied away from positive assessments. A government spokesman, Jean-Francois Cope, referred to Brett's claims as "rumors."

Like the two Simonas in Italy and Bigley in Britain, Chesnot and Malbrunot have been in the spotlight across France. Le Figaro has carried their photograph on the front page daily since their kidnapping on Aug. 20.

Hostages in Iraq: For Europe, it's personal

But if in Britain and Italy the governments supported the American-led war in Iraq against a majority of the population, in France people are indignant for being targets in a war they and their government vocally opposed.

Virginie Cathelin, a 24-year-old restaurant worker in a western suburb of Paris, said it shocked and frightened her that Iraqi insurgents should pick out French journalists.

"The worst is that they weren't there to fight a war or to take sides, in fact they were against the war," Cathelin said.
"I imagine what it must be like for their wives and their children -- I think about it every day.

It frightens me, because it seems these people can go after anyone, anywhere."

One reason for the overwhelming emotional response in all three countries, with thousands demonstrating in support of the victims in Paris and Rome in recent weeks, is the unprecedented brutality of the hostage takers and their power to spread life coverage of their atrocities around the world.

Harriet Grace, a London-based job counselor and writer, said more than anything else, it was the anachronistic barbarism of watching civilians deliberately slaughtered on camera that had made a whole nation identify with one man and his family.

"Everyone is aware of the likelihood that we will see this man's head cut off with a knife," said Grace, 59. "It forces you to imagine yourself or one of your family in that situation. You think of the Middle Ages when you see this, you think: We're not in an age like this."

Bigley's video appearances, repeated public appeals by his family and the killing of his colleagues have shaken a country deeply divided over the war in Iraq.

More than 140 foreigners have been taken hostage in Iraq since April. Most have been freed, often after the demands of the captors were met.

Often mercenary groups sell hostages for financial gains.

According to Julian Lindley-French, the director of security policy at the Geneva Center for Security Research, the hostage takers' ability to use the media as an intrument has made it much harder for governments to respond to the crisis.

"This is the first time that the information flow has been taken out of government hands," Lindley-French said.

"The public sees what the hostage takers want them to see and that puts immense pressure on governments.

"The danger is that if they give in to ransom demands it will only encourage criminal groups to kidnap more."

Highlighting the dilemma governments face, speculation in the Italian press that Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi had paid a ransom of as much as \$1 million for the release of the two young <u>women</u> -- a charge his foreign minister denied Wednesday -- didn't affect the festive mood in the country.

Well-wishers gathered under Simona Torretta's home in a Rome suburb -- a sixth floor apartment in a nondescript building marked by two large peace flags hanging on the balcony -- and scribbled congratulatory notes in the binder that for the past weeks has been a diary of sorts for the concerned Roman neighbors.

The Italian president, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, addressed the nation on Tuesday night in a moving speech; the Pope welcomed the two <u>women</u> back; and five million Italians -- one fifth of the population -- watched their return live on Rai Uno, the state broadcaster.

Patrizia Santangeli, a 43-year-old Roman copy writer, showed no concern over the question of whether money had been paid to free the two Simonas.

Hostages in Iraq: For Europe, it's personal

Even if a ransom had been paid, "it's right because they were freed," she said, adding: "Mind you, I don't think we should be in Iraq at all."

The French last month launched a high-profile diplomatic campaign across the Middle East, gathering support from groups like <u>Hamas</u> to the Egyptian government, but refused to give in to demands that they withdraw a law banning the Muslim headscarf in public schools.

The British government has so far refused to negotiate with Bigley's captors altogether. If Bigley is killed, it will inevitably lead to a lot of questions from the public, Lindley-French said. "People are bound to ask: Why didn't we get our man free like the Italians did?" he said. "We're moving into a new kind of world."

Elisabetta Povoledo contributed reporting from Rome.

Load-Date: October 1, 2004



<u>First lady says America can count on her husband; Schwarzenegger also calls the president 'a man of inner strength'</u>

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA) September 1, 2004 Wednesday

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Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

Republican National Convention co-stars Laura Bush and Arnold Schwarzenegger commended President Bush to the country for four more years Tuesday night, hailing him as a man of strength leavened by compassion. "You can count on him, especially in a crisis," said the first lady.

"He's a man of perseverance. He's a man of inner strength. He is a leader who doesn't flinch, doesn't waver, does not back down," added the Austrian-born California governor in a speech that also promised recent immigrants they are welcome in the GOP.

"We Republicans admire your ambition. We encourage your dreams. We believe in your future," said the actor-turned-politician in one of several speeches crafted to show the softer side of a party known for its conservatism.

The effort to flesh out an image of the president as something more than a resolute commander in chief resulted in something akin to a prime-time Bush family hour, with twins Jenna and Barbara teasing their father gently in a brief, joint appearance at the podium. "We are so proud to be here tonight to introduce someone who read us bedtime stories, picked up carpool, made our favorite peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches and cheered for us when we made a goal, even when it was for the wrong team," Jenna said.

Schwarzenegger and the first lady took their turns at the Madison Square Garden podium as 2,508 delegates formally bestowed their nomination on the president for a second term in office. "Four more years," they chanted in unison - then and many times more throughout the night.

Republicans met inside their heavily fortified convention hall as police made more than 560 arrests in the surrounding streets on a day heavy with non-violent protest. By evening, authorities wrapped an entire midtown Manhattan block in orange netting, working to contain demonstrators who had vowed to march on the Garden itself.

Bush, locked in a tight re-election race, campaigned across three battleground states and worked to extinguish a convention-week controversy of his own making. "In this different kind of war, we may never sit down at a peace table. But make no mistake about it, we are winning, and we will win" the war on terror, he told an American Legion convention in Tennessee, one day after saying he didn't think victory would be possible.

"I probably needed to be more articulate" in earlier comments, he conceded in a radio interview with conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh.

First lady says America can count on her husband; Schwarzenegger also calls the president 'a man of inner strength'

Bush's Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry, spent the day at home in Nantucket, Mass., as his campaign settled on plans to place \$45 million in television advertising in 20 battleground states through Election Day. The commercials will run on broadcast stations and cable, and include appeals to minority voters whom Democrats need to turn out in large numbers on Nov. 2 if they are to deny Bush a second term.

A poll by The Washington Post showed the race to be a dead heat, 48 percent apiece, but found that the president moving ahead of his rival on national security issues and pulling into a virtual tie on handling of the economy.

Bush arrives in New York on Wednesday, a day ahead of a nomination acceptance speech that is expected to sketch out a second-term agenda. Vice President Dick Cheney addresses the gathering Wednesday night.

Republican convention planners scripted an evening that reintroduced the theme of compassionate conservatism that helped Bush win the White House four years ago.

A parade of speakers strode to the podium with a backdrop that read - "People of Compassion." They praised the president's efforts to battle AIDS, combat breast cancer, promote adoption and enact far-reaching educational reforms. "I am proof that the blessings of liberty are within reach of every American," said Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, an African-American.

Both the first lady and Schwarzenegger hailed Bush's leadership in terms that bordered on extravagant in speeches that did double political duty. For the first lady, that meant a glimpse at the personal side of her husband; for the governor, an appeal to new and unregistered voters from overseas who are not part of the president's conservative base.

"No American president wants to go to war," said Mrs. Bush, neither Lincoln nor Roosevelt nor her own husband.

But in a description of a commander in chief that most Americans never see, she said, "I remember some very quiet nights at the dinner table" after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "George was weighing grim scenarios and ominous intelligence and potentially even more devastating attacks."

"... And I remember sitting in the window of the White House, watching as my husband walked on the lawn below. I knew he was wrestling with these agonizing decisions that would have such profound consequences for so many lives and the future of the world," she said.

The world outside the convention delivered jarring news in the global war on terror.

A suicide bomber was blamed for an explosion near a busy subway station in Moscow. <u>Hamas</u> took responsibility for blowing up two buses in Israel. And a Web site offered a link to a video purporting to show the methodical, grisly killings of 12 Nepalese construction workers kidnapped in Iraq.

Schwarzenegger sketched his own background for the convention and prime-time audience, from a childhood in the shadow of communism to arrival in the United States as a self-described scrawny boy, to the man who moved from body builder to box-office star to governor of the nation's most populous state.

"America gave me opportunities and my immigrant dreams came true," he said. "I want other people to get the same chances I did, the same opportunities."

He flashed his trademark bravado as well. "To those critics who are so pessimistic about our economy, I say: Don't be economic girlie men." The hall erupted in cheers at that remark and Schwarzenegger smiled broadly. Earlier this year, he had encountered sharp criticism in his home state when he ridiculed Democratic legislators who opposed his budget as "girlie men."

In her remarks, Mrs. Bush said that Bush's leadership has helped 50 million men, <u>women</u> and children win freedom over the past four years, a reference to wars in Afghanistan and Irag.

First lady says America can count on her husband; Schwarzenegger also calls the president 'a man of inner strength'

"I want to talk about the issue that I believe is most important for my own daughters, for all our families, and for our future: George's work to protect our country and defeat terror so that all children can grow up in a more peaceful world," she added.

Graphic

Laura Bush

Load-Date: September 1, 2004



Not a terrorist by any stretch

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)
September 25, 2004 Saturday
National Edition

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. A17

Length: 1004 words

Byline: Raymond Heard, National Post

Body

A dangerous myth is taking root. Commentators are suggesting, no doubt out of ignorance rather than malice, that Nelson Mandela was a terrorist.

Last Saturday, entering the great debate over when the media should use the word "terrorist," Edward Greenspon, editor-in-chief of The Globe and Mail, declared: "It is often said that one man's terrorist is another's freedom fighter. Take former political prisoner and South African president Nelson Mandela, who went from terrorist to statesman in a generation."

Mr. Greenspon was echoing a line used six days earlier in the Toronto Star by Antonia Zerbisias. Claiming that "terrorist" is a politically loaded term, she wrote: "Remember, one nation's terrorist is another nation's freedom fighter. Depending on whom you're asking, American founding fathers George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, South Africa's Nelson Mandela and Israel's Menachem Begin could be described as terrorists."

She went on to suggest that, "in fact, the very notion of terrorists and terrorism is very much a colonialist one."

Others are better qualified than I am to defend the Founding Fathers and Mr. Begin. But as far as Nelson Mandela is concerned, the record shows -- and I was there as a young reporter-- that he was never anything approaching a terrorist, except in the eyes of the thugs who operated the Apartheid Reich.

There can be absolutely no comparison between South Africa's liberation struggle and the terrorist atrocities committed by bloodlusting swine who would massacre schoolchildren in Beslan or destroy a restaurant packed with Arabs and Jews in Israel.

To bracket Mr. Mandela with terrorists who commit such crimes against humanity does a disservice to him and his African National Congress (ANC). Through such a false analogy, commentators also rationalize -- however inadvertently -- the mindless brutality of the terrorists. The implication, no doubt unintended, is that Osama bin Laden just might also turn out to be, like Mandela, a "freedom fighter."

Far from being a terrorist, Mandela was the liberator of all South Africans from a white minority regime whose leaders held Adolf Hitler dear and whose doctrine of apartheid inflicted state terrorism on the vast majority of the population.

Not a terrorist by any stretch

This was a country, recall, in which police mowed down 69 black civilians -- many of them <u>women</u> and children -- in Sharpeville in 1960. Most were shot in the back as they fled; a mile away from the mass murder scene, human blood was seen flowing in street gutters.

For decades, Mandela's ANC patiently followed the passive resistance philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi -- who, in South Africa as a young lawyer, had defended indentured workers from India. The ANC resorted to guerrilla warfare only as its very last resort, after decades of pleading for racial justice was answered by bullets and the creation of prison states termed "Bantu Homelands."

In stark contrast to today's Islamist terror organizations waging a jihad that many Muslims believe is in violation of their religion, the ANC was inclusive and democratic. It accepted whites as co-inheritors of the land under the Freedom Charter -- a document that clearly stated the land belongs to all who live there.

By contrast, can one imagine *Hamas* taking in Jewish members?

When Mandela's obituaries are published, they will highlight the non-racial character of his crusade, which brought together Christians (including Beyers Naude, the recently deceased rebel Afrikaner clergyman), Jews, Muslims and Hindus. They will also record the fact that, in his hour of victory, Mandela forgave his enemies and his people's enemies. In a twist of fate worthy of Shakespeare, one of his white jail guards at Robben Island became his bodyguard.

Although there would inevitably be some mistakes and excesses when the ANC cadres went after military and apartheid targets, they avoided civilians. And they planted very few land mines, unlike insurrectionists in Angola and other parts of Africa, where minefields still abound and amputees are legion.

This moderation annoyed some of the ANC's more militant members, who were being lured to the more violent and racist Pan African Congress. But the ANC held firm because it was not inherently anti-white. When it won, it would thus inherit a country with a functional infrastructure rather than a wasteland.

In an interview 20 years ago with my brother Anthony Heard, then editor-in-chief of the liberal Cape Times, Mr. Mandela's comrade Oliver Tambo (then the exiled president of the ANC) made it plain that as a matter of policy the ANC never went after soft targets.

"No, we will not go for civilians as such," Mr. Tambo said. "We think that civilians will be hit as they are hit always. They were hit in Zimbabwe."

"In a crossfire situation?" my brother asked.

"Crossfire situation ... we will not go into cinemas and bars and places like that," Mr. Tambo replied. "We won't do that. But we will certainly be looking for military personnel, police and so on."

Because the ANC always held the line against undisciplined terror, the total number of innocent civilians killed or hurt overall was remarkably small considering the scale of the official terror launched by the white terrorist regime.

Tragedies did happen. Perhaps the worst episode of violence against civilians was on Church Street, Pretoria, when an ANC bomb aimed at military personnel went off prematurely and killed a number of civilians. But this was not in the same league as today's deliberate acts of terrorism aimed at innocents.

The philosophical basis of understanding violence, for those debating the use or misuse of the word "terrorist," should surely be wederstandsrecht -- the right to revolt. The German dissidents in the Second World War were very clear on the need for this: The question is whether a situation has gone so far beyond the pale that violence is the only solution. Much the same as it was justified for outsiders to take recent action in Afghanistan and Iraq, it was justified for the ANC to do so in South Africa.

Graphic

Black & White Photo: Adrees Latif, Reuters; Former South African president Nelson Mandela acknowledges the cheering crowd at an AIDS conference in Bangkok in July.

Load-Date: September 25, 2004



Groups think twice before taking checks; Rules for a federal fundraising drive anger some nonprofits: They must show they have no terrorist ties.

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

August 16, 2004, Monday, Metro Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1B

Length: 1072 words

Byline: Robert Franklin; Staff Writer

Body

These are the names - 140-plus pages of them - that are supposed to strike terror into the hearts of America's charities.

Nonprofit groups that want to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign, the big federal employee fundraising drive, have been ordered to certify that they don't employ anyone on federal government terrorism-related lists and don't give money to charities suspected of supporting terrorism.

It's an order that has raised controversy nationally and has created an additional administrative burden for charities.

While there haven't been any Minnesota nonprofits firing employees or dropping out of the drive because of the requirement, the executive director of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits said the list feels "like McCarthyism."

"It should be challenged in court," said Jon Pratt, the executive director. "It's a laudable goal, but this is a poor way to go about it. It's really hard to identify who is who, there are tons of aliases, and the implication is that you should be careful if you hire people with names like these names.

"If there are known people who are conspiring to harm this country, clearly we need to act against them. ... They should be arrested."

The Combined Federal Campaign is a fairly big deal in Minnesota, giving federal employees about 1,800 choices for charitable donations. It raised about \$950,000 in the seven-county Twin Cities area last year (\$250 million nationally).

This year, it covers 62 Minnesota counties with more than 29,000 federal employees as diverse as postal workers (more than three-eighths of the total), as well as those who work in the military, Veterans Administration hospitals, agriculture, Indian affairs, and with fish and wildlife.

Suspicious giving

Since Sept. 11, the federal government has tried to halt U.S. charitable contributions funneled to terrorist causes. A Muslim charity and seven of its senior officers were charged last month with illegally funneling millions of

Groups think twice before taking checks; Rules for a federal fundraising drive anger some nonprofits: They must show they have no terrorist ties.

dollars to support <u>Hamas</u>, a Palestinian terrorist organization. In 2001, President Bush froze assets of an Islamic group that had a fundraising arm in the Twin Cities and presented itself as a charity.

However, the American Civil Liberties Union recently dropped out of the federal charity campaign rather than sign the antiterrorist disclaimer. Last week, it announced a coalition of 15 groups, including Amnesty International, the National *Women*'s Law Center and the Sierra Club, fighting the requirement.

The list watch "has created a climate of fear and intimidation that threatens the health and well-being of all nonprofits, the people who depend on them and, indeed, the nation as a whole," Anthony Romero, ACLU executive director, said in a statement.

A spokesman for the federal Office of Personnel Management, which oversees the campaign nationally, could not be reached for comment. However, the agency told other officials that it now anticipates changes in its list of eligible national charities.

In a 2001 executive order, President Bush declared a national emergency to impose sanctions on certain charities "because of the pervasiveness and expansiveness of the financial foundation of foreign terrorists."

Frustration and anger

Pratt said he has gotten inquiries from nonprofits about the regulation. However, D.J. Jensen, who manages the federal campaign for most of Minnesota, said that he hasn't gotten any calls and that no local charities have been rejected.

The hundreds of nonprofits - ranging from the United Way to small, grass-roots groups - that are seeking support must check a box on their applications saying they do not knowingly employ individuals or give money to groups on the terrorist lists.

"We essentially take them at their word," Jensen said. "We haven't been poring over documents and being suspicious of the charities that apply."

But the charities have been poring over documents, namely the three terrorist lists, the largest of which is from the Treasury Department and includes 140 pages of names, aliases, home cities and titles in small print, three columns to a page.

The ACLU, which estimated it would lose \$500,000 by dropping out of the campaign, said the lists are prone to error, compiled without individuals' knowledge and not subject to appeal. One name on the list, Julio Ramirez, fits hundreds of people across the nation, it said.

Byron Laher, director of public affairs for the Greater Twin Cities United Way, said the organization would prefer not to go through pages and pages of lists "every time we hire a new employee." The United Way already does a criminal background check on each new employee, he said, and "I suspect the likelihood [of a terrorist] applying for a job here and using their real name is not real high."

Charities that receive money from the United Way do not have to screen employees for the federal campaign - so far, Laher said.

Pratt said perusing the lists constitutes one of a raft of regulations, existing or proposed, that charities have to cope with when there's more pressure for them to reduce administrative expenses.

"Interestingly, in this case, it's not actually government money" that's involved, he said. "These are charitable contributions from people who happen to be government employees."

Librarian Sandy Date contributed research for this article.

Groups think twice before taking checks; Rules for a federal fundraising drive anger some nonprofits: They must show they have no terrorist ties.

Robert Franklin is at rfranklin@startribune.com.

MORE INFORMATION

- On the Combined Federal Campaign: http://www.opm.gov/cfc/index.asp
- On terrorism-related lists: http://www.opm.gov/cfc/opmmemos/2003/list.asp
- On the ACLU's positions: <u>http://www.aclu.org</u>. Then follow links to the issue.What it is: Charitable drive for federal employees and military personnel, soliciting from 4 million nationally and, under the local drive, an estimated 29,000 in 62 Minnesota counties.

What it does: Raised \$250 million last year for hundreds of charities nationally and about \$950,000 in the Twin Cities area. The local drive is run by the Community Solutions Fund, a grass-roots and social-justice federation with headquarters in St. Paul.

The issue: Participating charities must certify that they haven't hired anyone on three federal government terrorism-related lists or given money to any group on the lists. Some groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), have objected.

Load-Date: August 17, 2004



Hotbed of moderation: Seat of Islamic learning represents silent majority of Muslims

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

July 10, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: Religion; Pg. D7; News

Length: 1124 words

Byline: Donna Bryson

Dateline: CAIRO, Egypt

Body

CAIRO, Egypt -- Al-Azhar's grand sheik, one of Islam's most influential figures, is unequivocal: his faith stands for peace and justice. But the definitions seem up for debate at his historic university and mosque and beyond in these troubled times for Muslims.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks focused attention on Islamic extremism, Grand Sheik Mohammed Sayed Tantawi -- who perhaps more than any other leader embodies moderate, official Islam -- has often condemned terrorism and al-Qaida. He repeated his denunciations in a rare interview, but also called "occupying others' lands" -- code for Israel in Palestinian territory, but also relevant in connection with the United States in Iraq -- the "ugliest kind of terrorism." Associated Press

The mixed signals Tantawi sends can be confusing -- reflecting the crosscurrents and political mood among mainstream Muslims.

At a time when Osama bin Laden is capturing imaginations with his calls on Muslims to strike the West, moderate Islamic thinkers say Al-Azhar should be helping Muslims move beyond rhetoric and find a peaceful way forward.

But Al-Azhar, confident in its hold on the silent majority, seems to see little need to directly debate the vocal minority of extremist ideologues.

Among the University of Al-Azhar's 300,000 male and female students, a sense of grievance is unmistakable.

"There is a war on Islam," declares Ahmed Hussein, a third-year accounting student. The 22-year-old accuses the United States of targeting Muslims in Iraq, of bias toward Israel and against Arabs in the Palestinian territories, and of labelling anyone who fights back a terrorist.

Tantawi, appointed grand sheik by the Egyptian president in 1996, rejects the idea that conflict between Islam and the West is inevitable, saying his institution works to spread universal ideas of "peace, justice and communication and co-operation between all the peoples of the world."

Fahmi Howeidi, a Cairo-based writer on Islamic affairs, said intellectuals and hardline Muslims believe Al-Azhar has lost its independence because of its alliance with the Egyptian government. That has undermined Al-Azhar's authority, creating a vacuum, he said.

"In this vacuum, the extremists found a good opportunity to try to propagate their views and to try to lead the Muslim world." Howeidi said.

Radwan Masmoudi, director of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, a Washington think tank, said Al-Azhar has the reach and prestige to be a leader in discussions about Islam and modernity, but has not been "innovative enough or forward-thinking enough."

"It's vital for the Muslim (community) and for Islam that we have a modern interpretation of Islam and that that modern interpretation of Islam is seen as genuine, coming from within Islam, not from outside, not from the West," Masmoudi said.

Old institutions can be slow to change. The university grew out of groups of scholars who discussed and debated around the pillars of Al-Azhar Mosque, where prayers were first held in 972. The main university campus's modern, dust-coloured concrete buildings sit on reclaimed desert in a newer part of Cairo, a short drive from the ancient mosque.

Azharis -- "men of Al-Azhar" -- say that with the institution's international prominence and its history, their vision of Islam is sure to prevail over extremism. Al-Azhar, after all, is no upstart like Yemen's nine-year-old Iman University, regarded as a haven for radicals, or the one-room madrassas of Pakistan and Afghanistan that produced the Taliban.

Asef Bayat, director of the Dutch-based International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, said the Azharis may have a point. For many, particularly in Egypt, Al-Azhar remains a main source, if not the main source, of religious guidance and knowledge, Bayat said.

As angry as he is at what he sees as the West's assault on his faith, Hussein -- beardless and sporting chic eyewear -- is focused on a middle class future, not taking up arms against the West.

"The thing I have learned here at Al-Azhar is that if I concentrate on God, I will be successful," he said. "If you really know God, you will be a really successful doctor or teacher or accountant."

It was seen as an aberration when five Russians studying at Al-Azhar were arrested late last year on suspicion of belonging to a radical Muslim group that advocates violence.

Bayat said a minority of fundamentalists remain at Al-Azhar and its graduates may go forth to preach extreme views. But he said Tantawi has largely succeeded at suppressing the influence of those who argue, for example, that Al-Azhar should be actively working to implement strict Islamic law, not just educating pious accountants.

"You shall have always in any assembly one or two who are extreme," said Ali El Samman, an adviser to Tantawi. "We are one billion," El Samman added, referring to the number of Muslims in the world. "If you imagine Al-Azhar can control all that, that's difficult."

Tantawi has reached out to other faiths, angering extremists who have said he should be stripped of his position for meeting with Jewish rabbis.

He counts among Al-Azhar's most important activities formal exchanges with Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders started in 1998 through his Permanent Committee for Dialogue with the Monotheistic Religions.

"Al-Azhar is an institution of dialogue, and dialogue has become the magic word in international relations," particularly since the Sept. 11 attacks, said El Samman.

Tantawi is given to pausing before responding to questions, seeming to weigh each syllable of his answers. His comments are cited as religious rulings, or fatwas, by followers of the main Sunni branch of Islam around the world.

But he is no Pope. Islam has no such rigid hierarchy. Tantawi's authority rests only on his power to persuade and on Al-Azhar's prestige. Any Muslim who disagrees with him is free to seek another fatwa elsewhere.

Hotbed of moderation: Seat of Islamic learning represents silent majority of Muslims

Tantawi's critics can be vocal, as when he backed a French ban on Islamic head scarves and other conspicuous religious symbols from French secular schools. Tantawi asked Muslim <u>women</u> in France to comply, saying minorities living in the West should respect local laws and customs.

The French law had sparked protests across the Islamic world, including at Al-Azhar. Some accused Tantawi of speaking not out of religious conviction, but at the behest of an Egyptian government hoping to defuse tensions.

Its close ties to the government rob Al-Azhar of credibility in the eyes of militants who say Egyptian and other Arab governments should be toppled and replaced with theocracies. Al-Azhar gets funding and support from the government, but says that doesn't affect its independence.

Graphic

Photo: Mohamad Al-Sehety, Associated Press; Egyptian worshippers say a prayer for <u>Hamas</u> founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin after midday prayers at al-Azhar mosque in Cairo last March.

Load-Date: July 10, 2004



Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

March 27, 2004, Saturday, Metro Edition

Copyright 2004 Star Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 26A

Length: 1131 words

Body

Supporting McLeod

As an obstetrician who has referred hundreds of moms and new babies to Dr. James McLeod's care, I am astonished by the recent revelation of criminal charges against him ("Pediatrician faces charges of sex abuse," March 23).

I can truthfully say, in 30 years of medical practice, I have not had a single patient give me negative feedback regarding McLeod's medical skills or his behavior. Quite the opposite, my patients universally have found him to be a wonderful pediatrician and a wonderful man.

I sincerely hope the accusations are unfounded. Unfortunately, even if he is proven innocent, the negative publicity generated by the press reports will be detrimental to his practice. The damage has already been done.

Dr. Art Bearon, Minneapolis.

James McLeod has been my son's pediatrician for nine years. During all those years, he has maintained the highest medical standards. It is inconceivable that he could have done what he has been accused of doing.

Erika Walker, Minneapolis.

Twisted priorities

With millions of Americans unemployed and underemployed, 43 million without health insurance and terrorists attacking U.S. citizens, all Sen. Michele Bachmann and Rep. Mary Liz Holberg do is push their own religious agenda.

Now that is compassionate conservatism.

Michael LaFave, Minneapolis.

Lucky there was no vote

How ironic that the two leaders of the legislative effort for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages are **women**.

I wonder if Sen. Michele Bachmann and Rep. Mary Liz Holberg have considered where they would be today if there had been a referendum on **women**'s suffrage.

They would not be elected officials. They certainly would not be leading an effort to deny civil rights to people. They would not even be able to vote on such an issue should it come to the public for a vote.

Jay Jaffee, Minneapolis.

Learning about love

Some folks may think that a rally to support the right of same-sex marriage is walking a line of extremism. There is nothing extreme about wanting the same rights to love, and be loved in return. To take seriously fidelity to one's partner and life commitment until the very end, even when sickness and death are painful.

I was lucky enough to have two parents who stuck it out for 53 years of good times and tough. While my mother was slowly dying of cancer, my father, even though he was emotionally and physically exhausted, never let go of his devoted love for her, not even after she passed.

Whether we are straight or not, our lives are God-given and we can all learn from each other about love. The voices at the rally were clear: Don't judge love, even if it's different from your own.

Karen Regan, Minneapolis.

And your point is?

A March 26 letter states that the reason "the gays" are pushing for marriage is because we all want legal and economic privileges associated with marriage ("Not normal").

Duh! How would the letter writer feel if his spouse were in the hospital and he could not see her because they weren't recognized as a couple? If she needed help from an illness, he could not take off work because his employer did not consider them "married."

Paul Perea, St. Paul.

An even greater enemy

Lost in all the talk about the assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin is the fact that <u>Hamas</u> has seriously upped the ante.

An attack last week, which killed 10 people, was aimed at blowing up two chemical tanks. If the attackers had reached their target, who knows how many hundreds or thousands would have been killed in a chemical cloud?

Israel has an obligation to its citizens to stop these attacks.

Lisa K. Forstein, Golden Valley.

McManus and Ngo

I want to publicly commend the new Minneapolis Police Chief William McManus for his leadership and his continued investigation of the Duy Ngo case.

He showed true leadership by visiting Ngo on his first day in office, showing his priority for his officers. He also began reviewing the case when he was named a finalist for chief. He showed leadership and integrity by calling a press conference to clear Ngo's name from a malicious rumor and to support him returning to work.

Dixie Lee Riley, Brooklyn Park.

Now that's service

I e-filed my tax return on Feb. 28. The Minnesota Department of Revenue deposited my refund on March 2. Great job, MnDOR.

John Berryhill, Wayzata.

Where was Clinton?

So the Bush administration "sat on its hands for eight months" prior to the Sept. 11 attacks ("Clarke's lament / That Bush downplayed terror," March 25). The assertion that George W. Bush could have prevented the tragedy ignores a critical fact: Most of the preparation for Sept. 11 occurred before he was sworn in.

Mark Griffin, White Bear Lake.

All of your blather on the alleged failures of the Bush administration in preventing the attacks of 9/11 doesn't place the blame squarely where it belongs: on the Clinton administration for its failure, after eight years and numerous attacks, to take any meaningful action whatsoever.

Edward M. Harris, Jr., Eagan.

No perjury on TV

Why is National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on all of the talk shows but is unavailable to testify publicly under oath to the 9/11 Commission? She won't go to jail for lying on TV.

Penny Van Kampen, Edina.

A tale of two witnesses

On March 24, Richard Clarke testified, under oath in public, before the 9/11 commission. On March 25, Condoleezza Rice requested to return to the 9/11 commission to rebut his testimony, but behind closed doors and not under oath. What is wrong with this picture?

Al Raney, New Brighton.

Sliming Clarke

Republican partisans on the 9/11 commission say former White House counterterrorism chief and fellow Republican Richard Clarke is dishonestly portraying those in the Bush administration as arrogant know-it-alls who disregarded important security information passed to it from the Clinton administration.

The Republicans, who have fought tenaciously to hamper the commission's work, want us to believe that Clarke is just a deceitful, dishonest former employee out for personal gain. In other words, they are making their standard all-out personal attack, having failed in their efforts to bury the commission's investigation by stonewalling and legal maneuvering.

Joe Zweber, Northfield, Minn.

Assaulted by the system

The 19-year-old woman accusing Kobe Bryant of sexual assault has endured delays in setting a trial date, death threats and three hours of testimony detailing her sex life, while Bryant goes on with life as usual. And people wonder why victims of violent crimes often don't come forward.

Leigh Thomas, Shoreview.

Load-Date: March 29, 2004



Putting faith in the future

The Weekend Australian

April 3, 2004 Saturday All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES-TYPE- FEATURE-COLUMN- INQUIRER; Pg. 29

Length: 1159 words **Byline:** Sian Powell

Body

When Australia's giant neighbour Indonesia votes next week, the Islamic parties will be fearing a loss of support in a blow to pro-Osama bin Laden radicals. Jakarta correspondent Sian Powell reports from Solo, central Java

The overlap between extremist Indonesian Muslims who have been accused (and convicted) of terrorism and the hardline Islamic parties is unsettling

THE banner stretched across a busy, muddy lane in Solo, central Java, tells good Muslims exactly what to do in Monday's national elections. It's a fatwa, or edict, from the terrorist-linked preacher Abu Bakar Bashir, whose notorious Ngruki school is just around the corner.

Decorated with a symbol of the conservative Prosperous Justice Party, the banner's words command: "It's obligatory to ensure the victory of Islamic parties which have been proved sincere in the struggle for sharia Islam." MATP

Plastered on nearby walls are posters with Bashir's "declaration from jail", exhorting Muslims to vote for sharia Islamic parties and forbidding them to give the "smallest opportunity" to anyone else.

Illustrated with photos of the cleric and his associate, the radical (and recently freed) preacher Habib Rizieq Shihab, the Brigade Hizbullah posters feature silhouettes of armed and helmeted warriors.

Radical Islam in Indonesia has been dangerously squeezed. A simmering frustration with the perceived oppression of Muslims across the world has galvanised a solid proportion of the electorate, but the movement's adherence to the tenets of sharia law (which include whipping and hand-lopping) and its connection with terrorism have alienated many others.

The tide of overlap between the extremist Indonesian Muslims who have been accused (and convicted) of terrorism and the hardline Islamic parties is unsettling.

Two prominent Islamic party leaders visited Bashir in prison; the Solo headquarters of Justice Minister Yusril Izha Mahendra's Crescent Star Party (PBB) sports a large poster of bin Laden on the wall; and one of Bashir's chief lawyers, Mahendradatta, is general-secretary of the Islamic Reformation Star Party.

Understanding the disfavour trailing the Bali and Jakarta Marriott hotel bombings, some of the Islamic political leaders have sought to tone down the rhetoric.

Putting faith in the future

Islamic politicians have looked nervously north to Malaysia, where the conservative Islamic party PAS was trounced two weeks ago. Indonesian Vice-President Hamzah Haz, leader of the once-strictly Islamic United Development Party (PPP), has declared that Indonesia doesn't need to become an Islamic state. Other Islamic party leaders, including Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) leader Hidayat Nurwahid, have sounded wobbly on the need to implement sharia law.

It's different out in the sticks. Solo is a city known for its extremes of permissiveness and piety, where <u>women</u> can be seen peering through the slit in their full Islamic chador veils and prostitutes stand openly on the streets. In Solo, posters of bin Laden are easy to find.

In the PBB office in central Solo, political candidate Roko Patriajati says Indonesia's problems come mainly from a lax morality. More religious education is needed, the 22-year-old says, to overcome the enormous hurdles the nation faces.

Asked about the bin Laden poster, he smiles. "Osama bin Laden is a good man," he says. "He raised the flag to fight against violence; it's because the US keeps oppressing Muslims." Patriajati's fellow candidate, Mohammad Juwari, agrees. "If we fight for Indonesia, automatically we will fight for the people of Islam," he says.

Stickers on the wall reflect the mood: "Don't be frightened of America; Allah will protect us."

In the 1999 election, the Islamic parties won about 14 per cent of the vote from an electorate that is about 88 per cent Muslim. It was a huge plunge from the 42 per cent in 1955, the last comparably free election. Yet despite the shortage of support, in 1999 Islamic parties felt they had been freed from the oppressive anti-religious atmosphere of the Suharto years and they saw good things on the horizon.

Their hopes could well come to nought. Along with many other political analysts, University of Indonesia politics expert Arbi Sanit doesn't expect the radicals to improve their support this time around. "There is nothing significant to increase their vote," he says. "There is no change and nothing new on offer from the parties."

Sanit notes that no one is really spruiking sharia law or the Jakarta charter (an addition to the constitution that would officially make Indonesia an Islamic nation).

An Australia-funded Centre for Democratic Institutions report released last month concluded that the new election rules could shift support from the Islamic parties (especially the smaller ones) to the two secular giants, the Golkar party and President Megawati Sukarnoputri's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P). "The longer-term effect might even be to increase the splintering of an already fragmented political Islam in Indonesia," the report says.

Conservative Muslims shrug off such pessimism. Supporters of the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), clad in white, roar around Solo in a convoy of motorbikes and trucks. More than 100,000 supporters turned up at a giant Jakarta rally this week and the party is likely to at least double the 1.4 per cent of the vote it got in 1999.

Haryanto, who heads the public policy department of the Solo PKS, says he expects a solid increase in support, regardless of whether sharia is a policy platform. "The PKS wants to show that Islam is part of politics," he says. "Many of our laws are adopted from sharia."

Yet the central party leaders have been concentrating on the PKS's reputation as a clean party, one that will work to rid Indonesia of corruption, rather than focusing on religion.

Almost drowned out by the noise of raucous PDI-P supporters revving their bikes up and down the street, Haryanto says he is confident about the future.

Certainly there is a lot of pro-Islamic feeling in the district. A rally in Solo last week to mourn the killing of Palestinian <u>Hamas</u> leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin drew thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, bearing placards about the death of a hero.

Putting faith in the future

At the central mosque in Solo, a hundreds-strong crowd from the Majelis Tafsir al-Qoran (Council of Koran Explanations) waits to rally for whichever Muslim party needs them.

"Our activity is to support Islam," says Achmadi. His fellow riders wait patiently, ready to put on whichever T-shirt is required.

There is a reservoir of Islamic feeling waiting to be tapped, Haryanto says. "I think in Indonesia the development of Islamic parties will increase," he explains, shrugging off the Malaysian disaster. "In Malaysia, it's not as democratic as Indonesia."

These Solo Muslims are pragmatic. The city is a PDI-P stronghold, held by the party of the bull, and they all concede it will still be PDI-P red after the election. But perhaps not quite so red.

Load-Date: April 2, 2004



At a time of division, turbulence in France; Globalist

The International Herald Tribune
April 10, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 1006 words **Byline:** Roger Cohen

Dateline: TOULON, France

Body

The night after Israeli forces killed the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, a little incident occurred in this southern French town where the sea glitters and the sun glows but all is not quite as tranquil as it appears.

Traces of the incident remain: the broken glass, blackened walls, stricken plants and boarded-up window at the Jewish community center and synagogue in the middle of town. On the night of March 22, part of the building was set on fire after one assailant, or several, used iron scaffolding to smash a window and toss inflammable liquid inside.

Nobody was hurt. The damage, at least physical, will soon be repaired. Life has returned to its seductive rhythms on the Cote d'Azur. The killing of Sheik Yassin will no doubt feed Palestinian anger for many years; the little fire in Toulon may soon be forgotten by almost everyone.

International Herald Tribune

Still, the incident was serious enough for President Jacques Chirac to send a letter, dated March 23, to the president of the local Jewish community, Yves Haddad, expressing his "great sadness and emotion" at "an odious act that offends the Republic." He added: "You can count on the determination and firmness of my government, which will not allow anti-Semitism, racism or xenophobia to install themselves in France."

Jean-Pierre Raffarin, the prime minister, followed up with his own letter calling the attack "intolerable" and saying that instructions had immediately been given for the assailants to be brought to justice.

But more than two weeks after those strong words, nobody has been arrested. A police spokesman says every avenue is being examined, "from young Arabs to the extreme right." The attack, similar to 33 incidents at synagogues and Jewish schools in France last year, remains a mystery.

The most commonly heard theory in Toulon is that the arson was the work of youths from the town's large Muslim community who were enraged by the killing of Sheik Yassin. As the European Union noted in a report last month on anti-Semitism, "It seems clear that The Middle East conflict has a negative impact on the lives of the Jewish communities" in Europe.

But of course, until an arrest is made, the notion that the arson was another illustration of the growing spillover into Europe of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will remain no more than a theory. The town is also a stronghold of the

At a time of division, turbulence in France; Globalist

National Front, whose own anti-Semitic prejudices are well known. What is clear is that the unsolved crime has added to a climate of unease.

"Anti-Israeli feeling in France, which is virulent, is increasingly a cover for anti-Semitism, with the result that Jews here have not been in such a bad situation for a long time," said Haddad, a lawyer.

There is some evidence for that view. A week ago, Raffarin received the annual report of a prominent French human rights group, which described the trend in anti-Semitic acts as "grave." It noted that the number of anti-Semitic incidents had fallen to 588 in 2003 from 932, but now accounted for almost three-quarters of all racist acts in France, up from 60 percent in 2002.

It is important to avoid hyperbole. France's large and venerable Jewish community, deeply embedded in national life, is not under assault; prejudice, even outright racism, toward Muslims remains widespread. But in a time of doubt and division -- between Palestinians and Israelis, Arabs and Jews, Iraqis and Americans, Islam and the West -- France has not remained immune to the turbulent currents from the Middle East and America's post-9/11 wars in the Islamic world.

Indeed, as the home of the largest Jewish community in Western Europe and four to five million Muslims, the country has become a nexus of those currents. Managing them will require determination and diplomacy. "France is less tolerant today," said Genevieve Levy, a member of Parliament from Toulon. "We have to face that and fight it."

At a small mosque in the middle of Toulon, Mustapha El Ouammou, the imam, presides over afternoon prayers. He is a man with gentle, smiling eyes. "Destruction," he says, "is against Islam." He condemns the attack on the synagogue and talks of his efforts to impress on young Muslims that "no man like bin Laden who kills <u>women</u> and children has anything to do with our faith."

But he also notes that Israeli violence against Palestinians, repeatedly seen on Arab television networks delivered through satellite dishes, and the war in Iraq have a provocative effect, especially on youths. Everyone, he says, is against the war in Iraq, "even my 90-year-old grandmother."

Outside is a street full of stores selling Oriental pastries. On the corner is a kosher butcher store owned by Pierre Abecassis, 45, whose Jewish family came to Toulon from Algeria in 1962. In 2001, the establishment was partially burned when a gasoline bomb was thrown through the window.

Three North African youths were later arrested and given suspended prison sentences. "If I had the courage to go to Israel or America, I'd go," Abecassis said.

All these people -- Abecassis, Haddad, El Ouammou -- came from North Africa, where France's governance of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco ended in various degrees of upheaval. That experience, and particularly the devastating Algerian war, form a deep undercurrent in the French assessment of America's war today in Iraq and in policy toward the Middle East generally.

France views the policies of George W. Bush and Ariel Sharon with deep skepticism in part because it knows the depths and endurance of Arab pride: that French skepticism, even anger, is the sea in which the currents of domestic mistrust between Muslims and Jews eddy today.

Earlier this week, Haddad's son, Michael, who wears a yarmulke, was strolling in Toulon. A group of children, aged seven or eight, passed by. "Damn Jew," one shouted.

"Who said that?" Michael asked. The children ran, but one remained. "The kid who said that is an Arab who doesn't like Jews," the solitary child explained.

*

Load-Date: April 11, 2004



<u>INSIDE</u>

The New York Times
October 24, 2005 Monday
Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 1163 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-13

Mining Wreaks Havoc As Gold Supplies Deplete

The price of gold is higher than it has been in 17 years, but much of the gold left to be mined is microscopic and is being wrung from the earth at enormous environmental cost, often in some of the poorest corners of the world. A1

117 Feared Dead After Crash

A passenger plane carrying 117 people crashed in a town 30 miles north of Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos, after passing through an electrical storm shortly after takeoff. No survivors were found in the wreckage. A12

Strategy on North Korea

The Bush administration is expanding what it calls "defensive measures" against North Korea, urging nations from China to the former Soviet states to deny overflight rights to aircraft that the United States believes are carrying weapons technology. A7

Hariri's Son Calls for Tribunal

The son of Lebanon's slain former prime minister, Rafik Hariri, and the leader of the country's Druse minority called for an international tribunal to try suspects connected with the assassination, as the United States and Britain stepped up a campaign to place international sanctions on Syria. A12

Israel Hedges on Opposition

Israel began to back away from its opposition to participation of the armed Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> in Palestinian elections, having failed to persuade President Bush to offer public support for its stance. A12

Afghan Journalist Convicted

The editor of a magazine called <u>Women</u>'s Rights was sentenced to two years in prison by the primary court in Kabul. He is the first journalist to be convicted under the country's blasphemy laws since the fall of the Taliban's Islamic government. A3

Ukraine Confident on NATO

INSIDE

The defense minister of Ukraine expressed confidence that Russia would not block his nation's efforts to join NATO, and he said the greater hurdle might be convincing a population that for decades was bathed in Soviet propaganda criticizing the Atlantic alliance. A13

NATIONAL A14-18

Hurricane Wilma Churns Toward Florida Coast

Hurricane Wilma churned toward heavily populated southwestern Florida and the Florida Keys, having weakened after pounding Mexico's Yucatan Coast but still packing winds of more than 100 miles an hour and the power to bring devastating storm surges. The edge of the hurricane was expected to strike the Gulf Coast of Florida as a Category 2 or Category 3 storm. Tropical storm winds of up to 70 miles an hour were predicted as far north as Tampa. A1

Rebuilding in New Orleans

Residents of the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans worry that outsiders, who may have viewed the ward as a blighted area whose residents did not have much to lose, would be willing to write off their neighborhood as a casualty of the disaster, a neighborhood not worth the expense of rebuilding and storm-proofing. The area is still closed and residents are denied access. A1

Strategy for Leak Case

With a decision expected on possible indictments in the C.I.A. leak case, allies of the White House suggested that they intended to pursue a strategy of attacking any criminal charges as disagreements over legal technicalities or products of an overzealous prosecutor. A1

Poor Support for Levees

When engineers started to design a floodwall on the 17th Street Canal in New Orleans in the early 1980's, deep probes found what geologists viewed as a potentially weak layer of peat soil about 15 feet below sea level in the area where the wall collapsed during Hurricane Katrina. Yet in building the wall, corps officials acknowledge that they did not drive the main anchors for the structure any deeper than 17 feet. A17

Record Opposition for Miers

Harriet E. Miers, President Bush's nominee to succeed Justice O'Conner, does have the advantage of five years in the White House and one year as its counsel. But in just three weeks, her nomination has provoked a broad range of opposition that some scholars say may have no precedent in the modern history of Supreme Court nominees. A14

NEW YORK/REGION B1-6

Mayor Calls for Removal Of Ground Zero Developer

Mayor Bloomberg called for the removal of the developer of private office space at ground zero, Larry A. Silverstein, and an even broader rethinking of plans, including adding housing to the mix. A1

Bronx Terminal Plan Criticized

The Bronx Terminal Market's potential as a retail center is so promising that the Bloomberg administration did not need to promise deep subsidies to the developer chosen to transform the crumbling site into a gleaming \$394 million shopping mall, critics say. B1

SPORTSMONDAY D1-12

White Sox Win Again

The Chicago White Sox defeated the Houston Astros, 7-6, in Game 2 of the World Series. Paul Konerko hit a grand slam in the seventh inning, and Scott Podsednik hit the game-ending home run. Chicago leads the series 2-0. D1

INSIDE

ARTS E1-12

Remaking a Czech Icon

Producers in Prague are planning to reinvent Maj. Jan Zeman, a Czech Communist television detective, as an agent of the West in a new film to be shot this spring. For some, it is a revisionist take akin to depicting James Bond as a Communist. Former Czech dissidents and political prisoners consider any revival of the character offensive. E1

Changing Focus at Frankfurt

In the age of e-mail, the Frankfurt Book Fair, which was for decades the main place publishers met to trade the rights for translating and publishing books, is increasingly shifting to more of a social event for publishers. E1

OBITUARIES B7

Arman

The French sculptor known internationally for his surprising accumulations of found objects, he was 76. B7

BUSINESS DAY C1-12

Wal-Mart Offers Health Plan

Wal-Mart, which has long been criticized for the benefits it offers to its workers, is introducing a cheaper health insurance plan, with monthly premiums as low as \$11, that the company hopes will increase the number of employees who can afford coverage. C1

Village Voice to Be Sold

The company that publishes The Village Voice and five other alternative newspapers is to announce an agreement to be acquired by New Times Media. The deal would create a chain of 17 free weekly newspapers around the country with a combined circulation of 1.8 million. C1

King Kong Comes to Consoles

Major movie studios, with their vast libraries, want to make their own games. And video game companies are seeking new Hollywood-style franchises to compete. Peter Jackson, who directed the remake of "King Kong," also co-developed a video game for the movie. C1

Unraveling Mystery at Refco

Peter F. James, an employee at the controller's office at Refco, is credited with the discovery of irregularities that led to the company's filing for bankruptcy this week. Now questions are mounting over why others never made such discoveries. C1

Business Digest C2

EDITORIAL A20-21

Editorials: Gas taxes -- lesser evil, greater good; Florida's Medicaid gamble; the worse U.N. scandal.

Column: Bob Herbert.

Autos D12 Bridge E10 Crossword E10 Metro Diary B2

INSIDE

TV Listings E11 Weather B8

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: October 24, 2005



Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)
March 24, 2004, Wednesday, Metro Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 14A

Length: 1136 words

Body

Israel defends itself

Israel has shown tremendous restraint involving its counterterrorism tactics. It uses as many precautions as possible to limit the scope of damage inflicted. It targets specific terrorist leaders and strikes in a fashion so as to prevent loss of innocent life. Why is it that a homicide bombing is met with little or no public rebuke, but Israel's reaction to one brings it harsh criticism?

Andrew Molnar, Hopkins.

Israel, like any other nation in a grueling battle against terrorism, has every right to take out terrorists who incite hate and evil against its people. Israel's attack against <u>Hamas</u> founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin was legitimate, warranted and, in fact, too slow in coming.

Millie Grayston, Minneapolis.

Call the vote

Minnesota's DFL senators should be ashamed of themselves. Despite belonging to a political party that calls itself "Democratic," they seem intent on being as "undemocratic" as possible with regard to the bill that would allow the people of Minnesota to be heard on the issue of the definition of marriage (Star Tribune, March 23).

This is the most critical issue facing voters this year. Nothing compares to it in terms of its long-term ramifications upon society. It should not be a partisan matter. Come on, Senate DFLers, do what is right.

Roland Mossberg, Stillwater.

A taste of the '60s

When I was a young child, I frequently saw news footage showing angry mobs of people protesting the integration of blacks into Southern schools. There was always some local politician protesting along with these citizens, challenging the authority of judges to "impose" something so wrong and unpopular on the mainstream citizens of the locale.

Flash forward to St. Paul in 2004. This week we saw a similar gathering of people protesting the rights of homosexuals to marry. There, in their midst, was our governor arguing for his self-anointed views of "the mainstream citizens" of our state.

Perhaps "Teflon Tim" has become "Billy Bob Pawlenty."

Jill M. Manske, St. Paul.

Hurt by the hate

We wept when we read the paper this morning. To see so many people filled with such misunderstanding gathering on the State Capitol grounds brought back the feelings we felt when our son, Jake, first came out. We had "FAG" scrawled on our driveway, broken eggs in our mailbox, lamp posts broken, pink paint balls splattered across the front of our house and unsigned letters filled with hate and damnation.

Monday, people flooded the Capitol and listened to our governor expressing his support for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. This rally was an attack on every gay person and their families.

Jake is our youngest child. He was baptized by his uncle in our Lutheran church. Jake was always looking out for others. He has a big heart. He is an honor student at Northwestern University and writes a column on faith issues. He is also the young adult coordinator for a group called Soulforce. They work to bring understanding of homosexuality to the churches. Jake's faith is important to him.

When Jake told us he was gay, we sought advice from our church. The pastor we spoke with told us Jake could change. We knew nothing about homosexuality, and we realized we had to educate ourselves. We read books and talked with many psychiatrists, psychologists and doctors. Not one of them said Jake could change, and not one said we should try.

We realized very quickly that Jake was gay and this was the life he was meant to live. There was no choice on Jake's part to be gay but as parents we had a choice, and the choice we made was to celebrate Jake's life and give thanks to God once again for our beautiful son.

Randi and Philip Reitan,

Eden Prairie.

Civil-rights support

I would like to thank the Minnesota Family Council for its full-page ad in Tuesday's Star Tribune promoting a ban on gay marriage and listing all DFL senators as well as their phone numbers. The number of calls our office has received from people in support of civil rights who are sick of the council's hate-filled agenda has dramatically increased.

Jessica Null, Minneapolis;

legislative assistant.

Just who was in the loop?

Vice President Dick Cheney has responded to Richard Clarke's accusations by saying Clarke "wasn't in the loop, frankly, on a lot of this stuff (Star Tribune, March 23)." I am curious why the administration's top expert on terrorism "wasn't in the loop" regarding counterterrorism efforts? Anyone else see a problem here?

Peter Vickerman, Hopkins.

Just the silver lining

I second the motion by the March 20 letter "Good news out of Iraq." Let's have a single day without any bad news out of Iraq.

In fact, let's have a single day when the Star Tribune does not print any bad news. No stories about people losing their jobs because of the bus strike. No stories about dubiously elected politicians deliberately misleading the American public.

Above all, no stories about how much of the world feels the American government is acting like a playground bully.

This happy paper will make us all feel better about our daily lives. Surely, if we don't hear any bad news, then none happened.

Andre Johnson, St. Paul.

Peppin earned vote

The District 32A Republican endorsement for the state House went to Joyce Peppin because she deserved it (Star Tribune, March 21).

District 32A needed to consider a change in representation. Our six-term legislator, Arlon Lindner, had never been the chief sponsor of even one significant bill affecting this district in 12 years! Nor does he hold a committee assignment that could be influential regarding district matters.

The day after the precinct caucuses, Peppin had biographical materials on our doorstep. Within days she was in our living room, giving us two hours of her time. She never focused on Lindner, never mentioned her husband's staff position with the state caucus, but did focus on the enthusiasm and skill she would bring to the job. She covered a lot of ground in three weeks.

She won my vote the old-fashioned way, with hard work.

Mike McGee, Maple Grove.

Converting Sid

University of Minnesota <u>women</u>'s basketball star Lindsay Whalen can add another accomplishment to her list - making Sid Hartman sit up and take notice of a remarkable woman athlete.

Helen Nikiel, Bloomington.

Pick a Kerry, any Kerry

From what I have read, John Kerry seems to be the man to vote for.

Whether you are for or against the war, so is he. If you want to raise taxes or lower them, it doesn't matter, he strongly supports both positions. Whether you support gay marriage, or not, he definitely supports your view!

Phil Pollock, Chaska.

Load-Date: March 25, 2004



Deadly mix fuels suicide bombers: Humiliation, zealotry play role in attacks

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)
September 30, 2005 Friday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A21

Length: 1030 words

Byline: Steven Gutkin, The Associated Press

Dateline: BEERSHEBA, Israel

Body

A bomb strapped to his abdomen, Rafat Moqadi walked into a Tel Aviv restaurant and saw a woman dining with her two little girls.

"Seeing that, I decided not to carry out the operation. I couldn't do it," he said.

Yet, Moqadi said he longed for what he believes awaits a suicide bomber in the hereafter -- God's reward and a special place in heaven for martyrs.

"He has a life in paradise," he told The Associated Press on Thursday. "He doesn't die."

A rare jailhouse interview with the would-be suicide bomber revealed a common thread running through the rising worldwide phenomenon: Most attackers are driven not by poverty or ignorance, but by a lethal mix of nationalism, zealotry and humiliation.

As the pace of attacks increases in the Middle East and beyond, a surprising profile is emerging of those willing to take their own lives: many are young, middle class and educated.

Nearly four-fifths of all suicide attacks over the past 35 years have occurred since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist strikes in the U.S., according to the RAND Center for Terrorism Risk Management. And 80 per cent of those have been carried out by radical Islamic groups, said the centre's director, Bruce Hoffman.

But religion is only part of the picture. Moqadi said that wasn't his motivation.

"The main reason was to resist the (Israeli) occupation, to create a balance of power with the Israeli army," he said.

"At the moment they put the (explosives) belt on me there were a few seconds of doubt," he said. "But after that I felt strength. I felt stronger than the whole state of Israel. It was a good feeling."

Moqadi, who is serving a 14-year sentence in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba, said he graduated high school and worked with his brothers laying tile before joining the <u>Hamas</u> militant group in 2002. The soft-spoken 26-year-old with neatly cropped hair said he did so in response to massive gunbattles between Israeli forces and Palestinians in Jenin.

Deadly mix fuels suicide bombers: Humiliation, zealotry play role in attacks

Now, Moqadi spends most of his time in jail learning to speak, read and write Hebrew, the language of the Jewish state. Islam, he said, teaches that it's important to "know your enemy."

Moqadi is not alone in having doubts before pressing the button, said Ariel Merari, an Israeli psychologist who has interviewed numerous would-be bombers.

"A person who volunteers usually hesitates. He has second thoughts," Merari said.

Often what makes the person carry out the mission is commitment to a group, making it difficult to back out without losing face, experts say. Many of today's suicide bombers, especially in Iraq and the Palestinian territories, come from societies where many people condone the action, making it easier to execute.

"Usually there are rites and rituals just before launching that constitute the last nail in the coffin," Merari said.

For Palestinian attackers, the last ritual is usually the making of a videotape in which the bomber proclaims commitment to national liberation. In Sri Lanka, when suicide bombings were prevalent, it was often a final dinner with rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Since the early 1980s, three countries have accounted for the vast majority of suicide bombings: Iraq, Israel and Sri Lanka. Iraq has become the global leader in suicide attacks, with an average of two a day during the past six months, attracting jihadists the world over, said Merari, who studies the issue at Tel Aviv University.

The conflicts in Israel and Iraq provide a fertile battlefield for suicide bombers, just as the conflict in Lebanon did during the 1980s and the one in Sri Lanka did from 1987 to 2002.

Hoffman attributes the sharp upturn in suicide bombings to their success in achieving the attackers' goal. His studies reveal that suicide strikes around the world kill four times as many people as other kinds of terrorism.

On Thursday alone, three suicide car bombs exploding nearly simultaneously killed at least 60 people in a city north of Baghdad.

In Afghanistan, another post Sept. 11 war front, a man launched a rare suicide attack in that country Wednesday outside a military training centre in Kabul, killing nine people and breaking 10 days of relative calm after landmark parliamentary elections. The bombing, the worst to hit Kabul in a year, added to fears insurgents could copy tactics used in Iraq.

Recent studies have debunked some common misperceptions about suicide bombers: that most are poor, that they're in it for personal revenge, that they're crazy and uneducated.

"He wasn't short of money," said Bilal Ardo, whose 16-year-old son Hussam was arrested in March 2004 at a West Bank checkpoint with an explosives belt strapped to his body. "I have a supermarket and his pockets were never empty."

Many suicide bombers have come from middle class families and have attended university. But most were "relatively unimportant people, not leader types but follower types," Merari said.

Most have been men, but in places like Sri Lanka and Chechnya, up to 40 per cent have been **women**, he said. Most were in their late teens or early 20s but some, including many of the 9/11 bombers, were a decade or more older. Almost all have been single and childless.

Some bombers do seek revenge, such as Hanadi Jaradat, 27, who blew up herself and 19 others at a restaurant in northern Israel in 2003 after seeing her brother die at the hands of Israeli troops. But most thwarted bombers say their motivation was nationalist, not personal.

A letter appearing this week in the journal Nature noted that many of today's Islamic radicals -- especially those operating in the West like in London or Madrid -- have no clear political goals but instead act "to oppose a perceived

Deadly mix fuels suicide bombers: Humiliation, zealotry play role in attacks

global evil." The letter, by researchers Scott Atran and Jessica Stern, said many potential suicide bombers in the West feel marginalized from society and "bond as they surf jihadi websites to find direction and purpose."

Abdel Haleem Izzedin, an Islamic Jihad leader in the West Bank town of Jenin, said Palestinian candidates for suicide bombings are "normal people" who "believe that Israel is occupying and confiscating their land and want to fight back."

Bombers in places like Madrid and London, he said, were "unusual" and "extreme."

Graphic

Colour Photo: Herald Archive, Associated Press; A woman is escorted from the explosion site in Carmel market, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Nov. 1, 2004. The explosion set off by a suicide bomber ripped through the crowded outdoor market in central Tel Aviv killing at least three people and wounding 32.;

Colour Photo: Herald Archive, Reuters; A photo released by Israeli military shows what is said to be a Palestinian baby wearing a suicide bomb belt.;

Colour Photo: Oded Balilty, Associated Press; Failed suicide bomber Rafat Moqadi during a jailhouse interview Thursday in the Israeli town of Beersheba.

Load-Date: September 30, 2005



The Will To Win

New York Sun (Archive)
January 6, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: ARTS & LETTERS; Pg. 17

Length: 1047 words **Byline:** By IRA STOLL

Body

A White House speechwriter for President Bush and one of Mr. Bush's campaign foreign policy advisers say in a new book that Mr. Bush should fire his director of Central Intelligence and stop lying about Saudi Arabia's support for terrorism. The authors assail the notion that Libya's Muammar Gadhafi is becoming more moderate - a notion that undergirds an agreement Mr. Bush recently announced with Libya - as "a symptom of the seemingly incurable wishful delusions that afflict the accommodationists in the foreign policy establishment."

The speechwriter, David Frum, and the campaign foreign policy adviser, Richard Perle, are careful not to frame their book as an a attack against the president, and on some matters, they side with Mr. Bush. Still, it's hard to escape the conclusion that there's a considerable gap between their prescription for victory in the war on terrorism and the course President Bush is now pursuing.

"We can feel the will to win ebbing in Washington," the authors warn.

In both form and substance, their arguments sometimes sound more like the Democratic presidential candidates' than like the Bush White House. Here are Mr. Frum and Mr. Perle, for instance, on Saudi Arabia:

We should tell the truth about Saudi Arabia. It's past time to drop the happy talk about how splendidly the Saudis are cooperating. ('The Saudis have done everything we've asked them to.') These transparent untruths demean the U.S. government. ...The Saudis qualify for their own membership in the axis of evil. ... Our policy has been abject because so many of those who make the policy have been bought and paid for by the Saudis - or else are looking forward to the day when they will be bought and paid for.

And here is President Bush on Saudi Arabia in a Rose Garden appearance on September 24, 2001, with Secretary of State Powell. "As far as the Saudi Arabians go - and, again, the secretary can comment on this, he's had more recent contact with them than I have - but they've been nothing but cooperative." Mr. Powell piped up, "That's exactly right, Mr. President. They have not turned down any requests that we have presented to them."

Closer to the Frum-Perle position on this issue is a Democratic presidential candidate, Rep. Richard Gephardt, who, as The New York Sun's Luiza Ch. Savage reported from Iowa last month, tells campaign audiences, "This president isn't talking about Saudi Arabia. ... Maybe that's because he is from the oil industry and so is Cheney."

So, too, is another Democratic candidate, Howard Dean. "Our oil money goes to Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia, which then turn it around and use it to fund <u>Hamas</u>, and worse, the teaching of small children

The Will To Win

throughout the Islamic world to hate Americans and Christians and Jews," Dr. Dean said last month in Los Angeles. "I would like to see a president who will stand up to the Saudis and say, 'Enough.'"

Or consider Mr. Frum and Mr. Perle on one of Mr. Bush's top national security aides: "George Tenet has been the director of central intelligence since 1997, time enough to have changed the Agency's culture. He has failed. He should go." Sounds a lot like another Democratic presidential candidate, Senator Kerry, on the "Charlie Rose" television show on October 27, 2003, who called for Mr. Tenet's ouster.

Mr. Perle (a board member of Hollinger International, which is a minority investor in The New York Sun) and Mr. Frum even begin their book with a quotation from Thomas Paine in 1780: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the loves and thanks of man and woman." It is a quotation that Dr. Dean uses prominently in his own campaign literature.

These similarities between the neoconservative critique of the Bush administration and that of the Democrats are intriguing, but it is not as if Messrs. Perle and Frum are about to join the Dean campaign. On the contrary, the most useful of many useful services "An End To Evil" provides is a bracing reminder of the problems with multilateralism and the United Nations. Even Democrats who favored the Iraq war, like Senators Clinton and Lieberman and Mr. Gephardt, criticize Mr. Bush for going it alone. Write Messrs. Perle and Frum: "What some Europeans decry as 'unilateralism' many Americans regard as leadership."

Though at points the authors are eloquent in calling for a free market in goods, they fail to extend the logic to a free market in labor. Mr. Frum, an immigrant to America from Canada, and Mr. Perle call for vigorous enforcement of existing immigration laws, which set the quotas for migrants to America at artificially low levels. Particularly galling is their invocation of Mayor Giuliani's crackdown on crime in New York as a justification for a crackdown on illegal immigrants. Mr. Giuliani as mayor was a friend of immigrants.

The authors relate an anecdote about a Palestinian Arab family in St. Louis, whose 16-year-old daughter, Tina Isa, a public school student, went on a date with a black boy. When she returned home, her father stabbed her to death while her mother held her down; it was an "honor killing," which the authors define as "the murder by men in the family of a *female* relative who has overstepped the rules that define *female* chastity."

What we are supposed to gather from this account is unclear. Immigration restrictionists surely would marshal it as evidence against admitting the likes of the Isa parents into America. But the most telling part of the story to me is that the attraction of American culture is so strong that it led a 16-year-old daughter to defy her parents' closed-mindedness.

The attractiveness of America to immigrants is reason to be optimistic about the spread of freedom. It isn't certain the authors note that despite Jacques Chirac's "warm reminiscences" of his weekend job as a Harvard student serving sodas at a Howard Johnson's, France has been openly hostile to American policy in the war on terror. And democratizing the Middle East is a big job. But, as the authors note, "The good news is, we've done it before - in Western Europe, in East Asia, and in Central America. That suggests it is not hopeless to try it again."

Load-Date: January 6, 2004



Settlers defy eviction

The Gazette (Montreal)

August 16, 2005 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 1115 words

Byline: JEFF HEINRICH, The Gazette

Series: Exit From Gaza

Dateline: GUSH KATIF, Gaza Strip

Body

In a standoff with the Israeli army and police yesterday, thousands of religious Jewish settlers and their supporters barred the gates of their outpost communities and hunkered down to await the inevitable.

They vowed to stay put until they're dragged out tomorrow, the deadline for the start of the forcible evacuation of the Israel-occupied Gaza Strip and northern West Bank.

And they declared their land "Jewish territory," and vowed to return after the Israeli withdrawal to establish an independent state here to be self-managed under an entity they're calling the Jewish Authority, akin to the Palestinian Authority.

"With all the problems we have, I hope that we will stay here," said Eitan Neve, 35, an Israeli man living with his mother in a beachhouse that sits on a sand dune in Shirat Hayam, one of the smallest of the Gaza villages.

"It's a nice place, and it's a Jewish place," he said.

Founded only three years ago, the community is a long line of squat homes fronting the Mediterranean Sea. Its only road is bordered by concrete anti-sniper blocks and a 2.4-metre-high wire security fence.

In plain view, on the other side, are Palestinian farms and a four-storey apartment block.

Arabs and Jews share the dirt road, even yesterday at the height of tensions.

In recent weeks, the community has doubled in size as Jewish sympathizers from the West Bank and Israel itself - and also abroad - came in to support and live with the settlers.

Yesterday, all were there illegally, as Israel officially closed the Gaza border at midnight Sunday.

The pullout of all Gaza was confirmed in a 16-4 vote by the cabinet of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday. Further deepening the drama, Sharon addressed the nation in a taped speech last night, appealing to the army to exercise restraint and urging Israelis to accept reality.

Settlers defy eviction

"We cannot hold on to Gaza forever," Sharon said in the speech, broadcast on all Israeli TV and radio networks.

He later added: "I understand the pain of those who oppose the pullout, but we are one nation even when we fight amongst ourselves. ...We are embarking on a new path, and, God willing, this path will be one of unity, not division."

But despite claims by a Sharon adviser that between 700 and 800 families are expected to leave voluntarily before tomorrow, many of the settlers and especially their supporters didn't appear to be going anywhere yesterday.

Defying the threat of jail terms - six months for residents, two years for supporters - yesterday they prayed, cooked, sang songs, listened to the advice of rabbis and responded to calls through loudspeakers for communal meetings.

"This is our land, the Jews' land - it isn't Israel's to give away," said Rob Muchnick, 33, a New York real-estate developer who snuck into Shirat Hayam on Sunday night, getting past army checkpoints by posing as a luggage-less resident.

He's now camping on the beach in a tent, and wears -like many other American Jews here - a bright yellow T-shirt that proclaims in large black type "Americans Oppose Jewish Expulsion,"

Yesterday afternoon, he was one of dozens of people in the community who rushed to the village gates as army buses full of troops raced by on the dirt road, taking a back way into Neve Dekalim, the Gush Katif block's central town.

The soldiers were skirting a gridlock of army vehicles on Gush Katif's main highway, caused by youths who, the night before, had punctured their tires with hypodermic needles - a form of "passive resistance" the settlers are practising.

That resistance took an almost festive form yesterday in Shirat Hayam. Near dusk, a group of <u>women</u> in religious headscarves and long skirts danced around the base of the army tower at the far end of the village.

They whooped and cried and sang traditional Jewish songs to the accompaniment of someone's acoustic guitar, and called out to the smiling young soldier up top to put down her automatic rifle and join in the singing - an invitation declined.

In other settlements, the atmosphere was more tense. Four villages barred Israeli-army-escorted media from entering, along with the soldiers themselves, who tried to distribute eviction notice to residents but were rebuffed at the gate.

In Neve Dekalim, there were skirmishes between soldiers and settlers overnight Sunday, while just up the road at Netzer Hazini, police on horseback yesterday morning backed off trying to disperse youths at the village gates

What was clear everywhere was that Gush Katif was under siege - and not just by the Israelis.

Some Palestinians, their ardour fueled by live TV coverage of the withdrawal that was billed early yesterday as the "Morning of the Evacuation and Liberation," told reporters they were itching to get onto vacated Israeli turf and raise their flag.

Although they were the Jews' immediate neighbours, the Gaza settlements were all but off-limits to most of them, unless they were day-labourers in places like the Gush Katif greenhouses.

Some Palestinians hanging around the fringes of the settlements yesterday were bellicose, saying the Gaza withdrawal was just a first step.

"Next is Ashkelon (just north of the Strip), then Tel Aviv, then Jerusalem!" said one man.

Others expressed solidarity with the settlers, simply because they now had a common enemy, the Israeli army.

Settlers defy eviction

A surreal incident late in the afternoon proved the point.

A gang of Jewish youths from Shirat Hayam began digging trenches in the dirt road separating the village from Al-Mawasi, the Palestinian enclave within Gush Katif that abuts Shirat Hayam.

Their goal was to prevent army jeeps and trucks from getting to their community by the back road.

But the Arabs at first took it as an aggressive act against them, and emerged en masse from the apartment building looking over the area to confront the teenage Jews.

Any crisis was averted, however, when after a brief discussion it became clear the trenches were meant to hobble the army, not the Palestinians.

Once they realized that, everybody on both sides started cheering.

And the Jews watched the Arabs go back to their building, and with pickaxes and shovels in hand, carried on with their digging.

It lasted right into the night, illuminated by a half moon and the searchlight from the army tower on the beach.

"They are helping us," said one settler. "You see, the soldiers don't mind us making life harder for them. Really, they are on our side."

jheinrich22@yahoo.ca

- - -

Israelis: deadline looms Majority of families have agreed to vacate homes, Details, Page A3

Palestinians: vote set for jan. 21 Move is seen as effort to curb *Hamas* terror, Details, Page A4

Montrealers: concern, criticism Pullout doesn't signal end to occupation: local groups, Details, Page A4

Graphic

Colour Photo: GIL COHEN MAGEN, REUTERS; A Jewish settler (left) weeps in the arms of an Israeli soldier during the dismantling of a synagogue in the Jewish settlement of Nissanit in northern Gaza Strip yesterday. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon appealed for national unity yesterday as security forces prepared to carry out orders to begin evicting reluctant Jewish settlers at daybreak tomorrow.

Load-Date: August 16, 2005



<u>Israel begins Gaza withdrawal; Hundreds of protesters scuffled with soldiers</u> and blocked a main road

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

August 15, 2005 Monday

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Section: Obituary; Pg. a1

Length: 1229 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: KISSUFIM CROSSING, Israel

Body

Israel lowered a road barrier sealing the Gaza Strip to Israeli civilians at midnight Sunday - signaling the start of a historic withdrawal that will end its 38-year occupation, redraw borders and reshape prospects for Mideast peace.

But several hundred settlers vowed to stay in their homes and ignore orders to leave Gaza within 48 hours. They were reinforced by up to 5,000 hard-line activists from outside Gaza who planned to block forceful evictions.

Trouble surfaced shortly after the ceremony when hundreds of protesters from the largest settlement, Neve Dekalim, blocked the main road, stopping army vehicles and scuffling with soldiers.

At the border, soldiers lowered a red road barrier at the Kissufim Crossing between Israel and Gaza, with a sign on the barrier reading: "Stop, entry into the Gaza Strip and presence there is prohibited by law."

With about 200 people looking on, the barrier was raised and lowered several times, apparently because of technical problems. Soldiers secured it with a wire to keep it shut.

Two large Israeli flags waved beside the barrier. As it went down, a traffic light changed from green to red and three vans carrying settlers and their belongings drove out of Gaza, never to return.

"The Gaza Strip has been closed today based on the decision of the Israeli government and today another phase begins," said Brig. Gen. Guy Tsur, a senior commander.

The withdrawal, marking the first time Israel gives up settled land claimed by the Palestinians for their future state, comes after months of political wrangling and mass protests. On Sunday, Israeli troops took up positions to launch the evacuation and Palestinian security forces fanned out to prevent militant attacks.

Israel's army chief appealed to troops to show restraint in removing thousands of Jewish settlers from their homes amid concerns that resistance could turn violent after thousands of anti-pullout activists slipped into the territory.

The presence of a few thousand Israelis in Gaza, among 1.3 million Palestinians, has become a security burden, said Vice Premier Ehud Olmert. "The state of Israel does not want to be in the Gaza Strip and does not need to be in the Gaza Strip," he told Israel TV's Channel One.

Israel begins Gaza withdrawal; Hundreds of protesters scuffled with soldiers and blocked a main road

In the hours leading up to the closure, thousands of Palestinian police moved into positions near Jewish settlements with orders to keep away Palestinian crowds and to prevent attacks by militants during the pullout - something that Israel warned would bring harsh retaliation.

Officers planted Palestinian flags and pitched tents while some chanted in praise of their late leader, Yasser Arafat. Hundreds of supporters of the militant Islamic Jihad group celebrated in Gaza City, with gunmen firing in the air, and teens setting off fire crackers and distributing sweets. The violent <u>Hamas</u> group organized special midnight prayers of thanks at Gaza mosques.

Palestinian residents watched settlers packing up. "They are actually leaving. Who would have ever thought?" said Palestinian farmer Ziyad Satari, 40, standing on the roof of his three-story home in the Palestinian town of Khan Younis, which overlooks the Morag settlement. Many Palestinians have expressed doubt that the withdrawal will take place.

Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas offered the Israelis reassurance.

"We tell the Israeli people, 'You have chosen the right path," he told Israel TV's Channel 10. "This is the right path. Don't listen to the voices of the extremists who want a continuation of the occupation. I don't want - and I will not accept - any clashes with the army or the settlers."

Early Monday, the military will distribute eviction notices to the settlers, but it called off plans to enter five of the 21 settlements, said army spokeswoman Maj. Sharon Feingold. She said the reason was to "respect the wishes" of the settlers, who preferred to receive the notices by mail. Earlier, settlers there had said they would block the entrances to their villages.

"It is OK to cry with them," the army chief, Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, told commanders in urging troops to show understanding of the traumatic time for settlers. During the two-day grace period, "we are there to take it and not to dish it out," he added.

However, once forcible removal begins Wednesday morning, soldiers will act with determination, Halutz said.

As part of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's withdrawal plan, which was approved by parliament, Israel also will evacuate four small settlements in the northern West Bank housing some 500 people.

Many hope the pullout from the territory Israel captured in 1967 will be the start of a true partition of historic Palestine between Arab and Jew.

Others fear it is a ploy by Sharon to get rid of areas he doesn't consider crucial to Israel while consolidating control of parts of the West Bank, where the vast majority of the 240,000 Jewish settlers live.

The Palestinians want to create their own state out of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, with east Jerusalem as their capital.

Halutz estimated Sunday that about 5,000 outsiders had managed to sneak into Gaza in recent weeks despite army restrictions. The hard-line activists pledged to help the several hundred Gaza settlers vowing to ignore the deadline to leave at midnight Tuesday. The protesters planned to try to close off their communities Monday by massing at entrances and blocking roads to prevent soldiers from delivering eviction notices.

But many families packed their belongings and left the Gaza Strip in recent days, and more were leaving Sunday.

In the Peat Sadeh settlement, Yaakov Mazaltareen set fire to his two warehouses that contained irrigation equipment and two vehicles. He used his forklift to knock down what was left of the structures. Settlers stopped to watch. One crying woman rushed her children away.

Most residents of Peat Sadeh already moved to Israel and were spending the weekend in a hotel.

Israel begins Gaza withdrawal; Hundreds of protesters scuffled with soldiers and blocked a main road

Dozens of anti-pullout protesters put up tents in the beachfront settlement outpost of Shirat Hayam. They turned a dilapidated house into a storeroom, piling up diapers, bottled water and canned foods. <u>Women</u> cooked on open fires, children bathed in makeshift bathrooms and people chatted in open tents.

At a synagogue in Neve Dekalim, Gaza's largest settlement, seven people sat in the sanctuary and quietly prayed. Itai Ben Simchon, 17, came to the synagogue to collect his father's prayer shawl and said his family decided to leave on their own so as not to lose out on compensation money. "My mother and father are crying a lot," he said.

Pinchas Ariel, a farmer from the Ganei Tal settlement, said he also was leaving on his own because he couldn't face clashing with Israeli soldiers. "I was in the army. I have two sons who were paratroopers, and I'm not going to fight my sons," he said.

Earlier Sunday, hundreds of settlers sang traditional prayers of redemption as part of a ceremony at the Gush Katif cemetery to commemorate the Tisha B'Av holy day marking the destruction of the Jewish Temples. The cemetery's 49 graves are to be moved to Israel - one of the most emotionally charged issues in the pullout.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres gave a pep talk to troops near the Gaza border.

"The settlements must be evacuated. They cannot stay here," he told reporters. "I understand that there are feelings. I have sympathy (for the settlers), but they cannot replace a national choice."

Graphic

AP Photo

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Finding the room to forgive

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Body

Ask Khalil Bashir what the Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian Gaza means and he glances skyward with a look of utter relief.

He looks to God. He looks also to the layers of Israeli camouflage netting and the military surveillance camera hanging from the upper windows of his home.

He looks down again. And turns the other cheek.

Life under occupation seldom gets this personal, even in Gaza.

Since August 2001, the top two floors of the Bashir family home have been a closed military zone, the exclusive domain of Israeli soldiers. That left Bashir, a father of eight, his wife and his mother relegated to the ground level, often sleeping together in a single room with an Israeli sentry outside the door. Visitors were few and far between, allowed only by prior Israeli military approval.

Here, you would think, is a man ready to thump his chest in triumph, with the pullout set to begin in just six days. But you would be wrong. Because Bashir is one Palestinian who professes no hatred, nor even resentment, of his departing neighbours, notwithstanding the personal sacrifices he has made.

Like a Palestinian Gandhi, he says forgiveness is unnecessary. He has already forgiven.

"I will feel happy but I will not feel victorious," says Bashir, 54, principal of the nearby Rudolf Walther Elementary School, in well-practised English.

"We can celebrate. But I will invite the Israelis to take part in my celebration because if it is a victory it is a victory for both sides.

"We have a chance now. But to compete for victory is unwise. Wisdom necessitates us to work for historic reconciliation, to give our children and their children a chance to enjoy life."

Bashir, then, is one rare Palestinian. Especially considering his laundry list of loss since the intifada began. There is the material loss, 10 bulldozed greenhouses under which he once raised green peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers before everything went sideways. The same Israeli bulldozers took down his brother's house on Bashir's 2.5-hectare farmstead, citing it as a security risk after the family abandoned it in search of shelter from nightly gunfire.

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"I was stubborn. I knew if we moved, my house would have been destroyed like my brother's was," says Bashir. "But I know God protected me. I never once posed a danger to anyone. I never once allowed (Palestinian) activists to use the house."

The Israeli military claimed his upper floors as a forward position to push back the nightly encroachment of Palestinian gunmen as the intifada moved toward a full boil. The Israeli imperative was the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom, whose heavily fortified walls stand just 70 metres from the family Bashir.

The material losses are the least of it. Early in the intifada, Bashir sustained shrapnel wounds to the head while he was lying in bed reading. Then one of his sons took a bullet in the leg trying to douse a grassfire in his yard.

Bashir's mother died last year, an event that triggered massive complications when time came for the <u>women</u> elders of Deir al-Ballah to enter the house for the customary washing of the body. A compromise was struck, but it meant straying from tradition.

Worst of all was the afternoon of Feb. 18, 2004, when Bashir's then 15-year-old son Yousef crumpled to his knees as he waved goodbye to a delegation of visiting United Nations aid workers. On a clear blue quiet day, those U.N. workers told the Toronto Star at the time of the incident, the boy took a bullet against his spine. The only possible explanation was that it came from an Israeli pillbox position atop a garrison of Kfar Darom.

The Israel Defense Forces apologized and suspended the soldier in question. And Yousef was taken to hospital in Tel Aviv for a full five months of treatment and convalescence. The bullet is still there, but Yousef walks today with no noticeable signs of distress.

Bashir is especially proud that Yousef has risen from his ordeal holding to his father's humanistic values. Now 16, he is attending a camp this summer with the Boston-based Seeds of Peace organization.

"Yousef says, 'The soldier tried to kill me, but at the hospital the Israelis were angels.' He has his father's viewpoint," says Bashir.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who has moved to Gaza from his West Bank headquarters in a bid to shore up the Palestinian Authority's hold over the fragile territory as the disengagement looms, could do with a lot more Bashirs right now.

But though the extended clan is the largest in Deir al-Ballah, the Bashirs are in the minority in that they do not carry status as refugees, unlike nearly a million of the estimated 1.3 million Palestinians who crowd Gaza.

In other words, this particular patch of sandy soil was theirs as far back as anyone remembers. Accordingly, they stake no claim to long-lost property inside Israel proper. Perhaps forgiveness comes more easily this way.

What the rest of Gaza does with its impending freedom Bashir cannot say. He is mindful of the triumphal appetite among militants to claim the Israeli retreat as their own victory. He shakes his head sadly at the impulse, and the possibility *Hamas* and the other armed factions will use the moment to resume another chapter of violence.

"This (withdrawal) is not happening because of violence. It is happening because Israel sees the demographic explosion in the future," he says.

"I understand the fear of the other (Israeli) side. That this will stir the Palestinian appetite for more.

"But reality tells us this is not possible. Our leadership was - and is - ready for compromise, for two states. The only way forward for Palestinians is to take this move and build on it. We must be patient for the recovery of the West Bank and accept this as our state because this is the vision the whole world supports."

Inside his bedroom, Bashir saves the detritus of nearly five years in what was often a high-velocity shooting gallery. Trays of mortar and shell casings are proffered for the inspection of visitors. A large mirror displays the word "peace" assembled elaborately from hundreds of spent bullets his children picked up in the yard.

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In the corner is a large sack of letters, to which we add on this visit. Our handful comes from Star readers moved by the account of Yousef's plight in hospital, published last year.

"These letters helped us survive," says Bashir as he begins to open the latest batch. "We felt so isolated. Then the letters started coming. And you find out there are people all over the world who care enough to write. We are very grateful."

Five months ago, Bashir's isolation eased even more. The family went online for the first time, with a dialup Internet connection.

"But the simplest freedom of all is soon to come, the freedom to welcome guests into our house," he says. "It has been agony not to have people here. It is our tradition."

Graphic

GORAN TOMASEVIC reuters Jewish settlers stand behind a Star of David in orange the colour of the movement opposing Israel's Gaza withdrawal at the entrance of Shirat Hayam, part of the Gush Katif settlement bloc.GORAN TOMASEVIC reuters Jewish settlers stand behind a Star of David in orange the colour of the movement opposing Israel's Gaza withdrawal at the entrance of Shirat Hayam, part of the Gush Katif settlement bloc.

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