

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:43:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223362287

Documents (100)

1. [PEACE WITH SYRIA WOULD MEAN LOSS OF GOLAN, SHARON SAYS/ PRIME MINISTER SAYS HE HAS ORDERED REVIEW OF SEPARATION BARRIER](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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2. [FIVE ISRAELIS TROOPS KILLED IN FEROCIOUS GAZA CLASHES ESCALATES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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3. [MORE ISRAELI SOLDIERS DIE IN GAZA CITY INCURSION](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

4. [Female bomber claims at least four Israeli lives](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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5. [Leading Israel to suffering: Likud: out of touch](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

6. [*Taking notes on terror*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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7. [*Two await fate as US recoils at video*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

8. [*Now Palestinians are turning on Bush*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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9. [*My Sharona*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

10. [*Israel strikes back after settler slain*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

11. [News in Brief](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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12. [News briefs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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13. [FAST NEWS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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14. [14 Palestinians killed during Israeli raids on refugee camps](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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15. [Federal Court Jury Finds Sheik Guilty Of Conspiracy and Financing Terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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16. [*Israelis taken from synagogues in Gaza*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

17. [*Yo: Young Palestinians find voices, resist nonviolently with hip-hop*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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18. [*Gaza pullout: day of pain and tears Israeli soldiers hand out eviction notices to settlers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. [*PALESTINIAN MILITANT KILLS TWO IN ATTACK ON SHOPPING MALL*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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20. [*The democracy puzzle*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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21. [Palestinians take step on road to democracy](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

22. [Blair's myopic vision on terror:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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23. [Yassin will become a ghost urging Palestinian martyrdom. He is far more dangerous dead than alive; Opinion](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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24. [MY FEARS FOR NATION LIVING WITH TERROR; AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL INTENSIFIES,PADDY SHENNAN MEETS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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25. [165 Palestinians killed in October: Worst toll since '02, Israeli paper says](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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26. [Abbas prepares to lead Palestinians on 'mission'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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27. [NEWSDESK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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28. [Realism and pessimism, Palestinians and Israelis; Globalist](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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29. [Attacks resume after Abbas vote](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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30. [NEWS SUMMARY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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31. [6 die as foes exchange attacks on Gaza border](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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32. [Female bomber kills 2 Israeli border guards](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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33. [Israel Seals West Bank and Gaza to Suppress Violence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

34. [Israel shuts Palestinian territories after attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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35. [PEOPLE/ NEWS/GOSSIP/SCOOPS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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36. [Two takes on terror: Imagine if it had been Israeli police who'd shot an innocent foreigner on a train](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

37. [Arabs vow revenge after raids on Gaza](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

38. [Bad girls, PETA and rover troubles](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

39. [Israel has tough decision: PM: Peace with Syria means no more Golan Heights](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

40. [ABBAS DECLARES VICTORY IN VOTE BY PALESTINIANS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

41. [Sharon: Golan exit is key to any Syria deal; A lawmaker said the Israeli leader was not ready to do that. Also, a security-barrier study was ordered.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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42. [LEADER COLUMN; TIME FOR VIGILANCE BY ALL IN WAR AGAINST TERRORISTS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

43. [London or Tel Aviv, it's still murder](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

44. [\\$12.2M in aid 'down payment' to peace process: Canadian funds a fraction of \\$50M pledged by U.S. to Palestinians](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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45. [More Online](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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46. [U.S. DIGEST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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47. [Gaza border closure makes thousands pay for attack;](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

48. [Poll test for Abbas' credibility](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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49. [Out of Egypt ... and Into Gaza Observe a Single Standard of Shoah Justice THE STRATEGIC INTEREST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

50. [Messier/ in Israel / and Iraq Bush, Sharon lurching from crisis to crisis Misguided policies make all nations less safe](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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51. [Sea rescue boy dies](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

52. [*Kicking, screaming only gets one so far*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

53. [*Israeli tanks block off Gaza refugee camp; Forces want to widen a buffer zone near Egypt . Palestinians fled via one last exit. Later, missiles hit, killing at least seven.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
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54. [*Israel releases prison-swap list*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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55. [*Israel , Jordan talk secretly about pullback proposal*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
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56. [*Palestinians claim abandoned settlements; Gazans celebrate end of Israeli military rule*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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57. [*Time to denounce failed leaders*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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58. [*QUICK NEWS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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59. [*Settlers bid emotional goodbye to Gaza; On first day of Israel 's pullout, residents decide to give in or dig in*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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60. [*Sharon weeps as settlers go down fighting Israel expects to clear Gaza within days*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

61. [*Bush and Sharon working to a plan*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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62. [*Sharon: Golan is price of Syrian peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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63. [LEADING ARTICLE: ISRAEL 'S REPUTATION, SUICIDE BOMBERS AND THE DEATH OF A PEACE ACTIVIST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [Arafat's No. 2 Is Set to Assume Palestinian Leadership](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

65. [Saudi school denies radicalism Proximity to D.C. worries critics](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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66. [CLERIC AND AIDE GUILTY OF TERROR FINANCING](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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67. [Israel Frees 398 More Palestinian Prisoners](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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68. [*Does Outrage! have genuine concerns?:*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [*Christians, Muslims and Jews united in tribute*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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70. [*It was a massacre - not a killing*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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71. [*Israel 'not shedding any tears' for Arafat*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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72. [*SINGER APPEALS TO KIDNAP PERS TO SHOW MERCY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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73. [Barghouti Pulls Out of Race For Palestinian Presidency](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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74. [Missile-carrying Israeli choppers pound suspected weapons factory](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

75. [SAS lauded](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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76. [TERROR AS KIDS KILLED IN REVENGE RAIDS ON CAMPS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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77. [Rocket Attack at Israeli Kindergarten Kills Boy and Man](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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78. [*Thousands of Palestinians Flee Rafah Ahead of Battle*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

79. [*Gaza looters settle old scores*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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80. [*Suicide bomber targets Israelis*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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81. [*Disgusted by peace efforts, Gadhafi leaves summit*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

82. [*Misleaders lead to more murders*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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83. [*Creeping Democracy*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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84. [Fight for peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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85. [From Iraq , democracy creeps forward](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to Dec 01, 2005

86. [THE PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ IS VERY SLOW, BUT DEFIANTLY STEADY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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87. [Protest tests Israeli security forces; March by withdrawal opponents thwarted by police ban, denial of access to buses](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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88. [National Briefs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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89. [Laura Bush dodges hecklers on tour of Mideast holy sites](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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90. [Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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91. [END OF THE INTIFADA: FOUR LONG YEARS OF BLOODSHED, BULLDOZED HOMES, SUICIDE BOMBS AND TARGETED KILLINGS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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92. [Israelis log a deadly toll against Palestinians](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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93. [Gaza the litmus test for Abbas](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
Dec 01, 2005

94. [*Bulldozer Sharon wins through, but bigger battles may lie ahead*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
Dec 01, 2005

95. [*Israelis log a deadly toll against Palestinians*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
Dec 01, 2005

96. [*Deadly push begins in Gaza*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
Dec 01, 2005

97. [*DOOM & GLOOM*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
Dec 01, 2005

98. [*NEWSDESK*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
Dec 01, 2005

99. [Sharon cabinet meeting turns nasty;](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
Dec 01, 2005

100. [News Summary](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to
Dec 01, 2005

**PEACE WITH SYRIA WOULD MEAN LOSS OF GOLAN, SHARON SAYS/
PRIME MINISTER SAYS HE HAS ORDERED REVIEW OF SEPARATION
BARRIER**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A9

Length: 492 words

Byline: Josef Federman/ The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told lawmakers Monday that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and said he had ordered a review of the West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments to Parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee were seen as an unprecedented admission. In the past, right-wing Israeli governments insisted that a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

Sharon was asked by a lawmaker if now is a good time to renew talks with Syria, said Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin.

"No one should have any illusions. The price of peace with Syria is leaving the Golan Heights," Gissin quoted the prime minister as saying.

Ran Cohen, a committee member from the left-wing Meretz Party, said Sharon had suggested that such a pullback would be too much for Israel to bear.

Sharon's meeting with the parliamentary committee came at a sensitive time.

Israel is preparing to defend the security barrier next month before the World Court in The Hague, Netherlands. The government also is considering how to react to offers by Syrian President Bashar Assad to restart peace talks, which broke down in 2000.

The Syrian president has said talks must resume where they broke off under Sharon's predecessor, Ehud Barak. But Sharon wants to start from scratch and also has demanded that Syria crack down on militant groups.

Meanwhile, Israel blamed Syria for an attack by Hezbollah militants on Monday at the Israeli-Lebanese border that killed one Israeli soldier and wounded two.

Syria is widely believed to support Hezbollah.

PEACE WITH SYRIA WOULD MEAN LOSS OF GOLAN, SHARON SAYS/ PRIME MINISTER SAYS HE HAS
ORDERED REVIEW OF SEPARATION BARRIER

In a broadcast by Hezbollah's Al Manar Television, the militant group said a bulldozer that was attacked had crossed the border into Lebanon. But Israeli Maj. Gen. Benny Gantz said the bulldozer was clearing land on the Israeli side.

At Monday's meeting, Sharon also said he had asked governmental committees to review the separation barrier, a senior official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government had asked committees to study possible changes in the route as well as technical means of easing movement for Palestinians.

Israel says the 440-mile barrier, which is one-quarter built, protects against suicide bombers and other attackers. But the barrier has severely disrupted the lives of tens of thousand of Palestinians, separating them from their farmland, jobs, hospitals and schools.

Also Monday, the founder of the Islamic militant group Hamas said it would increasingly recruit female suicide bombers. Last week, Hamas sent its first female assailant, a 22-year-old woman who blew herself up at the Gaza-Israel crossing and killed four Israeli border guards.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin said in Gaza that women must step up and fulfill their "obligations." He suggested that male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

End of Document

FIVE ISRAELIS TROOPS KILLED IN FEROCIOUS GAZA CLASHES ESCALATES

The Independent (London)

May 13, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: Final Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 789 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE IN GAZA Smoke billows from houses in the Zeitun neighbourhood of Gaza City after two missiles were fired on the area during clashes between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces Brennan Linsley/AP Photo

Body

FIVE ISRAELI soldiers were killed in Gaza yesterday when a troop carrier was blown up by Palestinian militants in an attack similar to the one which killed six soldiers on Tuesday.

In one of deadliest 48-hour periods for the Israeli army since the beginning of the intifada more than three-and-a-half years ago, an armoured vehicle exploded as it went to evacuate the crew of an army bulldozer that ran over a landmine in Rafah, at the border between Gaza and Egypt.

And, as tanks and Apache attack helicopters moved into the area - including vehicles deployed to protect the remains of the soldiers from being seized by militants as they were in the first attack - members of Islamic Jihad claimed that they had recovered a foot, a shoulder and clothing from victims. One missile was reportedly fired at an unspecified target in the Rafah refugee camp.

As in the case of the troop carrier blown up in the Zeitoun area of Gaza City on Tuesday, the vehicle, which appeared to have been hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, was already laden with explosives, in this case for blowing up houses and tunnels used for smuggling weapons across the border.

After a day of contacts between Israel, the Red Cross, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, army spokesmen announced that they had identified the bodies of all six soldiers killed on Tuesday.

Palestinian militants said early this morning they had handed over the remains of the six Israeli soldiers to Egyptian mediators.

Last night, a missile attack by the Israeli army in the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza killed at least seven Palestinians.

Earlier, Israeli helicopters fired two missiles during the fighting in Zeitoun, which claimed the lives of at least 13 other Palestinians over the two days and injured up to 175.

Hospital officials said 30 per cent of the injured were children under 15.

FIVE ISRAELIS TROOPS KILLED IN FEROCIOUS GAZA CLASHES ESCALATES

One of the missiles hit a building, injuring nine people; the second hit a crowd outside a mosque. Three Hamas members died and 28 people, including two girls, were wounded. The army said the attacks were aimed at militants planting bombs.

Marwan Qushtan said he was in his shop in the Rafah refugee camp when he heard an explosion. He said: "Many windows in many houses were broken. I saw trousers and shirts and vests flying in the street. We are happy. We are in a war. This is Jihad. We expect a painful response from the Israelis."

Dozens of Palestinian families were reported to have hurriedly packed their belongings and fled the area of the attack in fear of reprisals.

The escalation of the conflict in Gaza is bound to complicate the attempt by the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, to persuade his political allies to support his plan for disengagement from the strip. He is as determined to show that withdrawal of settlers and military posts from inside Gaza is not a retreat in the face of the militants, as the militants themselves are to proclaim it as a victory. Iyad Nasr, the Red Cross's spokesman in Gaza City, had earlier confirmed that the ICRC had been conveying messages between all the parties on the deadly stand-off in Zeitoun.

He warned of a mounting humanitarian crisis in Zeitoun if the incursion and accompanying curfew was maintained, saying that up to 10,000 families had been confined to their homes, many without electricity, water and food in a 500 square metre area of the neighbourhood since the incursion began. "It's disastrous, what's happening. We are getting hundreds of calls from people in Zeitoun from families short of medicines, with pregnant women about to deliver, with fathers who left the house before the incursion and now can't get home," he said.

As helicopters patrolled over Zeitoun and the Israeli army prepared to extend their zone of control towards Gaza City centre along the main Salahadeen Street, crowds of onlookers scattered repeatedly and fled for cover after explosions and gunfire 500 metres to the south. Balaclava-clad Hamas crews carrying rocket launchers and anti-tank missiles moved south towards the fighting before they were pushed north by an Israeli advance.

Earlier, Ghazi Hamad, editor of the pro-Hamas newspaper al-Risala, said that the attack on the armoured troop carrier and the seizure of the remains of the dead soldiers would "increase pressure on the Israeli government from those saying that it should not stay in Gaza". He said the resistance offered in Zeitoun would send out a "strong message that entering Gaza will be welcomed not with flowers but by strong fighters".

Mr Hamad said he did not believe the seizure of the body parts had been part of a strategy but had arisen because of the unusual circumstances in which they had been "scattered everywhere" in Palestinian territory.

Load-Date: May 13, 2004

MORE ISRAELI SOLDIERS DIE IN GAZA CITY INCURSION

The Independent (London)

May 13, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 810 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE IN GAZA Smoke billows from houses in the Zeitun neighbourhood of Gaza City after two missiles were fired on the area during clashes between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces Brennan Linsley/AP Photo

Body

FIVE ISRAELI soldiers were killed in Gaza yesterday when a troop carrier was blown up by Palestinian militants in an attack similar to the one which killed six soldiers on Tuesday.

In the deadliest 48 hours for the Israeli army since the beginning of the current intifada more than three-and-a-half years ago, an armoured vehicle exploded as it went to evacuate the crew of an army bulldozer that ran over a landmine in Rafah, at the border between Gaza and Egypt.

And as tanks and Apache attack helicopters moved into the area - including vehicles deployed to protect the remains of the soldiers from being seized by militants as they were in the first attack - members of Islamic Jihad claimed that they had recovered a foot, a shoulder and clothing from victims. One missile was reportedly fired at an unspecified target in the Rafah refugee camp.

The fighting has also claimed the lives of at least four Palestinians and more than 40 injured, including children.

As in the case of the troop carrier blown up in the Zeitoun area of Gaza City on Tuesday, the vehicle, which appeared to have been hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, was already laden with explosives, in this case for blowing up houses and tunnels used for smuggling weapons across the border.

The fresh blow to the army in Gaza came as its spokespeople refused to confirm reports that the armed factions were ready to hand back the remains of the soldiers killed on Tuesday after a day of contacts between Israel, the Red Cross, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority designed to end the fighting in the city.

Israeli helicopters fired two missiles during the fighting in Zeitoun. One hit a building, injuring nine people. The second hit a crowd outside a mosque. Three ***Hamas*** members died and 28 people, including two girls, were wounded. The army said the attacks were aimed at militants planting bombs.

Marwan Qushtan said he was in his shop in the Rafah refugee camp when he heard an explosion. He said: "Many windows in many houses were broken. I saw trousers and shirts and vests flying in the street. We are happy. We are in a war. This is Jihad. We expect a painful response from the Israelis."

Iyad Nasr, the Red Cross's spokesman in Gaza City, had earlier confirmed that the ICRC had been conveying messages between all the parties on the deadly standoff in Zeitoun since being contacted by the Israelis on Tuesday afternoon.

MORE ISRAELI SOLDIERS DIE IN GAZA CITY INCURSION

He said: "We are neutral and we can talk to everybody at every level, including the military wings of the factions." He warned of a mounting humanitarian crisis in Zeitoun if the incursion and accompanying curfew was maintained, saying that up to 10,000 families had been confined to their homes, many without electricity, water and food in a 500 square metre area of the neighbourhood since the incursion began. "It's disastrous, what's happening. We are getting hundreds of calls from people in Zeitoun from families short of medicines, with pregnant women about to deliver, with fathers who left the house before the incursion and now can't get home," he said.

As helicopters had patrolled over Zeitoun and the Israeli army prepared to extend their zone of control towards Gaza City centre along the main Salahadeen Street, crowds of onlookers scattered repeatedly and fled for cover after explosions and volleys of gunfire some 500 metres to the south.

Balacava clad Hamas crews carrying rocket launchers and anti-tank missiles moved south to the front line of the fighting before it was pushed north by an Israeli advance which left it in control of around two square miles of the city. In the city's Shifa Hospital yesterday, Mohammad Nabil Zered, 10, who suffered a flesh wound when he was shot through his shoulder on Tuesday, said his cousin, also 10, had gone to a nearby house to get a better view of the fighting. "I called to him to come home because I was frightened he would get killed. We walked along the road by the wall and then they shot at us. I fell to the ground and my cousin ran to tell my father. I am happy because I was not killed."

Earlier, Ghazi Hamad, editor of the pro-Hamas newspaper al-Risala, had predicted an end to the stand-off, suggesting that the fatal attack on the armoured troop carrier and the seizure of the remains of the dead soldiers would "increase pressure on the Israeli government from those saying that it should not stay in Gaza". He said the resistance offered in Zeitoun would send out a "strong message that entering Gaza will be welcomed not with flowers but by strong fighters ... Israel will understand that the Palestinians have the ability to harm the big armaments of Israel." Mr Hamad said he did not believe the seizure of the body parts had been part of a strategy, but had arisen because of the unusual circumstances in which they had been "scattered everywhere" in Palestinian territory.

Load-Date: May 13, 2004

Female bomber claims at least four Israeli lives

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Early Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

Length: 499 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin, Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem and agencies

Body

A Palestinian woman suicide bomber struck at the main border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip yesterday, killing at least four Israelis and wounding seven people in another blow to a US-backed peace "road map".

The woman blew herself up in a terminal where Palestinian labourers were going through Israeli security checks before entering a nearby industrial complex. "Glass and black smoke flew everywhere. Arabs were screaming, Jews were screaming, nobody knew what was going on," a Palestinian witness said.

The crossing is the main entry point into Israel for thousands of Palestinian workers.

It was the first Palestinian suicide attack since a bombing that killed four Israelis near Tel Aviv on December 25.

A caller to the Reuters news agency in the Gaza Strip claimed responsibility for the bombing in the name of the militant Islamic group **Hamas** and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, an armed offshoot of President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. **Hamas** said the bomber was a 21-year-old woman from Gaza City.

Security sources said all of the dead and most of the wounded were Israelis. They said two Palestinians were among the wounded.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, meanwhile, faces intensifying corruption allegations following the publication of a clandestine tape recording and reports that prosecutors will next week indict a former associate on charges of bribing him.

With new revelations expected shortly in the so-called "Cyril Kern" and "Greek island" scandals the Israeli media are speculating that further damage to Mr Sharon's credibility could force him to resign, or spark a leadership battle within his Likud party.

The linked scandals involve payments of millions of dollars by overseas donors to companies and charities under the control of Mr Sharon or his sons Gilad and Omri, and allegedly used in part to fund his campaign to win control of the right-wing Likud party in 1999.

Female bomber claims at least four Israeli lives

In the "Greek Island" affair, a Likud member and Sharon associate, David Appel, paid nearly \$US500,000 (\$645,000) to Gilad Sharon, ostensibly in return for consultancy work on the tourist potential of a casino Mr Appel was hoping to build on a Greek island.

Prosecutors allege Mr Appel was trying to enlist Mr Sharon's support in gaining permission for the project from the Greek authorities. Israeli media reports say Mr Appel is likely to be charged with bribery as early as next week, and even if Gilad and his father escape related charges, revelations from the case could severely embarrass them.

On Monday, another former Sharon adviser and associate, David Spector, a private investigator, showed a September 2000 tape on Israeli television in which Mr Sharon presses him for detailed information on overseas payments to a political front organisation.

While the organisation in question was examined by Israeli courts and not found to be criminal, Mr Sharon's conversation is seen at the least as contradicting his claim to have no involvement in his own financial affairs.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Leading Israel to suffering;
Likud: out of touch

Canberra Times (Australia)

March 28, 2004 Sunday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 1177 words

Body

S HEIKH Ahmed Yassin was a far-right theocrat. If the *Hamas* program he inspired is ever put into practice, the dream of Palestinian liberation will turn into a nightmare on the day of an Israeli withdrawal. He explicitly wanted to turn a Palestinian state, when it finally came into existence, into a fundamentalist state under shariah law.

There would be no liberation for *women* in his Palestine. Dissenters would be dealt with as they are in all fundamentalist states. The savagery inflicted on any Jews who remained there would be too horrible to describe. I would be stoned to death there for being gay. It is understandable that some Palestinians, driven to psychosis by the ethnic cleansing of 1948 and the occupation forced on them since 1967, have sympathy for this program. No outsider should weep for Yassin, or support *Hamas*.

Yet we should weep for his assassination this week. Some of our tears should be for the consequences in Israel itself: when Ariel Sharon gave the order to incinerate Yassin, he guaranteed the incineration of countless Israeli civilians - innocent people - in retaliation attacks. But we should grieve mostly because it reveals a startling ignorance on the part of the Israeli Government. This ignorance will ensure they carry on slaying and oppressing Palestinians.

The Likud Government still fails to understand the causes of suicide bombing. Encouraged by the American right, Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu imagine that suicide bombing is the work of a few evil masterminds brainwashing impressionable young people into committing suicide massacres. This is why they have killed Yassin and may yet kill Yasser Arafat. They genuinely believe that if you take out these "terror masters" the attacks will be reduced. There is only one problem: I have met young men preparing to be suicide bombers, and this analysis bears no relation to reality.

The wave of suicide bombers currently massacring civilians in Israel are the children of the first Intifada. The formative experience of their lives was watching their parents stage a massive program of peaceful resistance to occupation. Israel's response was clear: Yitzhak Rabin gave the order to "break their bones". No brainwashing is needed to turn these men to crazed violence; they learned it in their childhood from Israeli occupiers.

All that happens when Israel kills Palestinian figureheads is that humiliation stabs deeper into their gut. Yassin will now become a ghost at every Palestinian feast, urging martyrdom. He is far more dangerous - both to Israelis and to the cause of a secular Palestinian nationalism - dead than alive.

Leading Israel to suffering; Likud: out of touch

To understand this we can listen to the explanation for terrorism offered by a man once universally regarded in Britain as "Terrorist Number One": "All we wanted was to be a free people in our own country ... our enemies called us terrorists, but we used physical force only because we were faced by physical force ... For this reason we delivered attack after attack against the oppressor, and our revolt burst into a great flame." These are the words of Menachem Begin, who went on to become Israel's first Likud Prime Minister. He led the Irgun, a terrorist group who fought against the British occupation of Palestine in the 1940s. If anybody should understand how the unique agony of living without a state turns people to terrorism, it is the Israelis. Begin's compelling autobiography, *The Revolt: Story of the Irgun*, is a mirror-image of the writings of contemporary Palestinian terrorists. He coldly justifies the massacre of 91 people at the King David Hotel as "necessary" to ensure a free Israel.

It is a simple truth that if you deprive people of a state, they will fight for one. What we are witnessing today is a straightforward Palestinian war of independence. The only way to bring it to an end is to grant independence. This can only mean a state comprising Gaza and the West Bank.

This would not be a magical solution to everything. There will still be some fanatics who seek not a two-state solution but a Greater Palestine cleansed of Jews. Yet opinion polls suggest that such Islamic fundamentalists would be a minority in a free Palestine, even after years of psychosis-inducing abuse. But how much longer can this last? How many more provocations before they are all driven mad? The tragedy is that Israel is cursed with a leadership that is psychologically incapable of taking the road to peace. All opinion polls show that most Israeli citizens can see that Israel's only chance for survival is as one of two states, divided between the two peoples who share the tiny patch of land between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean Sea.

Yet Sharon sees all Arabs as part of a seething mob with whom there can be no discussion, no reasoning, no co-existence. Peaceniks and suicide bombers, Abu Mazen and Sheikh Yassin: they are all equally murderous, and only a fool would try to compromise with such savages. Sharon grew up in Kfar Malal, a small Jewish village that was eternally besieged by Palestinians. This sense of an absolute threat - they're coming for us, pass the ammunition - has never left him. For Sharon, the entire Middle East is an eternal Kfar Malal.

He is tipping Israel/Palestine towards a situation from which there can be no return. At the moment, a majority of Palestinians seek their own state divided from Israel along the 1967 borders. This is an agenda which can be met while leaving Israel safe and intact. Yet Sharon is making it impossible to return to those borders, by constructing a fence that cuts deep into Palestinian territories. The effect of this will not be what Sharon hopes: that the Palestinians will be so terrified that they will settle for the scraps that Likud is prepared to leave behind after a unilateral withdrawal. No; it will be that Palestinians will ditch the goal of two states altogether. Ahmad Qureia, the Palestinian Prime Minister, made this clear when he explained that Sharon's unilateral moves would render the drive for a Palestinian state a "meaningless slogan". No viable state could exist on what Sharon proposes to - perhaps - leave behind. So the Palestinian goal will change. "If the situation continues as it is now, we will go for the one-state solution," Qureia says. One big state encompassing both the Occupied Territories and Israel proper would mean an Arab majority and the end of Israel. Sharon - by refusing to see the difference between moderate and extreme Palestinians - is pushing the Palestinians further away from secular moderation and towards **Hamas** fanaticism and a thirst to eradicate all Israel. He has just united all Palestine behind a **Hamas** fanatic.

If one state becomes the Palestinian *raison d'être* there will be perpetual war with no possibility of compromise, and I will still be writing laments for peace in the Middle East when I am an old man. This is the abyss towards which Sharon is dragging his people. Unless he radically changes direction, his legacy will be rows of Jewish and Arab graves stretching out into infinity. - THE INDEPENDENT

Load-Date: October 30, 2004

Taking notes on terror

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

September 1, 2005 Thursday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A21

Length: 1364 words

Byline: Michael Burrows, National Post

Body

While working in an intelligence liaison capacity in the late-1990s sometime after al-Qaeda blew up the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es-Salaam and before the realized nightmare of 9/11, I attended a course entitled "Understanding Islamic Fundamentalist Terror." The course wasn't for domestic consumption, but for a group of well-scrubbed male and female FBI agents who had flown in from various field offices scattered throughout the United States. It was the first course of its kind designed to familiarize representatives of a foreign intelligence body with the threat of Islamic terror. The course was the visionary brainchild of Israel's domestic security service, the Israel Security Agency (ISA) -- better known as "Shabach," the Hebrew acronym for Sherut Bitachon Clalli or General Security Service.

Co-operation between nations, it was argued, was necessary to combat the ever increasing threat of Islamic fundamentalist terror, and it has become the general consensus of all enlightened and democratic nations that no one intelligence service can defeat terrorism alone and unaided.

The reason I was attending this particular seminar was to simultaneously translate a lecture that was to be presented by a former member of a terror cell of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), whom I'll refer to as "Ahmad." Ahmad was not a prisoner, but a man who had decided that he had experienced enough of the dark side and could not in good conscience remain there.

Not much is written about PIJ. It lacks the well-oiled PR and media-savvy capability of most Palestinian organizations. Unlike HAMAS and the other Palestinian terror groups -- both secular and otherwise -- PIJ is very unambiguous about its stated aim, which is the creation of an Islamic Palestinian state and the destruction of Israel through attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets inside Israel and the Palestinian territories. Also unlike HAMAS, PIJ has no social or political role in the PA. Politics have no meaning to the followers of an Islamic nihilist ideology. PIJ is a small outfit based in Damascus and its financial backing comes from both Syria and Iran. It also maintains offices in Beirut, Tehran and Khartoum. PIJ is the pit-bull terrier of hard-core Islamic terror.

When Ahmad was ushered into the room, he was met with silence and even a little apprehension. He is a bull of a man and had a very imposing and palpable physical presence. I am not the easily intimidated type, but Ahmad was, simply stated, scary. Even these veteran FBI agents -- used to dealing with hard-core mobsters and their own home-grown Islamic terrorists -- were somewhat awestruck.

Taking notes on terror

For about an hour I sat shoulder-to-shoulder facing the crowded room with a man who under other circumstances would see me blown to bits or beheaded in front of a cheap camcorder without a second thought. I wanted to do justice to Ahmad's lecture and translated his words as if they were my own. I found myself not only describing the selection, training and preparation of a suicide bomber, but also described in his words (but my own voice) how PIJ terrorists view us through their eyes. It was a terrible insight that I will never forget and a lesson to those who seek to offer a moral relativity to the actions of suicide terrorists.

For the record, PIJ mostly recruits from the university crowd and its followers are, for the most part, the educated product of the middle-class. A terrorist must possess more grey matter than desperation in his arsenal if he wants to be truly successful.

Ahmad avoided speaking in the first person and related how a young and impressionable Palestinian already subsisting on a diet of incitement, bigotry and violent rhetoric was easy prey for PIJ's talent-spotters. He conveyed all the aspects of life as a committed Islamist; from married life to how compartmentalized terrorist cells operate and select their targets. Attacks are directed by the leadership from the relative safety of their headquarters in Damascus, and the target is left to the discretion of the field commander. Cell commanders are often berated by the external leadership for not being "active" enough or conducting spectacular enough attacks. This is really a tribute to the diligent efforts of the ISA.

Ahmad spoke about how PIJ perfected the art of conducting double suicide attacks whereby the first suicide bomber approaches the target and detonates himself, and in the ensuing mayhem, the second detonates near the able-bodied and first-responders trying to attend to the maimed and wounded. Such an attack occurred on Jan. 22, 1995, when two consecutive bombs exploded at the Beit Lid junction near Netanya, killing 19 Israelis and wounding 69 others. In March of 1996, PIJ suicide bombers attacked the Dizengoff shopping mall during the Purim holiday when it was crowded with costume-attired children. In that attack, some 20 people were killed and over 75 injured. PIJ, Ahmad explained was, "hard-core."

Ahmad did not offer a view that followers of political correctness and multiculturalism-at-all-costs would consider consistent with their take on the roots of Islamic extremist terrorism. He declared unapologetically, "In our view, non-Muslims are insects, and it is quite within our rights as Muslims to rape, steal from, punish and kill non-Muslims as we deem fit." He described an insular existence that was motivated by a religious ideology so intolerant of anything not of itself, that no crime was too great in removing it from their vision of the world. The odd thing was, when he explained it, all you could understand on a certain level was how it all made sense.

PIJ's take on the world offered an exculpability greater than anything Noam Chomsky or his acolytes could dream up. Ahmad explained that they didn't need our ideological arguments to justify their Jihad. They are uninterested in our perceived culpability for their "plight" as many would have you otherwise believe. We are weak, meaningless targets for elimination regardless of how port or starboard we perceive ourselves to be on the political spectrum. To be a true PIJ (or **HAMAS** terrorist for that matter), you must first embrace the culture of non-Muslim xenophobia.

After the lecture there was a Q & A session, but it was short and desultory. Not because Ahmad's lecture failed to resonate, but due to the shock of the listeners. It was not the kind of thing you just walk away from unaffected. I had been given a unique opportunity that I shall never forget. I believe the same was true for the FBI agents who attended the course. I'm sure this experience influenced the thinking at the National Security Division of the FBI, the body tasked with combatting terrorism, and I credit them with recognizing early on the threat of Islamic terror and sincerely trying to combat it within the inadequate protocols and legislation that were in place prior to 9/11. I worked on several occasions with Ken Williams, the author of the now-famous memo written in July of 2001 that theorized followers of Osama Bin Laden were trying to infiltrate the U.S. civil aviation system. I believe that he was indicative of the quality of personnel at the FBI's field offices. Sadly, FBI headquarters was too many steps behind their field personnel.

Ahmad's lecture taught us that terrorism cannot be eradicated by hugs and goodwill or even explained by this grievance or that. It doesn't know, nor want to know, what steps we can offer to help their so-called plight. While it

Taking notes on terror

can be argued that the West has made many foreign policy blunders, placing the blame for radical extremist terrorism solely and squarely on our shoulders is an exercise in self-delusion.

So many years later, I can't help but reach the conclusion that while the content of Ahmad's lecture was important for us in the counterterrorism business, the most relevant consumer was really the world's Muslim communities. How long will they tolerate PIJ, **HAMAS**, Hezbollah, al-Qaeda et al. being the spokespersons for their religion? I have an idea how Ahmad would answer the question and, in a way, by having the courage to turn his back on violent thought and deed, he already has.

Graphic

Graphic/Diagram: Gary Clement; Charicature of a terrorist giving a lecture.

Load-Date: September 1, 2005

End of Document

Two await fate as US recoils at video

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

September 22, 2004 Wednesday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 14

Length: 550 words

Byline: Marian Wilkinson Herald Correspondent in Washington

Body

Two hostages, one American and one British, were under threat of execution as President George Bush arrived in New York to ask the United Nations for more help in Iraq and to meet Iraq's interim Prime Minister, Iyad Allawi.

The beheading of an American hostage, Eugene Armstrong, put the Iraq invasion at the forefront of the US election campaign.

The execution video that showed Mr Armstrong, a construction contractor, blindfolded and screaming, brought home the horror of the war. It was released as Mr Bush and his Democratic opponent, John Kerry, stepped up their debate about Iraq.

A US official in Washington confirmed that Mr Armstrong's body had been recovered soon after the videotape was posted on an Islamic website. It showed a terrorist, believed to be the Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, carrying out the murder while a statement was read.

It referred to Mr Bush as "a dog" and said "the mujahideen will give America a taste of the degradation you have inflicted on the Iraqi people".

Mr Bush described the killers as "ideologues of hatred" who carried out the beheading "in order to shake our will".

The two other hostages kidnapped with Mr Armstrong, an American, Jack Hensley, and a Briton, Kenneth Bigley, remained under threat of execution.

Zarqawi's followers kidnapped the three Westerners last week and are demanding the release of all **female** prisoners from US custody in Iraq. The US military say two of Saddam Hussein's senior scientists are the only **women** being held. One of them is "Dr Germ", Rihab Rashid Taha.

On the eve of Mr Bush's speech to the UN, Senator Kerry issued his most trenchant attack yet on Mr Bush's Iraq policy.

Senator Kerry, who appeared to accept that the invasion would dominate the remainder of the campaign, called for "a great honest national debate on Iraq".

Two await fate as US recoils at video

For the first time, he said Mr Bush's Iraq policy "has not strengthened our national security. It has weakened it". He accused Mr Bush of "colossal failures of judgement" and "incompetence", and said that the overthrow of Saddam had not made America safer.

"The satisfaction we take in his downfall does not hide this fact: we have traded a dictator for a chaos that has left America less secure."

Mr Bush hit back, accusing Senator Kerry of "twisting in the wind, with new contradictions of his old positions on Iraq". He noted Senator Kerry's vote last year to support the war and his continued justification of that vote. "Incredibly, he now believes our national security would be stronger with Saddam Hussein in power, not in prison," he said.

Polls show that Mr Bush is still significantly ahead of Senator Kerry on the question of which of them is better suited to handle the Iraq crisis, even though half of the country believes the war was a mistake.

* The leader of the militant Palestinian group **Hamas**, which has claimed a string of suicide bombings in Israel, has urged Iraqi guerillas to stop taking hostages and concentrate on fighting the occupation of their country, Associated Press reports.

"We are against kidnappings and we wish the Iraqi resistance would stay away from this behaviour and concentrate on its natural right in defending its land and people, by resisting the occupation forces, foremost the American occupation," the **Hamas** political bureau head, Khaled Mashaal, said.

Graphic

PHOTO: The video showing Armstrong moments before execution.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Now Palestinians are turning on Bush

Canberra Times (Australia)

April 19, 2004 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: A;

Length: 871 words

Body

Y OU NEVER know which straw will finally break the camel's back, but it may have been Wednesday's meeting between President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. The public endorsement Bush gave to Sharon's abandonment of the "peace process" in favour of "unilateral disengagement" was mostly symbolic, since the Israeli leader was committed to doing it anyway. But in the Middle East, patience is finally running out.

The people of the Arab countries have been remarkably patient as they watched their living standards decline under corrupt and oppressive governments backed by the West.

They have been patient as Israel sat on the conquered Palestinian territories for 37 years, pushing Arabs off the land and planting their own settlements on it. They have been patient about a lot of things - but that dry, snapping sound you heard a moment ago may have been the camel's back breaking.

Look at the past month from an Arab perspective. At the end of March, Israel assassinated Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder and leader of the Palestinian Islamist organisation **Hamas**.

Yassin was a staunch supporter of the use of terror against the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territory - but he was also an elderly paraplegic who was widely seen as a holy man, and for many years Israel avoided attacking him.

Many Palestinians saw Yassin's murder as a deliberate attempt by the Israeli Government to stimulate massive terrorist attacks which would distract international attention from Sharon's massive land grab in the West Bank.

They were probably right, though the attacks have not yet come. What did come was a statement by Dr Abdelaziz Rantissi, **Hamas**'s new leader in the Gaza Strip, that "America has declared war on Allah. Allah has declared war on America and Bush".

Most people in the West have forgotten that international terrorism was once the specialty of secular Palestinian nationalists.

They stopped all that dead in 1988, after they got international recognition that the Palestinians were a people with a claim to their land and not just anonymous "Arab refugees" who could be put anywhere. All subsequent Palestinian terrorism has been directed exclusively against Israel, whose soldiers occupy that land - until now.

What Rantissi was saying is that America's complicity in what Israel is doing to the Palestinians is so great that the United States will also become a target of Palestinian terrorism.

Now Palestinians are turning on Bush

Of course, Hamas hasn't even retaliated against Israel for Yassin's death yet. Still ...

Spin forward a week to Iraq, where the ham-fisted mismanagement of the US occupation regime turns the killing of four men in Falluja and the banning of a 10,000-circulation newspaper published by a radical young cleric into two full-scale sieges of major Iraqi cities.

It will be a miracle if the US military don't kill a thousand Iraqis this month (they're already up to 800), and no matter what the American military spokesman says, people watching Arab television can see the makeshift hospitals are full of wounded women and children as well as young men. Perhaps the United States is not the Arabs' enemy, but look at it through Arab eyes.

And finally, Wednesday at the White House. It was obvious why Sharon, in trouble at home on several fronts, needed Bush's support for his radical plan to pull out of the Gaza Strip (where there are only 7500 Jewish settlers among 1.3million Palestinians). He hangs on to almost all of the far bigger settlements on the West Bank, confining the Palestinians there behind his "security fence", thus unilaterally settling the new borders of an emasculated Palestinian pseudo-state. It is less clear why Bush had to give it to him. For 37 years, Republican and Democratic administrations alike have insisted, along with everyone else in the world, that Israel's legal border is the pre-1967 one, and that it can only be changed by freely negotiated agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

Yet there was Bush, with Sharon beaming by his side, announcing a new US policy: "In the light of new realities, including already existing Israeli population centres, it is unrealistic that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the [pre-1967 borders]."

Not a word about how those "already existing Israeli population centres" were planted there by force after the Israeli military occupation in 1967; not even a nod to the United Nations resolutions that have been the bedrock on which every previous negotiation was built.

There aren't going to be any more peace negotiations, of course, which suits Sharon fine - but why does it suit the US? Bush's unnecessary concessions to Israel were so effective in alienating Arab opinion that his speech might have been ghost-written by Osama bin Laden. This may not prove to be the final straw, but we are getting very close. For 40 years the US has managed to preserve a dominant position in the Arab world despite its permanent disagreement with the Arabs about Israel, but now it is throwing it away.

The Arab regimes that depend on US backing are getting very worried, and five or 10 years from now the Middle East may look a lot more like bin Laden's dream than Bush's. - The Independent

Load-Date: October 30, 2004

[My Sharona](#)

University Wire

April 13, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Cornell Daily Sun via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 929 words

Byline: By Jamie Weinstein, Cornell Daily Sun; **SOURCE:** Cornell U.

Dateline: ITHACA, N.Y.

Body

When Ariel Sharon was elected Prime Minister in February of 2001, an election one can credit Yasser Arafat, **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad for helping bring about, it was thought that this life long hawk would immediately crack down on Palestinian Arab terror. In reality, for many months -- some would say far too many months -- Ariel Sharon was remarkably restrained, responding relatively lightly to murderous attacks on Israeli men, **women** and children. Certainly, far more restrained than any American president would be in a similar situation and far more restrained than what I would consider reasonably necessary.

Critics of Sharon's numerous calls for Arafat to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure within the disputed territories would claim that this was an impossibility because of the diminished Palestinian Security apparatus as a result of Israeli Defense Force military operations. Yet they forget that when Arafat had the full infrastructure and finances to do this -- as some have noted, more aid per capita than what was given to Europeans during the Marshall plan -- he did not lift a finger, except to transfer international aid to Swiss Bank accounts. Not to mention when he was given a chance to create a peace on generous terms -- terms which even Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Prince Bandar bin Sultan saw as remarkable -- Arafat rejected it and opted for war and death, for both Israelis and Palestinians alike.

So after months of restraint and futile hope that the Palestinian Authority would reign in its own, there occurred the Passover Massacre on March 27, 2002. It wasn't only that the attack claimed the lives of 30 innocent Israelis whose crime was nothing more than celebrating a Jewish holiday. It was that it was the proverbial final straw that broke the camel's back. After this brutal attack, following over a year of similar inhumanities, including such atrocities as the Dolphinarium nightclub attack which claimed the lives of 21 completely innocent Israeli teenagers, Sharon mobilized the IDF to forcibly crack down on the terrorist network festering within the West Bank and Gaza.

He destroyed their bases, killed their leaders and began construction of an anti-terrorism fence. All these steps, completely justified, were continually criticized by many in the international community, just as almost anything Israel does so often is. Yet these steps worked phenomenally well in fulfilling the Israeli government's number one obligation: To protect its citizens. In fact, it might be said that, combined, these actions finally squelched the Palestinian "intifada." It should be emphasized that this is not due to the diminished desire of Palestinian Arab terrorists to commit heinous acts of terrorism, but rather to the diminished capabilities of such terrorist groups to both organize and infiltrate Israel as a result of Sharon's anti-terrorism policies.

My Sharona

But at the same time Sharon was rightly ignoring international critics and taking proactive action to protect innocent Israelis from terror, he was beginning to lay the groundwork for a bold attempt at peace. With the absence of any credible partner to negotiate with, he moved Israel forward toward peace unilaterally.

Despite the opposition of many in his party, Sharon announced his intention to remove all Israeli settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank. On its own, it may be seem that he was conceding to terror, thus emboldening the terrorists. But combined with Israel's proactive steps to destroy the terrorist organizations in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as the completion of the West Bank anti-terrorism barrier, it is clear that this is not only a plan for peace, but a plan to secure Israel. As we stand today, Sharon is continuing toward fulfilling this bold vision, despite internal and external pressures.

The point is this. While the world was unjustly ganging up on Israel, the only truly free society in the Middle East and the only society in that region that shares similar values to us here in America, Israel, led by a man who was supposedly an obstacle to peace, took decisive action that has led to the best opportunity for peace in the holy land in some time. And the United States should be proud that it is one of the few countries in the world that has stood by Israel while it made these historic moves. The Bush/Sharon conference yesterday at the "Western White House" in Crawford, Texas, was just another display of the strong U.S.-Israel relationship that exists.

Even so, peace is far from assured. Don't take these words to indicate my belief that a peace in the Middle East is around the corner. In fact, I am quite skeptical myself that any deal will come about while **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad still thrive within the disputed territories. A Hudna, or temporary truce, is just that - temporary. The goal of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad still remains to wipe Israel off the map.

Nonetheless, with the West Bank barrier rapidly moving towards completion, and the Gaza Disengagement moving forward, it has become increasingly harder for Palestinian Arab terrorists to attack Israeli civilians with relative ease. And whether newly elected Palestinian President Mahmood Abbas is serious about making peace or not, he and the rest of his people will come to realize, sooner or later, that the only way they will be able to achieve their aspiration of a Palestinian state is to honestly come to the negotiating table. This is a lesson that Yasser Arafat either never learned, or more likely, was never willing to embrace.

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Load-Date: April 13, 2005

Israel strikes back after settler slain

The Toronto Star

September 25, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 543 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

An Israeli helicopter fired a missile into a Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza early today, killing at least one man in apparent retaliation for a Palestinian militant mortar attack a day earlier that killed an Israeli-American female settler.

The Israeli army said it had taken out a group of militants in Khan Younis preparing to fire a rocket into Neve Dekalim, the nearby Jewish settlement. A mortar bomb launched yesterday from the same spot on the edge of the camp killed settler Tiferet Tratner, 24. That was the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

Tratner's death, on the eve of Yom Kippur, Judaism's most solemn day, is likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year.

The Israeli military response to Tratner's killing was to prevent another such attack, an Israeli army spokesman said.

"Before they managed to launch that projectile, we identified the terrorist cell from the air and fired at it, scoring a hit on at least two men, although we know there were at least four of them," the spokesman said.

Residents of the refugee camp said the missile crashed near a mosque. Hospital officials said the dead man was a civilian aged 55 or 60 and three other people were wounded.

Violence has surged in Gaza ahead of the planned withdrawal of Israeli settlers and soldiers from the occupied land by the end of 2005. Militants are eager to say they drove out the Israelis and the army is keen to hit them hard before it leaves.

The Islamist militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the shelling of Neve Dekalim, a day after three Palestinian gunmen killed three soldiers on the fringes of another settlement to the south. On Wednesday, a teenaged suicide bomber killed two Israeli border policemen in Jerusalem.

A Hamas video showed three masked militants setting up and firing a mortar yesterday. One of the shells crashed through Tratner's house. She was wounded in the head and died shortly afterward in a hospital, according to the Israeli military.

Israel strikes back after settler slain

Tratner, who also had U.S. citizenship, worked at a children's zoo in Gaza, according to a settlers spokesman.

Later yesterday, Israeli forces fired guns into the Khan Younis camp. Palestinian residents reported two people wounded.

Palestinians have fired hundreds of crude mortars and rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli border towns since 2000, but yesterday's attack marked the first time a Gaza settler was killed. In June, two Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on the Israel town of Sderot.

Eli Moses, a resident of Neve Dekalim, said Sharon is to blame because he is going ahead with a plan to withdraw Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza. "We want to emphasize that the prime minister is directly responsible for the death," Moses told Israel Radio. "Whoever fired the mortar is of course responsible, but there's a person above him and unfortunately that's the prime minister."

David Baker, an official in Sharon's office, said, "The Palestinians are doing everything they can to scuttle an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. We will take any measures necessary to defend our citizens."

With files from the New York Times, Reuters

Load-Date: September 25, 2004

News in Brief

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 27, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A17; Brief

Length: 550 words

Body

Hamas tries but fails to avenge Israeli attack

JERUSALEM **Hamas** yesterday delivered new threats of revenge for the assassination of its founder, but had trouble carrying them out: Israel foiled a seaborne attack on a settlement, killing two attackers in wet suits, and a militant died in the West Bank when his explosives blew up prematurely.

Also yesterday, Palestinian leaders criticized the U.S. for vetoing a UN Security Council resolution that would have condemned Israel for killing Sheik Ahmed Yassin, leader of the Islamic militant group, in a Monday air strike.

20-minute AIDS test gets U.S. approval

WASHINGTON The first oral test for the AIDS virus that gives results in 20 minutes won approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on yesterday, a new option for people leery of blood testing.

The Spectator wire services

It's the second rapid HIV test on the market -- the other requires pricking a person's finger to test a spot of blood.

With the new alternative, health workers simply wipe a treated cotton swab along the gums and stick the swab into a special testing device for on-the-spot results.

Hooters Girl applicants videotaped undressing

WEST COVINA, CALIF. Police say nearly 200 **women** who applied for jobs as Hooters Girls were secretly videotaped while undressing to put on a uniform.

Authorities in West Covina raided a trailer last month, seizing a computer with 180 digital videos of the **women**.

Police say the victims, aged 17 to 25, are "shocked," and "feel betrayed."

No charges have been filed.

Olympic boxing captain charged with assault

WINDSOR Andrew Singh Kooner, captain of Canada's Olympic boxing team, faces charges including assaulting a police officer after several individuals were rounded up for acting unruly in a downtown parking lot.

News in Brief

Kooner, 24, was also charged yesterday with causing a disturbance and resisting arrest just days after qualifying for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens and being named captain of the Canadian team.

Staff Sergeant Ed McNorton said Kooner was charged with assault after an officer was spit on while the boxer was being put into a police wagon.

Radio DJs suspended for on-air pranks

TORONTO Gross-out TV personality Steve-O made a mess yesterday with his brutish antics on a Toronto morning radio show.

After a series of sexually suggestive and graphic on-air pranks, he was pulled off the show on The Edge, 102.1 FM, and the popular radio hosts running it were suspended.

Steve-O, Chris Pontius and Weeman of MTV's Jackass were in the city promoting the Don't Try This At Home tour, which is making its rounds -- complete with bloody stunts from self-inflicted torture.

Boy, 4, brings cocaine for show-and-tell

INDIANAPOLIS The mother of a four-year-old boy who took crack cocaine to his preschool class for show-and-tell has surrendered.

Andrea Jackson, 23, turned herself in to authorities.

She's charged with trafficking and possession of cocaine, neglect of a dependent and possession of marijuana. A warrant has been issued for the boy's 24-year-old father, who is facing the same charges.

When police searched the couple's home, they found a handgun and rifle rounds, shotgun shells and a bulletproof vest, scales and some suspected marijuana.

The children -- an infant and siblings ages four, six and seven -- are in protective custody.

Load-Date: March 27, 2004

News briefs

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

April 20, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 558 words

Body

Jordan's king puts

hold on Bush talks

AMMAN, Jordan - The king of Jordan, one of America's closest allies in the Middle East, postponed a White House meeting with President Bush this week, questioning the U.S. commitment to ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The snub from King Abdullah II comes amid Arab anger at Bush for endorsing an Israeli proposal to withdraw unilaterally from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank but keep Jewish settlements on other West Bank land claimed by the Palestinians.

Abdullah is under pressure at home to demonstrate his U.S. ties can further Arab positions on the Israeli-Palestinian question as well as on the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq.

The White House played down any hint of friction with Jordan, saying the Wednesday meeting with King Abdullah was rescheduled to the first week of May "because of developments in the region."

Abdullah returned to Jordan today. He had been in the United States since last week.

U.N. police officers

to face questioning

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro - Four U.N. police officers from Jordan were stripped of their diplomatic immunity Monday to be questioned in a fellow Jordanian's killing of two American guards in Kosovo.

It wasn't clear why Sgt. Maj. Ahmed Mustafa Ibrahim Ali opened fire on a convoy of corrections officers on Saturday. He and the two female American guards were killed in the shootout that followed, and 11 people were wounded.

Ali was a member of a highly trained unit in Jordan and had been decorated for warding off an attack on the Israeli Embassy in Amman, a Jordanian official said.

The four other Jordanian police officers at the prison in the town of Kosovska Mitrovica were detained. Authorities lifted their diplomatic immunity, opening the way for them to be interrogated, officials said.

News briefs

A delegation of Jordanian police officials arrived Monday in Kosovo to assist with the investigation, which is led by an international prosecutor, officials said.

Eight of the 10 Americans were moved to a U.S. military base in Kosovo for treatment, a U.S. military spokesman said Monday. The other two were treated and released, and an Austrian also wounded was flown home Sunday for treatment.

One American officer remained in critical condition following brain surgery in neighboring Macedonia, U.S. peacekeeping spokesman Staff Sgt. Michael Houk said.

Palestinians fire

rockets into Gaza

JERUSALEM - Palestinians fired a barrage of homemade rockets and mortar shells at Gaza Strip settlements and towns inside Israel in retaliation for the killing of **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, Israel said today.

Israeli soldiers raided the Gaza neighborhood where some of the rockets originated, killing three Palestinians and wounding 21 others, witnesses said.

Over two days, 15 Qassam rockets hit Israeli targets, wounding one Israeli and damaging at least five structures, the army said. It was one of the most intense rocket barrages in more than three years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The rocket attacks began soon after Israel killed Rantisi and two of his bodyguards in a missile strike on his car Saturday night, three weeks after it killed the militant groups' spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

Israel said the killings were part of its campaign to weaken **Hamas** in advance of a proposed pullout from the Gaza Strip and some West Bank settlements in 2005.

Load-Date: April 21, 2004

FAST NEWS

The Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

November 15, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 16

Length: 616 words

Body

NETHERLANDS

War starts

AMSTERDAM: More than a dozen cars were firebombed and several others damaged in the Dutch port of Rotterdam and the town of Waalwijk on the weekend. The attacks fuelled speculation the incidents were a spillover from the riots in France. Police made two arrests in Waalwijk, in the southern province of North Brabant, after four cars were burnt during Saturday night disturbances. The Telegraaf reported that masked youths shouting slogans in Arabic were behind the firebombing of cars in the Vreewijk and Hillesluis areas of Rotterdam South. Locals told the conservative newspaper the youths had shouted in Arabic: "The war has started."

ISRAEL

Militant killed

NABLUS, West Bank: Israeli troops have killed a senior Hamas militant during an arrest raid, Palestinian medical officials and neighbours of the man said. Troops arrived at the home of Amjad Hanawi, 34, Hamas's top military commander in the northern West Bank, shortly after midnight, according to the accounts. The soldiers ordered Hanawi's family out of the house. While most members came out of the house, Hanawi refused the order and tried to escape. He was shot as he tried to climb a fence. The neighbours said army dogs attacked several family members.

ZIMBABWE

Opposition disarray

HARARE: Zimbabwean opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, pictured, expelled 26 members of his party yesterday for defying his call to boycott upcoming Senate elections. The move deepened a rift that threatens to splinter the only party to have seriously challenged President Robert Mugabe's increasingly autocratic rule in this troubled southern African country. Mr Tsvangirai's spokesman, William Bango, said a deadline expired yesterday for the 26 to withdraw from the November 26 poll for a new upper chamber of Parliament. He said the 26 would be running as independents.

CANADA

Christmas bluff

FAST NEWS

OTTAWA: Canada's three opposition parties have hit Prime Minister Paul Martin with an ultimatum: Call an election in the new year or face a no-confidence vote in parliament. But Mr Martin's team dismissed their demand as insincere and dared them to go ahead and topple the Government and accept the consequences of an election campaign spanning the Christmas season. "If the opposition wish to force an earlier election, that is their choice. They can bring forward a motion of no-confidence. They will win that vote and there will be a Christmas election," an aide to Mr Martin said.

BURKINA FASO

Vote time

OUAGADOUGOU: Voters stood in line peacefully to cast ballots yesterday in Burkina Faso's presidential election -- with incumbent President Blaise Compaore, who has ruled for nearly two decades, expected to win. Mr Compaore faced 11 contenders, after the opposition failed to rally around a single candidate. Residents say 54-year-old Mr Compaore's firm grip on power since his 1987 coup has made his party a daunting political machine. Nearly four million of the West African nation's 12 million people were registered to vote, with 12,000 polling centres across the dusty, impoverished nation.

JAPAN

Princess to marry

TOKYO: Princess Sayako, the emperor's only daughter, marries today aged 36, an age once considered impossibly late but now the norm in a country struggling with a falling birth rate. Princess Sayako, pictured, a part-time bird researcher, is the first woman in the modern history of the world's oldest royal line to marry in her 30s, reflecting changes in Japanese women's lifestyles. The late wedding of the princess, who had publicly insisted she would marry at a time of her own choosing, brings nods of agreement from many other Tokyo women, who must juggle careers and family choices in a male-dominated society.

Load-Date: November 14, 2005

End of Document

14 Palestinians killed during Israeli raids on refugee camps

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 8, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 13

Length: 528 words

Byline: Robert Tait in Jerusalem

Body

The biggest Israeli raid into Gaza for months left 14 Palestinians dead yesterday, including three children, amid fears of a sharp upsurge in violence before Israel's planned withdrawal from the Palestinian territory.

Dozens of tanks and armoured vehicles backed by Apache helicopters entered the crowded Bureij and Nusseirat refugee camps before dawn, provoking fierce resistance from Palestinians armed with rifles, rocket launchers and anti-tank weapons.

The previous day six Palestinians - four assailants and two policemen - died in an abortive assault on Israeli troops at the Erez border checkpoint.

The Israeli forces cut telephone and electricity lines between the refugee camps and central Gaza when the raid got under way, Palestinian sources said, and put snipers on rooftops.

In Nusseirat, Mahmoud Abu Hujair, a father of three, said: "Soldiers blasted their way into our housing block at 4 am. They turned our roof into a base to battle gunmen.

"**Women** and children were screaming. The building was heavily damaged."

The Israelis withdrew by mid-morning.

Palestinian doctors said three of the dead were boys aged eight, 12 and 14.

Israel said 10 of those killed were known militants, nine belonging to **Hamas** and the other to the Popular Resistance Movement, an umbrella group committed to defending Gaza's refugee camps.

At least 72 Palestinians were wounded.

It was the biggest death toll in Gaza since an Israeli raid on the Khan Younis refugee camp in October 2002 killed 19.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians joined yesterday's funeral processions. A **Hamas** gunman told mourners that the militants were "ready for confrontation" with Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister.

The Palestinian government accused Israel of committing "state terror against our people" and said it was deliberately intensifying its military action as a precursor to its planned evacuation of Jewish settlements in Gaza.

14 Palestinians killed during Israeli raids on refugee camps

"At a time when they're speaking about withdrawing from Gaza, they're destroying Gaza," said Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian cabinet minister.

Mr Sharon has promised to "unilaterally disengage" from Gaza and parts of the West Bank and impose his own arrangements in the absence of a resumption of peace talks in the coming months.

Analysts predict that Israel will step up its assaults on militants in Gaza, who in turn are believed to be keen to inflict as much damage as possible in Israel in order to portray the withdrawal as a Palestinian victory.

But Israel described yesterday's action as a "pinpoint strike" against the "terrorist infrastructure", unrelated to the forthcoming withdrawal.

"We are now fighting terrorism. This has nothing to do with any future plan about Gaza," said a government spokesman, Avi Pazner.

"Terrorism is pouring out of (Bureij) refugee camp, and we have to stop it. We believe that by doing so we have prevented acts of terror in Israel and saved many human lives."

Israel says Palestinian militants have fired mortar shells and Qassam rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza, as well as firing on Israeli army convoys.

About 7,500 Jewish settlers live in the territory, and 1.4 million Palestinians.

guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: March 8, 2004

End of Document

Federal Court Jury Finds Sheik Guilty Of Conspiracy and Financing Terrorism

The New York Times

March 11, 2005 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section B; Column 2; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 1248 words

Byline: By WILLIAM GLABERSON

Body

A Yemeni cleric who once said that Osama bin Laden had called him his sheik was convicted of financing terrorism yesterday in a federal court in New York City.

The victory for the Justice Department came in one of the government's most visible terrorism-financing prosecutions, a case that had for a time appeared uncertain after the F.B.I.'s star informer set himself on fire outside the White House in November.

The sheik, Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad, a prominent Yemeni who once held a government post in his country, was convicted by a jury in Federal Court in Brooklyn of conspiracy to support Al Qaeda and **Hamas** and other charges after a five-week trial. His assistant, Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed, was also convicted of conspiracy and other charges. Lawyers for both men said they would appeal.

Federal prosecutors said yesterday that the trial provided a view of a successful campaign in the government's war on terror and a sample of how traditional law-enforcement methods have been applied to new targets.

Saying "money is the lifeblood of terrorism," the United States attorney in Brooklyn, Roslynn R. Mauskopf, whose assistants prosecuted the case, described the conviction as important in the effort to block terrorist attacks.

Defense lawyers portrayed the verdict as the jury's capitulation to fear and a result of an overly aggressive prosecution that included the use of what the defense lawyers called prejudicial evidence, including videotaped images of Mr. bin Laden.

In interviews yesterday, five jurors said that no one on the 12-member panel had expressed any serious doubt during deliberations about the guilt of the two men. But they said that evidence dealing with the sheik's alleged links to Al Qaeda was the weakest presented.

In addition to the conspiracy charges, Sheik Moayad was convicted of providing material support to **Hamas**, the Palestinian militant organization, and of attempting to provide material support to Al Qaeda. But the jury found that there was not enough evidence to convict the sheik of actually providing material support to Al Qaeda, a charge that had once appeared to be the heart of the case.

Federal Court Jury Finds Sheik Guilty Of Conspiracy and Financing Terrorism

When Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the charges during a congressional hearing in March 2003, he described the prosecution as an important blow to Al Qaeda and said that the sheik had admitted giving Mr. bin Laden \$20 million before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

In some instances, the prosecution's claims about the sheik's ties to Al Qaeda dated from many years ago, when, the sheik conceded, he visited with Mr. bin Laden. Both the sheik and Mr. Zayed were convicted of all charges against them concerning what the prosecution said were efforts to support Hamas.

The sheik and Mr. Zayed, who were extradited to this country after their arrests in Germany in January 2003, are to be sentenced by Judge Sterling Johnson Jr. on May 13. The sheik could face up to 75 years in prison, and Mr. Zayed up to 45 years. The men have received wide support in Yemen.

The jury returned the verdict after five days of deliberations in a trial that centered on videotapes made secretly during a sting operation in Frankfurt in January 2003. The defense had claimed that the sting was nothing more than a trap that snared a vulnerable Yemeni and his aide, who they said were trying to collect money for innocent charities, like a bakery that fed the poor in Yemen's capital, Sana.

But in extensive interviews with reporters after the verdict, the five jurors, who spoke only after they were assured that the anonymity they had had during the trial would be preserved, said they were not persuaded by the defense arguments and had been offended by defense lawyers' claims that prosecutors were trying to incite their prejudices.

The jurors, three women and two men, said that the Frankfurt videotapes had been decisive. "We saw the videotapes," one juror said, adding that the jurors had kept transcripts of prosecution translations before them in the jury room. "There was so much there."

Another juror said that the jurors did not believe the defense contention that two government informers who appeared on the tapes had directed the conversation and made it appear that the sheik and Mr. Zayed were more interested in working with terrorist groups than they actually were.

"They were free to get up and walk out and say they were not interested in doing this," the juror added. In the quiet courtroom after the verdict, both the sheik, 56, and Mr. Zayed, 31, began speaking aloud in Arabic. When none of the court interpreters translated his remarks, the sheik turned to reporters and said in English: "I want to speak with you."

Mr. Zayed, who had tears in his eyes, was shouting that he wanted a new lawyer "because the jury did not fairly study my case," a translator said later. After a few minutes in which everyone in the courtroom seemed frozen, federal marshals hustled the two men out through a side door. They have been held in the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn since they were extradited in November 2003.

Sheik Moayad's lawyer, William H. Goodman, said the conviction would be appealed. "This is a prosecution that was designed and carried out in a way that played upon the worst possible fears of the public," he said. He called the verdict an injustice that "can only strengthen the evil people in this world to perpetuate more terrorism."

Mr. Zayed's lawyer, Jonathan Marks, said that "there was an enormous amount of prejudicial evidence that was admitted that really drove the verdict."

But several jurors insisted that they were not swayed by the evidence that drew the most complaints from the defense, including a videotape of a visit Mr. bin Laden made to an Al Qaeda training camp.

The lead prosecutor, Kelly A. Moore, argued during the trial that the sheik was connected to Al Qaeda training camps because his name was found on a recruit's registration form showing that he had been recommended by Sheik Moayad.

The five jurors said the deliberations had taken five days only because the panel members were weighing the evidence so carefully.

Federal Court Jury Finds Sheik Guilty Of Conspiracy and Financing Terrorism

One juror said the language the sheik and Mr. Zayed used on the videotape of the sting was more persuasive than any other element of the case. During the sting, the F.B.I. informer who would eventually set himself on fire at the White House, Mohamed Alanssi, worked with a second informer, who posed as a wealthy American Muslim interested in contributing \$2.5 million to terrorist causes.

The jurors said they were not persuaded by defense arguments that the sting entrapped the defendants. They said the two men had volunteered specific information about the terrorist groups they supported.

"They actually mentioned the different groups," a juror said.

According to a prosecution transcript, the sheik said on the videotapes that he would make contributions to "Hamas, Al Qaeda, prisoners, mujahedeen and such. Anyone we know of, who is in the jihad field."

Several jurors laughed when asked about a contention, central to the defense, that when the two men used the word "jihad" repeatedly, they had not meant armed holy war, but had instead intended to invoke another meaning in Islam, earnest self-improvement.

Mr. Goodman, the sheik's lawyer, claimed that the second, innocent, use of the term could include a resolution to lose weight. When asked about that, several jurors giggled. "Just put we laughed," one of them said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Sheik Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad (Photo by Associated Press)(pg. B1)

Kelly A. Moore, the lead prosecutor in the trial of Sheik Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad, at a news conference after the guilty verdict. (Photo by Michael Nagle for The New York Times)(pg. B6)

Load-Date: March 11, 2005

End of Document

Israelis taken from synagogues in Gaza

The International Herald Tribune

August 19, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 618 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger And Dina Kraft

Dateline: NEVE DEKALIM, Gaza Strip:

Body

Israeli security forces moved into two synagogues, one packed with many hundreds of teenage boys and young men and one with young women and girls, in a complex at this Jewish settlement Thursday. After being given a 10-minute warning, boys were pulled out one by one, chanting, "Jews do not expel Jews!"

Female soldiers entered the synagogue for girls, who were swaying and singing "God Hears My Prayers" as they stood on a stage and faced the Torah, but none were immediately dragged away.

The soldiers, who were unarmed, had surrounded the complex for many hours, standing three deep. After they moved in, the teenage boys and other young people sat defiantly, arms locked together, making the job of dragging them away that much more difficult.

The New York Times

As the soldiers and the police surrounded the complex, the young people hunkered down inside had said they would meet any show of force with passive resistance, but would not resort to violence.

The security forces were stationed among sand dunes and on a lawn in front of the complex, which sits atop a grassy knoll.

A similar standoff was staged at a synagogue in the Kfar Darom settlement, as security forces dragged residents from nearby homes and a religious school.

Thousands of soldiers entered the hard-line settlement at dawn, on the second day of the Israeli government's forcible removal of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip. They quickly surrounded the heavily fortified synagogue and two nearby buildings, and moved into two homes after an attempt at negotiations with the residents failed.

Nearly 10,000 Israeli soldiers and police officers began the forcible evacuation on Wednesday, carrying some screaming from their homes in scenes that moved many of the soldiers to tears.

After months of argument and political maneuvering, the Israeli forces moved in strength, but without weapons, to carry out the will of the government to give up part of the territory that Israel conquered in the 1967 war and that the Palestinians consider a part of their future state.

Israelis taken from synagogues in Gaza

The mood was somber and serious, with experienced soldiers and police officers quietly trying to negotiate voluntary departures, first with sometimes hysterical settlers, while ignoring their taunts. Only later in the afternoon did the forces resort to widespread forced evacuations in various settlements, in some cases dragging parents away in front of their frightened children.

Israeli officials spoke of finishing the pullout here by the middle of next week, before moving to dismantle four smaller settlements in the West Bank.

While there was little serious violence in Gaza, an Israeli settler in the West Bank grabbed a gun from a guard Wednesday near the settlement of Shiloh and opened fire on Palestinian workers. The settler, Asher Weissgan, 40, killed four Palestinians and wounded another, and the killings are bound to increase tensions further, with the Palestinian militant group **Hamas** vowing revenge.

One of Israel's prime concerns has been the possibility of pulling settlers out from under Palestinian mortars and rockets.

The Palestinian Authority has worked closely, and so far successfully, with Israel to keep the quiet while Israeli troops are busy with their own citizens. But the killings and the **Hamas** threat have increased the chances of a serious confrontation that could delay the pullout, which is likely to be what the Shiloh settler had in mind.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon condemned the murders as an act of "Jewish terror." The U.S. State Department also condemned the attack and called on the Palestinians and the Israelis to show restraint.

**

Steven Erlanger reported from Kerem Atzmona for this article, and Dina Kraft from Neve Dekalim.

Load-Date: August 19, 2005

End of Document

Yo: Young Palestinians find voices, resist nonviolently with hip-hop

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

October 2, 2005, Sunday

Copyright 2005 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P15A

Length: 895 words

Byline: Dion Nissenbaum Knight Ridder Newspapers

Body

Where to get the tunes

To see and hear Palestinian hip-hop:

s www.slingshothiphop.com has the trailer for a documentary in progress, as well as links to the artists.

s www.dam3rap.com is the DAM Web site with the "Who's the Terrorist" song

s www.ironsheik.biz

s www.dam3rap.com/arabrap/

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - The wanna-be gangsta boys arrive in baggy jeans and oversized T-shirts bearing the likeness of rapper Tupac Shakur, looking for a chance to freestyle with the night's star performers. The groupie girls in glittery tops throw their hands in the air, cheering on the breakdancers, when the hip-hop party is brought to a screeching halt:

Time for evening prayer.

Across the Gaza Strip, West Bank and even in Israel, young Arabic rappers are trying to juggle Middle East traditions with contemporary Western culture to create a political voice for their generation.

"It's the CNN of Palestine," says Tamer Nafar, a way to broadcast the news. Nafar, a skinny 26-year-old, is helping to turn Arabic hip-hop into an international phenomenon.

As a movement in its infancy, Palestinian hip-hop shares more in common with early American rap than the narcissistic, modern-day mainstream hip-hop that dominates MTV.

Just as Public Enemy, N.W.A. and Ice-T created furors with songs such as "911 Is a Joke," "F-k Tha Police" and "Cop Killer," Palestinian rappers such as Nafar take a provocative, controversial approach with songs such as "Who's a Terrorist."

"You call me the terrorist?"

Who's the terrorist?

Yo: Young Palestinians find voices, resist nonviolently with hip-hop

I'm the terrorist?

How am I the terrorist

When you've taken my land?!

Who's the terrorist?

You're the terrorist!

You've taken everything I own

while I'm living in my homeland."

Nafar and his group DAM ("blood" in Arabic and Hebrew) are pioneers in the Palestinian hip-hop scene. They've generated a loyal following among Israelis and Palestinians by singing in Hebrew and Arabic.

"It's a form of nonviolent resistance," says William Youmans, a Palestinian-American rapper who performs as the Iron Sheik. "The idea is to provoke critical thinking and encourage people to look at these issues from the perspective of the victims."

Palestinian rap first blossomed in Israel, where Arab citizens like Nafar generally have greater freedom and opportunity than Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But the conservative Gaza Strip - where alcohol is all but banned, movie theaters are nearly nonexistent and Islam is a foundation for many families - is proving to be fertile new ground for hip-hop.

Over the past year, rap groups such as R.F.M. and P.R. have been gradually moving from their bedrooms to restaurants, theaters and social group stages with messages that resonate in a society where half the population is under the age of 18.

"We're making something new for Gaza," said Rami Bakhit, one of three rappers in Gaza City's R.F.M. "It's the only way to talk in the street language to the youth who are going to build the Palestinian state."

Their music is proving to have crossover appeal. At a recent R.F.M. concert in Gaza City, teenage boys with their oversized Tupac T-shirts danced next to reserved groups of women and girls in traditional Islamic headscarves and conservative dresses.

One mother who came to chaperone her daughter said she was initially skeptical, but she warmed up to the music after listening to R.F.M.'s message.

Like DAM, R.F.M. focuses much of its music on the Israeli occupation. But the group also presents a scathing social critique of Palestinians who turn a blind eye to the problems surrounding them.

In perhaps its most controversial song, "Watch Your Back, Arabs," R.F.M. lashes out at Jews and Arabs.

"Where are the Arab people?

Where is the Arab blood?

Where is the Arab anger?

Where, where and where ...

Driving the coupe car

Smoking the cigar

Yo: Young Palestinians find voices, resist nonviolently with hip-hop

Voting for the super star "American Idol"

And forgetting about our martyrs, wounded, prisoners. ... Have you heard the last news!?"

While many young Palestinians are embracing hip-hop, not everyone in the Gaza Strip sees rap as a welcome addition.

A recent rally to celebrate the end of Israeli military rule in the Gaza Strip, held amid the rubble of Israel's largest settlement, came to an abrupt end when supporters of the Islamic group Hamas stoned a young rap group on the stage.

"People got more religious during this uprising and they prefer to listen to Hamas songs," said Mohammed al Fara, one of the members of P.R. "They didn't like the music. Hamas guys were mostly upset because a lot of girls were excited about us and they were waving their hands as we sang."

It may take more time for hip-hop to gain broad acceptance in the conservative parts of the Gaza Strip. But it's gaining respectability and visibility around the world.

Detroit-based filmmaker Jackie Salloum is in the final stages of producing "SlingShot Hip Hop," a film she hopes to release next year that documents the rise of Palestinian rap.

"It's one of the most positive things I've seen over there," Salloum said in a telephone interview from Detroit. "Hip-hop is probably the most popular form of music around the world, and even if people aren't into the Palestinian struggle and the occupation itself, people are curious about Palestinian hip-hop."

Salloum sees the young rappers as new messengers.

"If our message about the occupation can't be carried across the world, maybe these artists can do it," she said.

Load-Date: October 3, 2005

Gaza pullout: day of pain and tears Israeli soldiers hand out eviction notices to settlers

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

August 16, 2005, Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P1A

Length: 1020 words

Byline: Amy Teibel The Associated Press

Body

NEVE DEKALIM, Gaza Strip - The soldiers were expecting trouble, possibly violent resistance from settlers about to be uprooted from their homes. Instead they mostly found tears, impassioned argument and sometimes a cold glass of water or an omelet.

Day One of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip did see flaring tempers, occasional scuffles and burning tires. But army commanders ordered troops to show restraint and sensitivity when handing out eviction notices - until Wednesday when anyone left behind will be dragged out.

"Your pain and your tears are an inseparable part of this country's history," Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told settlers Monday night during a nationally televised address in which he called the pullout a painful but essential step for Israel's future.

He said previously it had become too hard to defend the Gaza settlements and their 8,500 residents in an overcrowded area of 1.3 million Palestinians, and the presence of so many Arabs under Israeli control was threatening the Jewish character of the state.

Sharon has repeatedly said the withdrawal is designed to allow Israel to hold on to all of Jerusalem and major parts of the West Bank - a position that raises questions about the prospects for peace since the Palestinians claim those areas for a state.

Nevertheless, Palestinians celebrated the beginning of the end for the 38-year occupation of the Gaza Strip, and militant factions competed for credit for expelling the Israelis with their violent five-year uprising.

In his speech, Sharon urged Palestinian leaders to control extremists. "To an outstretched hand of peace we will respond with an olive branch, but fire will be met by fire more intense than ever," he said.

Sharon spent most of his career as a champion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, saying just two years ago that Israel would not give up even small, isolated Gaza settlements.

"But the changing reality in the nation, region and world made me change my mind and change my position," he said. "We cannot hold Gaza for good. More that a million Palestinians live there, doubling their numbers every generation."

Gaza pullout: day of pain and tears Israeli soldiers hand out eviction notices to settlers

Over the next three weeks, Israel plans to dismantle all 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza and four small ones in the West Bank. The withdrawal marks the first time Israel will give up land captured during the 1967 Mideast War that is claimed by the Palestinians for their future state.

Monday was the first day of a 48-hour grace period during which settlers can leave voluntarily without losing any of their government compensation. It became illegal for Israelis to live in Gaza at midnight Sunday, and on Wednesday, troops will begin dragging out any settlers still there.

Eviction notices were distributed in about two-thirds of the settlements to be evacuated, police said.

Officials said two West Bank settlements slated for evacuation - Ganim and Kadim, with about 170 residents each - already had been evacuated. By Monday night, hundreds of settlers had left Gaza or were preparing to do so, though exact numbers were not known. One senior official, Eival Giladi, predicted half of Gaza's settlers would be out by Wednesday's deadline.

Complicating the army's mission, about 5,000 pullout opponents from outside Gaza came to the coastal area in recent weeks, and vowed to resist.

At Gaza settlements Monday, soldiers trudged through temperatures above 100 degrees to distribute leaflets warning settlers they had until midnight today to leave voluntarily.

Some 200 families accepted the army's help to load their effects into trucks and move out immediately.

"We don't have any more tears left," Michal Yahieli said while packing her belongings in Neve Dekalim.

Protesters burned tires - a protest tactic often used by Palestinians - in the industrial zone of Neve Dekalim, Gaza's largest settlement with 2,700 residents.

Angry settlers at Neve Dekalim heckled the Gaza military commander, Maj. Dan Harel, and police escorted him away. The army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, met similar outbursts and had to be hustled away.

But in most places encounters were less hostile. Soldiers, both women and men, comforted and hugged civilians who broke down when it came time for them to go.

One woman, leaving a huge house in Nissanit with crystal chandeliers and man-sized audio speakers, prepared omelets and cold water for the soldiers dismantling a wooden deck rimming her swimming pool.

"It's a disgrace," the woman, who identified herself only as Orly, said of the government's decision to evacuate Gaza. "But the soldiers are wonderful."

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said he was filled with hope, but insisted Israel must hand over more land.

Palestinian officials announced that Abbas had scheduled Jan. 21 as the date for long-delayed legislative elections. The timing of the statement appeared aimed at showing that Israel is delivering Gaza into responsible hands capable of advancing democracy.

Many Palestinians are wary of Israel's intentions, especially if it retains control of Gaza's borders and the territory's access to air and sea travel.

"It's great they are getting out, but I am getting a bad feeling that we will remain under their control," said Jihad Safi, the 37-year-old owner of a clothing store in the Palestinian town of Khan Younis, which overlooks the Morag settlement.

Hamas activists in Gaza City hung banners proclaiming the pullout as a victory for their uprising. "The blood of martyrs has led to liberation," said one. In Khan Younis, masked militants marched through the streets with rocket launchers to celebrate.

Gaza pullout: day of pain and tears Israeli soldiers hand out eviction notices to settlers

There have been worries that militants would attack Israelis during the pullout to make it look like a retreat. But with ordinary Palestinians looking for positive changes out of the withdrawal, the extremist groups might refrain from major violence.

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said the group would hold its fire.

"**Hamas** is committed to the quiet," he said. "The ball is on the Israeli side now. If they will evacuate the Gaza Strip quietly, I think that there is no one among our people who will obstruct or violate this evacuation."

Load-Date: August 17, 2005

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PALESTINIAN MILITANT KILLS TWO IN ATTACK ON SHOPPING MALL

The Independent (London)

July 13, 2005, Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 23

Length: 547 words

Byline: BY DONALD MACINTYRE IN JERUSALEM

Highlight: An Israeli bomb squad member searches the scene of a suicide attack in Netanya yesterday RAKAZ ZALAMIM/REUTERS

Body

At least two women were killed and around 30 people wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a busy shopping mall in the Israeli city of Netanya in the first such attack for more than four months.

Responsibility for last night's bombing, which left at least six people seriously wounded, two of them critical, was claimed by Islamic Jihad, which was also responsible for the last suicide attack in Israel, in Tel Aviv on 25 February.

The Defence minister, Shaul Mofaz, met army and intelligence chiefs last night to consider the scale of Israel's military response and discuss a closure of the West Bank and Gaza to prevent further attacks.

The bomber, who was named as Ahmed Khalil, 18, appeared to have been on the point of entering the mall. But for reasons that were not immediately clear, he detonated the bomb outside the shopping centre.

The claim by Islamic Jihad fulfils predictions by some international experts and senior Palestinian officials that the faction, which unlike Hamas has no electoral base, would go furthest in the run-up to Gaza disengagement in challenging, or at least testing, the ceasefire called in February.

Miriam Feinberg, the mayor of Netanya, said she had been on the way to the Maccabia Games, the Jewish Olympics many of whose events are being held in the city, when she 'saw the attack in front of my eyes'. She said the Games would continue regardless.

Doron Shafir, one of the first paramedics at the scene, said that he saw a woman whose clothes were on fire. 'Another, her handbag was burning. We stepped on it to put it out. She was just sitting there. She did not know what was happening to her.'

The mall was a few hundred yards from the Park Hotel, where the deadliest bombing of the Intifada, which killed 30 people in March 2002, took place.

It was reported that the bomber said in a video: 'We reiterate our commitment to calm, but we have to retaliate for Israeli violations.'

The Israeli government stepped up the pressure on the Palestinian President to do more to curb the militant factions. An official in the office of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said: 'Israel has done all it could to ease up

PALESTINIAN MILITANT KILLS TWO IN ATTACK ON SHOPPING MALL

Palestinian needs but the PA have not fulfilled obligations undertaken by them at Sharm al Sheikh [the Sharon-Abbas summit] and show no signs of doing so.'

The Palestinian Authority condemned the attack. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas called it 'a crime against the Palestinian people'. Saeb Erekat, the leading Palestinian negotiator, said: 'We understand that those who carried out this attack want to sabotage the efforts being exerted to have a smooth and peaceful disengagement from Gaza and a revival of the peace process.'

Police were investigating a connection between the bombing and an incident in Shave Shomron, a West Bank settlement. Police said that an Islamic Jihad militant attempted to drive a car bomb into the settlement but was arrested after the explosives detonated prematurely.

There were also exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and Hizbollah militants over the northern border with Lebanon last night. A senior army officer said that Hizbollah and **Hamas** would mount attacks as the Gaza disengagement approached in an attempt to underline that Israel was leaving the Strip 'under fire.'

Load-Date: July 13, 2005

End of Document

The democracy puzzle

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 21, 2005 Tuesday

FIVE STAR LATE LIFT EDITION

Copyright 2005 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B6

Length: 616 words

Body

AN OPTIMIST could look at events in the Middle East and conclude that President George W. Bush's democracy project is bringing historic change to the political landscape. A pessimist could just as easily conclude that Mr. Bush's crusade is headed for the same dustbin as Woodrow Wilson's idealistic internationalism.

First the optimistic view:

On Monday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gave Egypt and Saudi Arabia a stern lecture, calling for free elections in Egypt and criticizing the Saudis for imprisoning dissenters.

In Lebanon, anti-Syrian democrats celebrated a stunning election victory by a political party that reached across religious lines.

In Kuwait, the first woman was sworn in as a government deputy to accompanying howls from fundamentalists opposed to women's suffrage.

In Iraq, government officials invited Sunni Muslims into the constitution-writing process.

In nearby Afghanistan, the government of elected president Hamid Karzai foiled an assassination plot against the U.S. ambassador. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf continues to support the U.S. fight against terrorism.

Meanwhile, Iran's pretense at a democratic election turned into a sham as the clerics shut down a newspaper for publishing a letter from a leading presidential candidate alleging vote-fraud.

But the reality of the Middle East is far more complicated than this storyline of democracy on the march.

At the same time that Ms. Rice promotes elections in Egypt, she says the United States won't talk to the big opposition group, the Muslim Brotherhood because Egyptian law bans the party. Nor, Ms. Rice says, would the United States recognize a Palestinian government controlled by Hamas. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas already has put off elections until next year in hopes of preventing a Hamas victory.

The efforts to bring democracy to Afghanistan and Iraq have been extremely volatile and heavily dependent on U.S. forces to protect them from insurgencies that have gained strength in the past two years.

The democracy puzzle

The Taliban are regrouping in Afghanistan where they carried out a series of provincial attacks over the weekend. In Iraq, the government has spent five months trying to organize the constitution-writing process, while the insurgency continues its bloody mayhem.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan, two key Bush allies in the war against terrorism, are political embarrassments on human rights. Pakistan recently refused to allow a young woman named Mukhtar Mai to visit the United States to tell her story of being gang-raped as a punishment for an accusation against a relative. In Uzbekistan, which had allowed the United States to use an air base, police killed hundreds of demonstrators last month. Islam Karimov, the country's leader, is a crude despot who talks of ripping the heads off of people to promote peace. And yet the United States joined Russia in blocking a NATO call for an international investigation of the attacks.

Even in Lebanon, the victory of democratic forces led by Sunni Muslims has caused Christians to worry and religious factionalism to reemerge.

Ms. Rice is right when she says that the United States "pursued stability at the expense of democracy" for too long. But she got an idea of the steep fight ahead in the Middle East from the silence with which her speech was received and the burst of applause from listeners when she was challenged about U.S. troops defiling the Quran.

A majority of Americans now believe that the war isn't worth the cost in lives (1,700 U.S. troops have died to date) or treasure -- (\$300 billion and counting.) Getting democracy to take root in such arid, hostile terrain is certain to cost more of both -- if it can be done at all.

Notes

MIDDLE EAST

Load-Date: June 22, 2005

End of Document

Palestinians take step on road to democracy

The Toronto Star

January 8, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 1659 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: EAST JERUSALEM

Body

There is an unmistakable whiff of democracy wafting through these Palestinian hills today. And if the aroma is less than overpowering, it tingles the senses in a way never before known in the Arab world.

As democracies go, it is but a baby: Messy, fragile, and likely to require almost constant change if it is to grow into something robust enough to one day walk on its own.

But think back barely two months ago, when the political prognosis of Yasser Arafat's dying days included dire predictions that the West Bank and Gaza Strip would by now be enmeshed in an all-out civil war of succession.

Palestinians, by turns worn-down and pent-up by all that has happened, have instead held themselves together. And tomorrow, exactly 1,757,756 are eligible to decide what comes next.

One man, one vote, seven choices. But none doubts the winner is already upon us, in the uncharismatic but wholly pragmatic Mahmoud Abbas.

At 69, Abbas, or Abu Mazen, as nickname-inclined Palestinians call him, wrapped up his campaign yesterday in a fashion that lived up to his reputation as a man of moderate choices.

Earlier in the week, his plan was to converge on Israeli-held East Jerusalem for an almost storybook finale, replete with a prayer visit to the Muslim shrine that sits atop the very epicentre of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israeli officials, according to the Abbas campaign team, agreed to the plan: on condition that the candidate arrive surrounded by a detail of Israeli guardsmen to protect him from potential attack by Jewish extremists.

Faced with a photo opportunity fit for a quisling, Abbas instead took the pragmatic road, remaining outside the Holy City for whistle stops in the nearby West Bank cities of Bethlehem and Ramallah.

"Today we did not go to Jerusalem, but tomorrow we will be in Jerusalem because Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Palestinian people," Abbas told a consolation rally in the West Bank village of Bir Naballah, just north of the city.

"We want our Jerusalem. Let us go to Jerusalem as free people in our millions."

Palestinians take step on road to democracy

What Abbas would not attempt, his nearest rival for the Palestinian presidency did. Pro-democracy candidate Mustafa Barghouti - once again demonstrating an uncommon media savvy shared by his very distant cousin, jailed intifada leader Marwan Barghouti - rounded up a substantial convoy of journalists for an attempt to attend Friday noon prayers inside the politically explosive walls of the Old City.

Outside the Lion Gate, Barghouti was intercepted by Israeli police, as expected. The brief walkie-talkie exchange in Hebrew between Jerusalem police officers went as follows. Question: "Mustafa Barghouti is here. What should I do with him?" Answer: "Stop him, stop him. Don't let him enter (the mosque)."

A few seconds later, Barghouti was manhandled into an unmarked Toyota police van, flashing the two-fingered peace sign - or victory, perhaps, given that his campaign was marked by as many as seven similar headline-grabbing episodes with Israeli guards.

Barghouti may be a long shot - Palestinian polling places his support in the 20 per cent range. But for an Arab world so inculcated with centuries of one-man rule, even a long shot is something new.

At a news conference before his expulsion from the city, Barghouti was in no mood to concede, insisting his own campaign polls show a much tighter race, with his side gaining.

But in the same breath, he expressed pride at his role in "establishing the democratic tradition in Palestine."

"We are actually opening the road for democracy in the Arab world. This is a great change, a great achievement. I am very proud," he said.

"Contrary to the predictions of chaos and infighting after the death of Yasser Arafat, we have shown we are civilized, that we can have democracy even under occupation," said Barghouti.

The Israeli military presence to which he spoke is to redeploy today, with a 72-hour reprieve that will enable a freedom of movement Palestinians haven't known since the earliest days of their more than four-year-old violent uprising.

Into that gap, as many as 800 international monitors are fanning out among the 1,072 voting centres in the West Bank and Gaza to watch over 2,800 ballot boxes.

Les Campbell, a former Ottawa-based chief of staff with the New Democratic Party here to oversee the U.S. National Democratic Institute's 80-member monitoring team, identified some of the biggest election worries as freedom of movement and voter confusion.

"So far, the Israeli checkpoints are still mostly in place, so we'll be watching that the commitments on freedom of movement come through," he said.

"Another issue is Gaza, and whether Hamas will try to intimidate people against voting."

East Jerusalem further complicates matters, he said, since the six polling stations agreed upon will accommodate only 5,700 of the more than 100,000 eligible Arab voters. Israeli officials have committed to free passage through openings in the concrete security wall now under construction so that voters may pass eastward to cast their ballots in the West Bank.

One final riddle: the Palestinian Central Election Committee is working from two separate voter lists. The plan is to mark the hands of voters with indelible ink in order to prevent individuals from casting a second ballot elsewhere.

It is difficult to assess the overall Palestinian enthusiasm for the vote. On one hand, Abbas has found himself almost daily at the centre of wild, testosterone-charged rallies, like the one he attended on Wednesday on the heels of a wicked hailstorm in Hebron.

Palestinians take step on road to democracy

Surrounded by young activists of the dominant Fatah party who answer his every sentence with raging slogans, the bookish Abbas appeared bewildered by the display of raw emotion. At times it was difficult to determine who was leading whom.

But as the often-arrested Barghouthi began showing signs of campaign momentum, so too did Abbas begin altering his message in an apparent embrace of Palestinian militancy. It has resulted in a strange brew, with Abbas pledging himself loyal to the fighting edge of the intifada, yet totally in favour of ending it, sometimes in the same breath.

Palestinian political analyst Hisham Ahmed, who introduced another first in the Arab world this week by interviewing all seven presidential candidates on state television on successive nights, said Abbas' disparate statements simply reflect the realpolitik on the ground.

"I know his words seem to be conflicting. But you must remember Abu Mazen has led a life as a strategic thinker with very little exposure to the people on the street," said Ahmed, a political science professor at Bir Zeit University, near Ramallah.

"Suddenly, he found himself confronted with the emotionalism of his people. I think it moved him in a very genuine way. And he realized he had to not only express the pragmatism of his core beliefs, but also find a way to acknowledge the tremendous anger and frustration of the people. It is a fine line, but the way he handled it was actually harmonious, to Palestinians."

Dr. Rawfik al-Jabari, 35, an engineering professor and a Fatah party leader in Hebron, said he isn't fooled by the apparent mixed messages. Abbas may play to the crowd at times, but his core direction is to end violence and work for a new beginning with Israel.

"The Palestinian people pretty much believe it is time to reach a solution. Now we are voting in a very pragmatic, open leader. It puts the ball in Israel's hands," he said.

"But we are also very skeptical. We are watching cautiously, afraid that Abu Mazen will be treated the same as Abu Ammar (Arafat)."

Outside of the campaign bubble, everyday Palestinians seem somewhat less energized. Large parts of Arab East Jerusalem, in particular, seem altogether apathetic. Here, rumours circulate that Israeli border police will confiscate the identity cards of anyone who passes through the wall to vote. But others admit, though not for attribution, that they would rather live under Israeli rule than subject themselves to the corruption-laced realm of the Palestinian Authority.

Ali Aqel, 40, a Hebron schoolteacher who last month was elected as a councillor in municipal elections, formally describes himself as "independent" but is widely considered a **Hamas** loyalist. He describes the Abbas campaign as "like a movie that finished one month ago."

"I feel he was already elected, because the opposition is so weak. But now he will be in great trouble. Whatever he does next, if he ignores any red lines he will have problems."

Such talk is predictable, coming from **Hamas**. The Islamic movement is boycotting the election, primarily because it knows it lacks sufficient support to win. Or, conversely, as Aqel admits, "**Hamas** cannot talk to Israel. And if **Hamas** were to win, they would have no choice."

Aqel sees a narrow opening ahead for Arafat's heir apparent. Palestinians will provide him a window to try talking once again with Israel, a window without violence, even.

But the expectations for change are internal as well, extending to additional elections - a vote for a new legislative council, as well as long-awaited vote to bring fresh faces into the all-powerful Fatah leadership. Most of all, Palestinians will expect changes to the tight circle of cronies that surrounded Arafat for years, and now remain at Abu Mazen's side.

Palestinians take step on road to democracy

Aziza Karajeh, 41, one of only a handful of Palestinian women among some 700 people who attended the Hebron rally, said she overcame her own skepticism to hear what Abbas had to say. She is not a member of Fatah, unlike most who attended.

"People are generally frustrated right now. So they don't have full trust in anyone, regardless of the slogans and the speeches," said Karajeh, an insurance agent. "But I'm ready to listen. I just hope that the words will be matched by actions." "We are actually opening the road for democracy in the Arab world."

'We want our Jerusalem. Let us go to Jerusalem as free people in our millions.'

Load-Date: January 8, 2005

End of Document

Blair's myopic vision on terror;

Morning Star

April 03, 2004

Copyright 2004 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 8

Length: 210 words

Body

TARGETED killings do not just eliminate or take out the target. An analysis of Israel's targeted killings between September 29 2000 and March 3 2004 records that, of the 337 killed, at least 134 - 40 per cent - were civilian bystanders, including women and children.

Following the savage slaying of Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a 13-year-old boy protester, Musaab al Khalban, was shot through the head by a strategically placed Israeli sniper in a murder that mirrored that of British peace activist Tom Hurndall.

These are not sporadic incidents, but a systematic attempt to break the indomitable spirit of all resistance fighters.

This persecution and territorial acquisitiveness is not exclusively confined to Palestinians. Bedouins, semi-nomadic people, are being leant on as well to quit their tribal homeland in the Negev desert.

Tony Blair, in his meeting with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in Libya, spoke of their nascent shared ideals regarding the war on terror.

But there was no condemnatory remark from him about Sheikh Yassin's unlawful execution or the innocents that have been slain and mutilated as the Likud government has implemented its programme of state-sponsored terrorism so brazenly and uncompromisingly.

MARTIN PHILLIPS Mynydd Isa

Load-Date: April 6, 2004

Yassin will become a ghost urging Palestinian martyrdom. He is far more dangerous dead than alive;

Opinion

Sunday Tribune

March 28, 2004

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Section: Pg. 17

Length: 941 words

Byline: Johann Hari

Body

SHEIKH Ahmed Yassin was a farright theocrat. If the **Hamas** programme he inspired is ever put into practice, the dream of Palestinian liberation will turn into a nightmare on the day of an Israeli withdrawal.

He explicitly wanted to turn a Palestinian state, when it finally came into existence, into a fundamentalist state under Sharia law.

There would be no liberation for **women** in his Palestine. Dissenters would be dealt with as they are in all fundamentalist states. The savagery inflicted on any Jews who remained there would be too horrible to describe. I would be stoned to death there for being gay.

No outsider should weep for Yassin, or support **Hamas**.

Yet we should weep for this assassination. Some of our tears should be for the consequences in Israel itself: when Ariel Sharon gave the order to incinerate Yassin, he guaranteed the incineration of countless Israeli civilians in retaliation attacks. But we should grieve mostly because it reveals a startling ignorance on the part of the Israeli government. This ignorance will ensure they carry on slaying and oppressing Palestinians.

The Likud government still fails to understand the causes of suicide bombing.

Encouraged by the American right, Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu imagine suicide bombing is the work of a few evil masterminds brainwashing impressionable young people into committing suicide massacres.

This is why they have killed Yassin and may yet kill Yasser Arafat. There is only one problem: I have met young men preparing to be suicide bombers, and this thinking bears no relation to reality.

The wave of suicide bombers currently massacring civilians in Israel are the children of the first intifada. The formative experience of their lives was watching their parents stage a massive programme of peaceful resistance to occupation.

Israel's response was clear: Yitzhak Rabin gave the order to "break their bones".

Yassin will become a ghost urging Palestinian martyrdom. He is far more dangerous dead than alive; Opinion

No brainwashing is needed to turn these men to crazed violence; they learned it in their childhood from Israeli occupiers.

All that happens when Israel kills Palestinian figureheads is that humiliation stabs deeper into their gut.

Yassin will now become a ghost at every Palestinian feast, urging martyrdom. He is far more dangerous - both to Israelis and to the cause of a secular Palestinian nationalism - dead than alive.

If anybody should understand how the unique agony of living without a state turns people to terrorism, it is the Israelis. Israel's first Likud prime minister, and Zionist freedom fighter in the 1940s, Menachem Begin's compelling autobiography, *The Revolt: Story of the Irgun*, is a mirror-image of the writings of contemporary Palestinian terrorists.

He coldly justifies the massacre of 91 people at the King David Hotel as "necessary" to ensure a free Israel.

It is a simple truth that if you deprive people of a state, they will fight for one. What we are witnessing today is a straightforward Palestinian war of independence. The only way to bring it to an end it is to grant independence.

This can only mean a state comprising Gaza and the West Bank. This would not be a magical solution to everything. There will still be some fanatics who seek not a two-state solution but a Greater Palestine cleansed of Jews. Yet opinion polls suggest that such Islamic fundamentalists would be a minority in a free Palestine.

How many more provocations before they are all driven mad?

The tragedy is that Israel is cursed with a leadership that is psychologically incapable of taking the road to peace. All opinion polls show that most Israeli citizens can see that Israel's only chance for survival is as one of two states, divided between the two peoples.

Yet Sharon sees all Arabs as part of a seething mob with whom there can be no discussion, no reasoning, no co-existence. Peaceniks and suicide bombers, Abu Mazen and Sheikh Yassin: they are all equally murderous, and only a fool would try to compromise with such savages.

Sharon grew up in Kfar Malal, a small Jewish village that was eternally besieged by Palestinians. This sense of an absolute threat - they're coming for us, pass the ammunition - has never left him. For Sharon, the entire Middle East is an eternal Kfar Malal.

He is tipping Israel/Palestine towards a situation from which there can be no return. At the moment, a majority of Palestinians seek their own state divided from Israel along the 1967 borders. This is an agenda which can be met while leaving Israel safe and intact. Yet Sharon is making it impossible to return to those borders, by constructing a fence that cuts deep into Palestinian territories.

The effect of this will not be what Sharon hopes: that the Palestinians will be so terrified that they will settle for the scraps that Likud is prepared to leave behind after a unilateral withdrawal.

No; it will be that Palestinians will ditch the goal of two states altogether.

Ahmad Qureia, the Palestinian prime minister, made this clear when he explained that Sharon's unilateral moves would render the drive for a Palestinian state a "meaningless slogan". No viable state could exist on what Sharon proposes to - perhaps - leave behind. So Palestinian goals will change.

"If the situation continues as it is now, we will go for the one-state solution, " Qureia says. One big state encompassing both the Occupied Territories and Israel proper would mean an Arab majority and the end of Israel.

Sharon - by refusing to see the difference between moderates and extremists - is pushing Palestinians further away from secular moderation and towards fanaticism and a thirst to eradicate all Israel.

He has just united Palestine behind a **Hamas** fanatic.

Yassin will become a ghost urging Palestinian martyrdom. He is far more dangerous dead than alive; Opinion

Load-Date: April 8, 2004

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**MY FEARS FOR NATION LIVING WITH TERROR;
AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL INTENSIFIES,PADDY SHENNAN
MEETS**

Liverpool Daily Echo

March 24, 2004, Wednesday

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Section: First Edition; FEATURES; Pg. 6,7; Newspaper

Length: 810 words

Byline: PADDY SHENNAN

Body

AMERSEYSIDE language student who was hailed a hero after being caught up in a bomb blast at an Israeli university fears terrorists could be about to launch a further wave of atrocities.

Alastair Goldrein, 21, from Blundellsands, helped pull dead and badly injured students from the cafeteria at Jerusalem's Hebrew University - an attack which claimed the life of his American friend, 20-year-old Ben Blutstein, and nine others.

The attack was launched in July 2002 - Alastair, now studying for a degree in Latin and Ancient Greek Classics at London's University College, had only recently enrolled at the university's Frank Sinatra International Student Centre for a three-month course in Hebrew, having previously studied Jewish law there.

Now he fears a devastating series of revenge attacks against the Israeli people are set to be launched, following the assassination of **Hamas** founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Alastair, whose 19-year-old sister, Alexandra, is coming towards the end of the gap year she is spending in Jerusalem, where she is studying Hebrew, says: "There is a daily ritual of fear there and what has happened will increase that fear.

"It's so difficult for people who are simply trying to go about their daily lives. Some are too scared to go to work, or go shopping - to even go outdoors at all.

"Things are so bad on a day to day basis that mothers send their children to school and wonder if they'll ever see them again."

Alastair comes from a distinguished Merseyside family: his mother and father - Margaret and Iain - are both prominent Liverpool QCs, while his grandfather, Neville Goldrein, was a former leader of Merseyside county council.

Alastair, who returned to Jerusalem last summer to complete his studies, adds: "The bomb blast did change the way I felt. I might have been on a bus looking at an individual and thinking he looked a little heavy around his waist - and wondering whether he had a bomb strapped to him. It can drive you crazy.

MY FEARS FOR NATION LIVING WITH TERROR; AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL INTENSIFIES,PADDY SHENNAN MEETS

"All parents in Israel will be worried about their children and my own sister, who is a tough cookie, has been banned from going on buses."

Alastair says he will never forget the scene of carnage which greeted him, as he struggled to help the injured people lying among the dead.

"There was silence -and then wailing. All I could see were women and children lying there, with limbs missing. It was just a terrible scene of human devastation.

"These were completely innocent people and this was completely indiscriminate. And I felt completely helpless.

"Ten people died and about 70 were wounded. And there are so many people you see in wheelchairs in Israel now who you know have been maimed. You don't ask, you just know. It's an increasing phenomenon."

Despite giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a badly-injured bomb blast victim -and pulling others from the wreckage of the cafeteria -he did not consider what he did to be anything out of the ordinary, saying other students in the same position would have done the same. Alastair was reunited with his family within days of the bomb attack,explaining: "The day after the blast I walked past what was left of the building and things came flooding back. It was all too much and that was when I knew I had to come home. I could not cope." He adds: "I do know I was an extremely lucky guy. I try and put what happened and what I saw to the back of my mind,but it always comes back the moment you hear news like the news we've been hearing in the last few days.

And when I hear a loud bang in the street,from a building site or whatever, I do,for a moment, think God, no!" "I returned to the cafeteria when I went back last summer and it was eerie to see people eating in an area where I had seen such such horror and devastation."

He had been just 50 yards from the building where the bomb exploded -and would have been inside had he not stopped for a chat with a friend. The pal he was on the way to meet for lunch had already arrived -and was killed when the explosion hit.

"Ben was a great,lovely guy and his death is still something I can't comprehend."

Meanwhile, in defiance of the world condemnation of the assassination of the Hamas founder, Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon has vowed: "The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day,everywhere."

Alastair says the majority of Israelis support this stance,adding: "I think taking out terrorist leaders is always justified -but was it wise?

"My gut feeling is that the response it provokes will be disproportionate to the killing of one individual.

"You can definitely say it was justified, but it might well have been unwise".

Alastair, who is hoping to follow his parents into a career in law, plans to return to Israel this summer to attend a friend's wedding -and he can only pray that the situation is less volatile and potentially dangerous than it is today.

Graphic

HEROIC: Alistair Goldrein, who pulled victims from the wreckage of a bomb in Jerusalem,and below a Hamas supporter at the funeral of assassinated leader Ahmed Yassin

MY FEARS FOR NATION LIVING WITH TERROR; AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL
INTENSIFIES,PADDY SHENNAN MEETS

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

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165 Palestinians killed in October: Worst toll since '02, Israeli paper says

The Gazette (Montreal)
November 4, 2004 Thursday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A17

Length: 207 words

Byline: New York Times

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Israeli army killed more Palestinians in October than in any month since the height of open warfare in April 2002, when Israeli forces moved through the West Bank and fought Palestinian security forces and militants.

The army killed 165 Palestinians in October, 159 of them in the Gaza Strip, according to the Israeli daily Haaretz.

In Gaza, Israeli forces were attempting to stop the shelling of Israeli towns in what was the largest Israeli military operation there in four years. At times there was heavy fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in the narrow, crowded alleys of the Jabaliya refugee camp, and a number of the dead were senior members of groups like **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades.

According to an inquiry by Haaretz, 50 of the 165 dead, or just over 30 per cent, were civilians, including **women**, children, the elderly and males under 16.

Other calculations of the total number of Palestinian dead are slightly different, but all reflect the largest death toll since April 2002. The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group says 148 Palestinians were killed by Israeli security forces in October and that five died from Palestinian retribution. The Palestinian Red Crescent says 142 Palestinians died.

Load-Date: November 4, 2004

Abbas prepares to lead Palestinians on 'mission'

The International Herald Tribune

January 11, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 981 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank:

Body

Mahmoud Abbas, who opposes continuing violence against Israel, got straight to work Monday after his declaration of victory in Sunday's election for president of the Palestinian Authority.

Two surveys of voters leaving the polls showed him winning by a large margin, with official results expected later Monday. His main challenger conceded, and Abbas met Monday morning with the prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, about the shape of a new cabinet.

Messages of welcome and support poured in from Israeli officials and from President George W. Bush, who has said he wants to see an independent Palestinian state by the end of his second term.

The New York Times

"We offer this victory to the soul of the brother martyr Yasser Arafat and to our people, to our martyrs and to 11,000 prisoners" in Israeli jails, Abbas, 69, told his supporters Sunday night. "There is a difficult mission ahead to build our state, to achieve security for our people, to give our prisoners freedom, our fugitives a life in dignity, to reach our goal of an independent state."

Qurei called the election "a triumph for our people, who have chosen the path of peace, democracy and national unity."

Shimon Peres, whose Labor Party agreed to join a new Israeli coalition on Monday, said: "A moderate man was elected, an intelligent man, an experienced man. Let's give him a chance. There is a new legitimate Palestinian leadership whose leaders definitely are against terror and war."

But turning those aspirations into reality will be a fierce challenge for Abbas after four years of intifada and a continuing Israeli occupation.

With a strong margin, the quiet, cerebral Abbas could have the help he needs to remake and reinvigorate the Palestinian Authority and to try to put an end to violence.

According to voter surveys, released moments after the polls closed at 9 p.m., Abbas won election to a five-year term with about 65 percent of the vote, more than 40 percentage points ahead of his nearest challenger in a field of seven.

Abbas prepares to lead Palestinians on 'mission'

It was the first presidential election in nine years, made necessary after the death of Arafat on Nov. 11. The voting was judged by international observers to be generally free and fair, with little interference from Israel, which eased travel restrictions on Palestinians and largely halted military activity in the territories.

But there was concern about a turnout that was lower than expected on a chilly but sunny winter's day, and Palestinian election officials decided to keep the polls open two hours longer than originally planned.

The election officials first said that Israeli restrictions at checkpoints and confusion at Jerusalem polling stations were the reasons for the extension. But the announcement came after reports of low turnout in some cities, including Ramallah, where election workers at one polling place, Al Qarami School, said that only 30 percent of those registered had voted by 4:30 p.m. The officials then acknowledged that they wanted more people to vote, because only 30 percent of the 1.8 million or so eligible voters had cast their ballots by noon.

Abbas, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the candidate of the main Palestinian faction, Fatah, faced little real competition. His main challenger was an independent, Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, 50, a physician and human-rights campaigner.

Abbas had sought a sizable popular mandate to provide him the legitimacy and authority to make difficult internal reforms, to reorganize Palestinian security services and to negotiate with Israel.

Hamas spokesmen made it clear on Sunday that they would work with the elected president. Mahmoud Zahar, a **Hamas** leader in Gaza, told reporters that **Hamas** could have run its own candidate if it had really wanted to undermine Abbas. "Our view is not to undermine," he said, but he insisted that armed resistance to Israel would continue, despite Abbas's call for a cease-fire.

Abbas called the election a source of pride for Palestinians as he voted here Sunday morning at Arafat's former headquarters, the Muqata. "This process is taking place in a marvelous fashion and is an illustration of how the Palestinian people aspire to democracy," he said. He urged **women** in particular to exercise their right to vote.

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian legislature, spoke of a new process of democracy to hold leaders accountable. But she was most struck by the context. "This is a unique case of a people under occupation being asked to hold free and fair elections when they themselves are not free," she said. "I think it's unique in history. But this is a nation adamant to vote. It's an important internal test, and I think it's a turning point."

Michel Rocard, leader of the largest group of international observers, from the European Union, said there were few problems with the election. There were some difficulties for voters in East Jerusalem, where Israel required Palestinians to vote in post offices, as if they were casting absentee ballots, given Israel's claim to sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, said: "It has been a very good day. The moment is historic." He promised further European aid to the new leadership.

Israeli officials made it clear in recent days that they supported Abbas and that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his top ministers would like to meet with him as soon as possible after he took office. Israeli officials say they are willing to release more Palestinian prisoners and talk to Abbas about a more permanent easing of security measures.

Israel wants Abbas to move quickly to reorganize his security services and to crack down in a serious and committed way on Palestinian militants attacking Israel and its civilians, as the Palestinians have promised to do in the first stage of the road map to peace. The Israelis have promised to stop new settlement activity.

Load-Date: January 11, 2005

NEWSDESK

The Forward

January 16, 2004

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Section: News; Pg. 3

Length: 977 words

Body

Arabs Debate Reform

Islamists and nationalist opposition leaders in Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are trying to block government educational reforms directed mainly at revamping textbooks. Challenges to educational reform are particularly overt in Jordan, where the political system and media are more open and government critics more outspoken than in the Gulf.

"Nationalists and Islamists are criticizing the Jordanian government, saying that this is an attempt to impose Western values in Jordan and that it's an American-driven plot," said Amy Hawthorne, editor of the Arab Reform Bulletin at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington think tank.

Critics are accusing Jordan's government of sneaking the reform through, behind the back of parliament, to avoid public scrutiny and out of shame at bowing to American pressure. One of the main concerns of opposition leaders in Jordan is the government's intention to make a distinction in its curricula between terrorism and legitimate "resistance."

Jordanian officials are vowing to push forward with the reforms. Meanwhile, the Gulf Cooperation Council, a six-member coordinating body of Arab Gulf states, last month approved a resolution to combat terrorism, which calls for the deletion of anti-Christian and antisemitic references from school textbooks. The group, which includes Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, decided to remove from school textbooks material describing followers of other religions as "infidels" and "enemies of Islam."

Bush Proposes School Fund

President Bush has announced his intention to ask Congress to establish a "national choice incentive fund" to encourage school-choice programs. Supporters of the \$50 million fund say that a major objective of the fund would be to help school districts address their capacity problems by providing low-income parents with expanded opportunities for transferring children to high-performing public, private or charter schools.

The Orthodox Union applauded the president's announcement, commending Bush for his "commitment to improving America's educational system for all children." Rob Boston, a spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, criticized Bush's proposal, saying, "We believe that religious education should be paid for by the members of the sponsoring denomination, not by the American taxpayer."

Liberty Attack Debated

NEWSDESK

A historian affiliated with the National Security Agency said Monday that recently declassified documents "strongly suggest" that an NSA intelligence-gathering ship, the USS Liberty, was not intentionally attacked by Israel in 1967.

The NSA's official historian, David Hatch, told participants at a conference in Washington that the documents "to me, suggest strongly that the Israeli attackers did not know that they were aiming deadly fire at a vessel belonging to the United States."

Hatch pointed to recently released intercepts of radio transmissions between Israeli helicopters and their home base in Hatzor. These intercepts, acquired by an American spy plane shortly after the attack, show a "progressive reversal of perception" on the part of the pilots, Hatch said. "At first, the pilots were to inspect an Egyptian ship, then signs that the ship might not be Egyptian after all, and finally growing evidence that it could belong to a friendly nation."

A State Department study, issued Monday, reached a similar conclusion, according to the report's author, Harriett Schwar, who works in the department's Office of the Historian.

The conference was organized by the State Department to mark the release of Schwar's report, the third in a trilogy on America's approach to the Israeli-Arab conflict during the Johnson administration. The first panel of the two-day conference was devoted to the Liberty tragedy. It drew extraordinary media interest and sparked emotional charges of cover-up and deceit from survivors of the Liberty attack in attendance.

The USS Liberty, an American intelligence ship, was attacked June 8, 1967, the third day of the Six-Day War, by Israeli rockets, cannon fire and torpedoes while in international waters near the town of El Arish in the Sinai Desert. Thirty-four American servicemen were killed and 171 injured. Israel said the attack was a tragic result of mistaken identity - Israeli pilots and seamen thought the ship was an Egyptian vessel, Israel's government said.

Rabbis Protest Housing Demolitions

Rabbis for Human Rights-North America delivered a letter signed by 300 rabbis to the Israel's embassy in Washington and consulate in New York blasting the upcoming trial of Rabbi Arik Ascherman, executive director of the group's Israeli chapter, for trying to block demolitions of Palestinian homes in the West Bank last spring. The rabbis, who span the denominational spectrum, want the changes dropped because they say the demolition policy violates Jewish ethics and Zionist ideals.

Hamas Enlists Woman Bomber

A **female** suicide bomber blew herself up early Wednesday at one of the entrances to the Gaza Strip's main crossing point to Israel, killing three Israeli soldiers and an Israeli civilian.

Hamas and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militant group affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, jointly claimed responsibility for the blast at the Erez crossing, which also wounded 12 people.

Vowing to escalate attacks, **Hamas** said it used a woman suicide bomber for the first time, in order to counter Israeli security precautions.

Saudi Kills Jewish Friend

A Saudi Arabian national in Houston pleaded guilty to slashing a Jewish friend's throat after undergoing a religious awakening. Mohammed Ali Alayed, 23, faces up to 60 years in jail after the August 6 attack on Ariel Sellouk, 23, the Houston Chronicle reported Monday. Houston police did not find a religious motive for the slaying.

Graphic

NEWSDESK

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

End of Document

Realism and pessimism, Palestinians and Israelis;
Globalist

The International Herald Tribune

January 15, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 966 words

Byline: Roger Cohen

Dateline: RAMAT HASHARON, Israel

Body

What follows is a summary of a senior Israeli intelligence officer's presentation of his national security concerns. The officer is a pessimist, by nature, and because he is paid to imagine worst-case scenarios. But the history of the last half-century suggests pessimism is no more than realism in this part of the world.

**

Security Review 2005

The decision to dismantle settlements in Gaza is irrevocable. Israeli society is split between those opposed to this course and those who do not like it but think it is necessary. Still, the operation will go ahead. Its risks should not be underestimated.

International Herald Tribune

Consider this scenario. We are engaged in trying to move 5,000 inhabitants of the settlements at Gush Katif, in southern Gaza. The settlers are joined by 15,000 supporters from around the country. Children are crying, women screaming, men shouting. We've moved in trucks and buses and thousands of police officers and troops. In this mayhem, mortars are fired from the adjacent Palestinian town of Khan Yunis, perhaps by a faction determined to reinforce the impression we are leaving under fire. Ten Israelis are wounded. Under such conditions, can we proceed with the plan?

Even before this stage, there may be problems. A government decision on disengagement from Gaza has been made, but our citizens there have not yet received formal notification. People in their homes for a quarter-century may receive only three months' written notice to move. There will be appeals to the Supreme Court; their outcome is uncertain.

The prime minister's determination is such we must assume the operation will be completed, perhaps by September, despite such obstacles. Most people think our security will improve after that, at least in the Gaza area, because a reason to fight us will have been removed. That is a dangerous assumption.

In the absence of our forces and intelligence in Gaza, Palestinian military capability may improve. I refer to rockets with a longer range. I refer to the smuggling of surface-to-air missiles from Egypt. The possibility that a coastal town like Ashkelon will be hit exists. How would we respond?

If we find a transformed Palestinian Authority led by Mahmoud Abbas, one that is strong and accountable, we may expect a determined effort to stop such attacks.

But our belief is that he is not powerful enough to dismantle terrorist groups, especially **Hamas**. Pressure from Hezbollah, from Iran and from Syria to maintain military pressure on Israel will be insistent. The most Abbas will obtain is a truce.

But a truce may only complicate our political situation.

Let's assume there is quiet. The Palestinians, backed by the Europeans and the Arab world, will say: You see, all the problems are caused by the Israeli occupation. If Israel would only do as it has done in Gaza and pull back to the 1967 lines, abandoning the West Bank, the conflict would be over. We know this is an illusion. But our view is not widely shared.

It is an illusion because many Palestinians still seek a state that would replace ours, rather than one that will exist alongside Israel. But Abbas will have several cards to play to put pressure on us.

He will point to a democracy as good as any in the Arab world. He will point to cleaned-up finances. He will point to reorganized security services. He will say the guns are quiet. He will recall that President George W. Bush once spoke of a Palestinian state by 2005. He will be in a hurry. That is when the complications will start, because we are not in a hurry.

The road map is clear. Its path to peace differs from the Oslo accords in one critical respect. Implicit in Oslo was the notion that peace leads to security. The road map says security comes first, then peace.

Until we can guarantee our security, we are not going to discuss a political solution. There has to be a full and final Palestinian decision to give up terror as a means to achieve political ends. A truce or a cease-fire are not enough.

We want to see Abbas arrest and try and sentence to life terms militants who have killed Israelis. This has never happened. We want to see a law saying it is illegal to carry weapons. We know what the dismantlement of Palestinian terror cells is. Until it happens, we must resist pressure to discuss a final-status peace. There is a perception that the road to such a peace is now open. But it's not that simple.

Even as a pessimist, however, I must acknowledge a few hopeful signs. **Hamas** has been weakened. It used to get 70 percent of its funds from Saudi Arabia. That channel has been curtailed. It has turned to Iran, to some effect. But a terror organization is like any business: it needs money to be successful. **Hamas** now has less.

Both sides have understood the need for compromise -- on territory, on Jerusalem. The gap is smaller. Credible leadership exists on both sides. Support from Washington, from Egypt, from Turkey is real. If the Palestinians will accept a state with interim borders -- an accord that is not definitive -- we may make headway.

Abbas understands that in the post-9/11 world, violence is counterproductive. The price is too high. He is credible when he says he opposes a militarized intifada. But his real strength, and his flexibility on issues such as the right of return of Palestinian refugees, remain in doubt.

In conclusion, I do not see a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the foreseeable future. But we may, if we are realistic, enter a period of calm marked by cooperation and sincere attempts to solve problems. That is the best-case scenario: not a peace agreement, but various agreements building peace.

However, because the Palestinians will want more, because our timetables are not synchronized, the worst may as ever be inevitable.

**

Load-Date: January 16, 2005

End of Document

Attacks resume after Abbas vote

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 13, 2005 Thursday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2005 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A; Newspaper

Length: 638 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM; LONDON; QUETTA, Pakistan; SEOUL, South Korea; BERLIN

Body

After a brief calm surrounding this week's Palestinian election, an Israeli man was killed Wednesday by a roadside bomb in the Gaza Strip, and Israeli soldiers tracked down and killed four armed Palestinians, including those who had planted the explosive.

Mahmoud Abbas, who was elected president on Sunday, opposes attacks against Israel, but armed Palestinian factions have rejected his call to lay down their weapons.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad and a larger Islamic faction, **Hamas**, boycotted Sunday's election, but they did not disrupt it. But the Palestinians have resumed the rocket and mortar attacks in Gaza. For its part, Israel suspended military raids into Palestinian areas for the election, but on Wednesday, its troops killed two **Hamas** men in the West Bank. Compiled from Times Wires British flight turns around after U.S. refuses entry

LONDON - A British Airways jet carrying 239 passengers to New York was forced to return to London Wednesday after U.S. authorities determined that one of the passengers represented a terror threat, the airline said.

Flight BA175 was three hours into its journey when it was forced to turn back to London's Heathrow Airport. The administration said the man was a match with an antiterrorism watchlist.

Passengers were rescreened, and the plane took off again for New York, British Airways spokesman Honor Verrier said.

London's Metropolitan Police, who questioned the man, said later he had been released without charge.

Pakistan shuts gas plant after tribesmen attack

QUETTA, Pakistan - More than 2,000 troops took control of one of Pakistan's major natural gas plants and shut it down after renegade tribesmen fired hundreds of rockets, blowing up a pipeline and triggering clashes that have killed eight people in the last five days, officials said Wednesday.

Tribesmen frequently target security forces and gas facilities to demand higher royalties from gas extracted from their territory, according to the government.

Eight people, three of them security personnel, were killed and another 33 people, mostly civilians, were wounded in shootouts between assailants and the government, officials said.

Fresh U.S. delegation visits North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea - A group of U.S. congressmen met with North Korea's foreign minister in Pyongyang on Wednesday, the communist state's official news agency said, in an effort to persuade the North to rejoin talks on its nuclear weapons ambitions.

A bipartisan delegation led by Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., arrived in Pyongyang on Tuesday for a four-day visit.

From Pyongyang, the six U.S. lawmakers will travel to Russia, South Korea, China and Japan - the four other countries involved in six-nation negotiations.

The latest visit followed an effort by Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., who led a delegation into North Korea last week.

Germans arrest 22 in raids to target terrorism

BERLIN - More than 700 German police stormed mosques, shops and homes across the country Wednesday, arresting 22 people suspected of financing and providing illegal documents to terrorists, perhaps in Iraq.

German officials, citing privacy laws, refused to identify those arrested or to say what group or groups they belong to. Those arrested included German citizens as well as people from Bulgaria, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Egypt, officials said. Five were women.

Also . . .

CHINA RAIDS S. KOREANS' NEWS CONFERENCE: Chinese security agents raided a news conference organized by visiting South Korean legislators Wednesday, cutting the lights, forcibly ejecting foreign journalists and prompting statements of protest in Seoul. Four members of South Korea's opposition Grand National Party called the conference to urge the Chinese government to show leniency toward refugees from North Korea. The lawmakers refused orders to leave, resulting in a nearly 13-hour standoff.

Load-Date: January 13, 2005

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times

March 22, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1420 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-15

Israel Kills Hamas Founder; Group Vows Revenge

The spiritual leader and founder of the militant group Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, was killed by Israeli helicopter gunships as he left a mosque in Gaza City, according to his family and Hamas officials. Sheik Yassin was by far the most significant Palestinian militant killed by Israel. Hamas vowed to exact revenge. A1

Equipment Delays Slow Training

Senior American commanders in Iraq are complaining that delays in delivering equipment have hobbled their ability to build an effective Iraqi security force that could eventually replace United States troops. The lag, because of a contract dispute, may even have contributed to a loss of lives among recruits, commanders say. A1

Rockets slammed into an upscale Baghdad neighborhood, killing 4 people and wounding 10. Iraqi police speculated that the rockets were launched by insurgents aiming at a nearby fairground, where an international trade exposition is scheduled to be held next month. A10

Afghan Minister Dies in Raid

Afghanistan's minister for civil aviation, who is the son of one of the country's most powerful warlords, was killed while leading an advance on the headquarters of the commander whom he blamed for an assault on his father, Ismail Khan. A15

Negotiations in Pakistan

The Pakistani military turned to tribal elders to try to persuade hundreds of surrounded Qaeda members to surrender. The military called a temporary cease-fire, and it was agreed that the elders would try to negotiate a surrender and the release of some soldiers and government officials being held hostage. A14

Spain's Approach to U.S.

Spain's newly elected Socialist prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, has embarked on a two-track approach toward the United States, portraying himself as a reliable ally even while railing against the Bush administration for waging war and occupying Iraq. A3

NEWS SUMMARY

French Voters Back Opposition

French voters expressed dissatisfaction with President Jacques Chirac's center-right government by showing strong support for the opposition Socialist Party and endorsing the far rightist National Front as a vocal minority party. A3

Taiwan Party Demands Inquiry

Leaders of Taiwan's opposition Nationalist Party demanded a recount and an investigation into the presidential election they lost on Saturday and threatened to keep supporters in the streets until their demands were met. The government of President Chen Shui-bian rebuffed them. A9

Malaysian Islamic Party Erodes

The major Islamic party in Malaysia lost significant ground in parliamentary and state elections as the governing coalition of Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi coasted to victory. A6

NATIONAL A16-21

Welfare Rolls Decline Despite Sluggish Economy

Federal welfare rolls have declined over the last three years, even as unemployment, poverty and the number of food stamp recipients have surged in a weak economy. Officials say the rolls did not grow during the recession of 2001 or the sluggish economy since. Experts disagree on the reasons. A1

Methodists Divided by Verdict

The acquittal of a lesbian minister on a charge of violating Methodist law by engaging in a homosexual relationship has outraged traditionalists, elated those seeking change and energized both groups. The resulting tension threatens to divide next month's quadrennial conference of the United Methodist Church. A16

Kerry's Tax Record Attacked

President Bush's re-election campaign released an analysis that they it says shows a \$1 trillion gap over the next decade between spending increases Senator John Kerry has called for and the tax increases he has already supported. A20

Fundraising Success

Campaign financial reports for February show that Senator John Kerry raised almost \$8 million as he headed to victory in last month's primaries, while Senator John Edwards received less than half that amount, and his campaign went into debt. The reports show how victories translate into campaign cash as donors increasingly give to the winning candidate. A20

Book Alleges Bush Failure

In a new book, Richard A. Clarke, left, the former counterterrorism coordinator for President Bill Clinton and for President Bush, asserts that the Bush administration has undermined American national security by ignoring the threat of Al Qaeda to invade Iraq and using the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks for political advantage. A18

States Race to Legalize Bets

Legislators in Maryland and Pennsylvania are racing to legalize gambling, convinced that thousands of their residents are crossing borders every day to gamble away millions in neighboring states. Such proposals have gained momentum lately because both states face an array of fiscal problems. A16

OBITUARIES B9

Claude Nougaro

A popular French singer and songwriter, who once described himself as a "Baroque troubadour," and whose fondness for American jazz led him to add swing to the traditional French chanson, he was 74. B9

NEWS SUMMARY

Anna Carter Gordon Davis

A gospel music pioneer as a member of the Chuck Wagon Gang and the widow of former Gov. Jimmie Davis of Louisiana, she was 87. B9

NEW YORK/REGION B1-6

Police Corruption Inquiry: A Look Behind the Scenes

With the New York City Police Department undergoing a corruption inquiry involving officers who worked on drug cases, the accidental taping of an apartment raid and the investigation that followed offer a glimpse at the intersection of police, drug dealers and cash. A1

Birth Weights Rebound

Pregnant women in Upper Manhattan who were heavily exposed to two common insecticides had smaller babies than their neighbors, but recent restrictions on the two substances quickly lowered exposure and increased babies' size, according to a study. B3

Amber Waves of Fish

A professor at Brooklyn College has been growing tilapia for years in the lab he runs at the school. And now that tilapia have become popular in restaurants and seafood stores, his vision of widespread tilapia-farming in New York City may finally have a chance of becoming a reality. B1

4 Killed in Crash

In what may be the deadliest crash on Long Island in two years, four young adults were killed after their car veered off a highway and tumbled into dense woods, where it struck a tree and was sheared in two, the police said. B1

SPORTSMONDAY D1-11

NCAA Tournament Upsets

Top seed Kentucky wilted down the stretch in the face of No. 9 seed Alabama-Birmingham's relentless pressure, falling 76-75 in the St. Louis Region. D1

Lionel Chalmers scored a career-high 31 points and rallied the No. 7 seed Xavier Musketeers from a 10-point first-half deficit to a 89-74 victory over No. 2 seed Mississippi State in the Atlanta Region. D1

ARTS E1-8

Iraqi Architect Honored

The Iraqi-born architect Zaha Hadid has been selected to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize for 2004, considered the profession's highest honor. She is the first woman to receive it. E1

BUSINESS DAY C1-20

As Fraud Trial Continues, Tyco Employees Look to Future

Current executives at Tyco's Princeton, N.J., headquarters and lower-level members of Tyco's work force seem more concerned with the financial turnaround at their company than the fates of two former top Tyco officials, on trial for looting the company of more than \$600 million. C1

Fox Relies on 'Idol' Ratings

NEWS SUMMARY

While the Fox Broadcasting Company has a network schedule full of holes, with many nights in decline, the network is heading into the last two months of the television season closer than it has ever been to supremacy in the competition for viewers 18 to 49. The reason: Fox has "American Idol," which has had strong ratings. C1

Nortel Faces Audit Questions

Nortel Networks announced that an investigation by its audit committee would probably revise its profit results, delaying filing its final financial reports for 2003, and that its chief financial officer and comptroller would be placed on an indefinite paid leave of absence. C1

Editors Tighten Safeguards

At least 10 newspapers have confirmed instances of plagiarism or fabrication since The New York Times reported last May that Jayson Blair had made up or copied portions of at least three-dozen articles, prompting many newspapers to institute safeguards against journalistic fraud. C1

Business Digest C1

EDITORIAL A22-23

Editorials: Pinch at the pump; cancer scare tactics; delisting Love Canal; the ghost of Emmett Till.

Columns: William Safire and Bob Herbert.

Autos D12

Metro Diary B2

Bridge E8

TV Listings E7

Crossword E6

Weather B10

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: March 22, 2004

6 die as foes exchange attacks on Gaza border

The International Herald Tribune

September 30, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 599 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

A Palestinian rocket killed two Israeli children and Israeli forces killed four Palestinians during a day of bloodshed Wednesday along the northern edges of the Gaza Strip.

Dozens of Israeli armored vehicles charged into northern Gaza late Tuesday in response to Palestinian rocket fire. On Wednesday, Israeli soldiers in tanks clashed with Palestinian gunmen and stone-throwing youths on the outskirts of the Jabaliya refugee camp, which has been a source of the rocket fire, according to the military. The New York Times

The Palestinian dead included three boys, ages 13, 16 and 17, who were among the stonethrowers, according to Palestinian witnesses. Two were killed in Jabaliya, and the third in a separate incident outside the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, farther to the south, according to Palestinian hospital officials.

A Palestinian gunman was also shot and killed and 15 Palestinians were wounded, several of them teenagers, according to Dr. Mahmoud al-Asali, head of Kamal Adwan Hospital.

Despite the large Israeli military presence, Palestinians fired a rocket on Wednesday evening that struck a pathway between residential buildings in Sederot, an Israeli town just beyond Gaza's perimeter fence, killing the two children.

One media report gave the ages as 3 and 10, but there was no official announcement.

Israeli television footage showed a shredded pair of children's sandals in a puddle of blood along the pathway. Several women collapsed to the ground in grief and shock.

The crude, homemade Qassam rockets are highly inaccurate, but are a constant threat to the people of Sederot. The incident on Wednesday was the second in which the rockets have killed Israelis. A man and a boy were killed in Sederot in June. In addition, a mortar round killed an American-Israeli woman at a Jewish settlement in Gaza earlier this month.

Israel has repeatedly invaded northern Gaza, and the troops have sometimes remained for weeks at a stretch, in an attempt to halt, or at least limit, the Palestinian rocket fire.

6 die as foes exchange attacks on Gaza border

The operations have inflicted widespread damage on the area. Many hectares of citrus and olive groves have been flattened to remove cover used by the militants.

However, the Israeli raids have never brought about a sustained break in the rocket attacks. "We have to act, even though it is difficult to prevent the rocket fire," said Captain Jacob Dallal, a military spokesman. "Our presence does curtail their ability to act."

Meanwhile, Nazar Rian, a senior **Hamas** figure and a university professor, appeared in Jabaliya in an olive military uniform and carrying two rifles and urged Palestinians to fight.

"We won't surrender. We will always remain holy warriors," Rian said. "At the moment the tanks came, all the warriors came out with their weapons, taking their proper places to resist."

As with past Israeli incursions in the area, large numbers of teenage boys took to the streets and threw stones at the tanks. The gunmen and the stonethrowers mingle freely, and both groups usually suffer casualties.

The Israeli military said it had fired and hit Palestinian gunmen in several instances, though it did not have information on Palestinian casualties.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon plans to withdraw Israeli soldiers and settlers from Gaza next year, yet the violence has intensified in recent months.

Palestinian factions such as **Hamas** say that they are driving the Israelis out and that they will continue to carry out attacks.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government and security officials say they will hit hard at the Palestinian groups to show that Israel is leaving on its own terms.

Load-Date: October 1, 2004

Female bomber kills 2 Israeli border guards

The Toronto Star

September 23, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A06

Length: 585 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

As soft targets go, the bus stop servicing the bland and boxy apartment blocks of French Hill is the down pillow of Israeli vulnerabilities.

Here on the doorstep of the Palestinian West Bank, on a contested enclave both sides claim as their own, the bombs and bullets of the past four years had become so predictable that a permanent guard post was established to forestall further Palestinian attacks on suburban Jerusalem commuters.

Two of those guards died yesterday - sacrificed as "human flak jackets" in the words of one Israeli official - as they reached toward the handbag of a young Palestinian woman making a beeline for an afternoon crowd awaiting their bus.

Inside the bag, an estimated five kilos of metal fragments exploded, shredding the bomber and her two Israeli Border Police victims.

Another 17 Israelis were wounded. But Israeli officials were quick to credit their survival to the selflessness of the two border policemen, Menache Komeni, 19, and Mamoya Tahio, 20.

"These two young men acted as human flak jackets," said Israeli Police spokesman Gil Kleiman. "If they hadn't acted as they did, we would have had 10 or more killed. They paid the ultimate price."

Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed the attack as revenge for Israel's ongoing campaign against militants in the West Bank.

The bomber was named as Zeinab Ali Issa Abu Salem, 18, from Askar Refugee Camp. Her home is on the eastern outskirts of the West Bank city of Nablus, where Israeli troops killed five men from an Al Aqsa cell and an 11-year-old girl in an overnight operation last week. Abu Salem, a recent high school graduate, is the eighth **female** bomber to ignite since the renewal of violent conflict in September, 2000.

Within hours of the blast, Israeli and Palestinian leaders issued the requisite boilerplate statements now so familiar to both sides.

"We intend to continue our struggle against terror with all force," said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Female bomber kills 2 Israeli border guards

"We condemn the killings of civilians and reiterate that such attacks harm our cause," said his Palestinian counterpart, Ahmed Qureia, adding a call for mutual ceasefire.

But earlier, Sharon hinted Israel might kill Arafat, as it did with **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi. "We acted against **Hamas** people, and since then more people have been added to this list. When the time is right, we will act the same way with Arafat," Sharon told Israel Radio.

Late last night, Israeli troops entered a southern Gaza town in what the army called a search for firing posts used by Palestinian militants. Witnesses told Reuters about 20 tanks lined up on the outskirts of the southern town of Khan Younis. An Israeli helicopter later fired a missile that wounded 12 people.

Yesterday's attack - the first of its kind in Jerusalem since Feb. 22, when a bomber killed eight people on a bus - triggered calls to accelerate construction of the separation barrier now winding around Jerusalem from the north.

A little more than half, or 47 kilometres, of the 83-kilometre Jerusalem leg of the Israeli barrier is now in place or under construction, rising as patchwork ribbons of concrete wall slicing through the rolling hills of Arab East Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Sharon set next summer as the target date for his controversial plan to dismantle all 21 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and four small enclaves in the West Bank, saying the process would likely take 12 weeks.

Load-Date: September 23, 2004

End of Document

Israel Seals West Bank and Gaza to Suppress Violence

The New York Times

July 14, 2005 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 3

Length: 1058 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE and STEVEN ERLANGER; Greg Myre reported from Tulkarm for this article, and Steven Erlanger from Jerusalem.

Dateline: TULKARM, West Bank, July 13

Body

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza on Wednesday, reoccupied Tulkarm and declared the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip a closed military zone in an energetic response to a Palestinian suicide bombing a day earlier.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon plans to start withdrawing settlers from Gaza in a month, and the two potential threats to his plan are a surge in Palestinian attacks and huge protests by settlers and their supporters. As the death toll in Tuesday's bombing rose to four, Mr. Sharon moved to head off both possibilities.

Before dawn, Israeli troops entered Tulkarm and Atil, a nearby village where the suicide bomber, Ahmed Abu Khalil, 18, had lived. The troops arrested several Palestinians, including the bomber's father. In shooting exchanges with the Israelis, one Palestinian policeman was killed and one was seriously wounded.

Tulkarm is one of the West Bank towns handed over to Palestinian security control after Mr. Sharon and the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, declared a truce at their first summit meeting on Feb. 8.

Israeli officials have complained bitterly that Mr. Abbas and his police have not cracked down on the armed groups plotting against Israeli targets. Tuesday's bombing "was a last straw," said one senior official of Israeli military intelligence, who would only speak anonymously.

Mr. Sharon, speaking Wednesday morning to new immigrants from North America, said Israel would act forcefully against Islamic Jihad, the group that took responsibility for Tuesday's bombing. "Yesterday I ordered the security forces to intensify our operations and to strike as much as possible at the leadership of the terrorist organization, Islamic Jihad," Mr. Sharon said.

At a cemetery outside Tel Aviv, Rachel Ben Abu and Nofar Horowitz, two 16-year-old Israeli girls who were best friends and who were killed in Tuesday's bombing, were buried in a joint funeral. Two other women were declared dead on Tuesday. Mark Regev, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said the bombing had caused difficulties for Israel. After the truce, he said, Israel "ceased pro-active counterterrorist activities" in Gaza and the West Bank, he said. "The fear is that groups like Islamic Jihad and Hamas are using this period of quiet now to regroup and rearm," he said.

Israel Seals West Bank and Gaza to Suppress Violence

Mr. Abbas called the bombing "idiotic" and condemned it as counter to Palestinian interests. But he did not blame Islamic Jihad by name and there was no indication on Wednesday whether the Palestinian Authority was acting against the group.

Israeli officials say Islamic Jihad has killed 10 Israelis and initiated 6 actual or thwarted attacks since the truce was announced five months ago. Islamic Jihad also took responsibility for the one other suicide bombing since the truce, at the Stage nightclub in Tel Aviv on Feb. 25, which killed five Israelis. That bomber came from a village next to Atil, the home of Mr. Khalil.

At the family's small stucco home, Mr. Khalil's mother, Lutfiah Abu Khalil, praised her son as a "hero," and said she hoped her second oldest son, Mahmoud, 14, would also become a "martyr."

On Tuesday morning, Palestinian youths who had just finished high school set out early to receive the results on their final exams. Mr. Khalil shaved off his wispy beard and mustache, hugged his mother, asked her forgiveness and told her he was going to check out his scores when he left at 7 a.m., his mother said. Twelve hours later, he detonated his bomb belt in front of a shopping mall in Netanya, a town 10 miles to the west.

Israeli soldiers had occupied several Palestinian homes in Atil for the past month as they searched for wanted men, said the mayor, Abdullah Quraini. Ten days ago, soldiers entered the Khalil family home during the night, searching the premises and removing the hard drive from the family computer, but made no arrests, the family said. Ms. Khalil said, "For the past several years, he talked all the time about becoming a martyr," but she denied knowing her son's intentions beforehand.

On Wednesday, Mr. Sharon and the army also used the dramatic events to move on another front -- halting travel by nonresidents to the Gaza settlements that Israel intends to evacuate, beginning in mid-August.

The government and the army wanted to head off a planned march of settlers and others opposed to the pullout that had been planned for Monday. The march could have brought thousands of protesters, some of whom were expected to remain in the settlements, swelling the population, which is about 9,000 Israelis in some 1,600 families. After mid-August, it will be illegal for any Israeli citizen to remain in the settlements. The settlers were angered by Israel's action. Eran Sternberg, a spokesman for the Gaza settlers, accused Mr. Sharon of hitting "rock bottom from a moral standpoint."

[Hundreds of settlers and supporters blocked the main road overnight leading into the Gaza settlements, but in scuffles before dawn on Thursday the Israeli police removed parked cars and cleared the road. Army radio reported the police arrested several protesters.]

Essential services will continue to be provided to the areas cut off, and there is a provision for relatives and guests of the settlers, and journalists, to travel to see the settlers.

Israeli officials hammered hard on Wednesday at several themes: the need, as they put it, for Mr. Abbas to get serious about Islamic Jihad and another militant group, Hamas; the need to intensify active counterterrorism activities by the Israeli Army in the absence of action by the Palestinian Authority; and the pressures such attacks generate in Israel for an even tougher stance. Israeli military and political officials also emphasized that Mr. Abbas had met last week with leaders of Islamic Jihad and Hamas in Damascus, Syria. They rebuffed Mr. Abbas's offer to join his government, but reaffirmed a pledge to maintain the calm.

In another development, two Western aid workers, a Briton and an Austrian, were released Wednesday evening after being kidnapped earlier in the day in central Gaza, Palestinian security officials said. The kidnappings were apparently carried out by a Palestinian family who hoped to use the workers as bargaining chips to gain the release of relatives who are in Palestinian jails, according to the security officials.

Graphic

Photos: Israelis returned yesterday in armored vehicles to occupy Tulkarm, in the West Bank, after a suicide bombing in Netanya, 10 miles to the west.

Lutfiah Abu Khalil, mother of the suicide bomber, called him a hero and said she hoped her 14-year-old son would also become a "martyr." (Photographs by Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: July 14, 2005

End of Document

Israel shuts Palestinian territories after attack

The International Herald Tribune

July 14, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 1039 words

Byline: Greg Myre And Steven Erlanger

Dateline: TULKARM, West Bank:

Body

Israel on Wednesday sealed off the Palestinian territories, reoccupied the West Bank town of Tulkarm and declared the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip a closed military zone in an energetic response to a Palestinian suicide bombing a day earlier that killed four Israeli women.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is to start withdrawing the Gaza settlers in just over a month, and the two potential threats to his plan are a surge in Palestinian attacks and massive protests by the Jewish settlers and their supporters. Sharon moved Wednesday to head off both possibilities.

Before dawn, Israeli troops entered Tulkarm and the nearby village of Atil, where the suicide bomber, Ahmed Abu Khalil, 18, had lived. The troops arrested several Palestinians, including the bomber's father. In shooting exchanges, one Palestinian policeman was killed, and one was seriously wounded.

The New York Times

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Israeli officials have complained bitterly that Abbas and his police have not cracked down on the armed groups plotting against Israeli targets.

The bombing Tuesday "was a last straw," a senior Israeli military official said.

Sharon, speaking Wednesday to a group of new immigrants from North America, said Israel would act forcefully against Islamic Jihad, the group responsible for the bombing.

"Yesterday I ordered the security forces to intensify our operations and to strike as much as possible at the leadership of the terrorist organization, Islamic Jihad," Sharon said. "We will not stop until they stop the terrorist murders."

At a cemetery outside Tel Aviv, Rachel Ben Abu and Nofar Horvitz, two 16-year-old Israeli girls and best friends who were killed in the bombing, were buried side-by-side in a joint funeral.

According to Israeli officials, Islamic Jihad has killed 10 Israelis and launched six actual or thwarted attacks since the truce was announced five months ago.

Israel shuts Palestinian territories after attack

Islamic Jihad took responsibility for the one other suicide bombing since the truce, at the Stage nightclub in Tel Aviv on Feb. 25, which killed five Israelis. In that attack, the bomber came from a village adjacent to Atil, home of Khalil.

At the family's small stucco home, Khalil's mother, Lutfiah Abu Khalil, praised her son as a "hero," and said she hoped her second oldest son, Mahmoud, 14, would also become a "martyr."

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Twelve hours later, the son detonated his bomb belt in a crosswalk in front of a shopping mall in the seaside town of Netanya, about 16 kilometers, or 10 miles, to the west.

Israeli soldiers had occupied several Palestinian homes in Atil for the past month as they searched for wanted men, said the mayor of the village, Abdullah Quraini. And 10 days ago, soldiers entered the Khalil family home during the night, searching the premises and removing the hard drive from the family computer, but made no arrests, the family said. The troops left the village several days ago.

Lutfiah Khalil said she had no knowledge of her son's plans, but added, "For the past several years, he talked all the time about becoming a martyr."

Meanwhile, Sharon and the army also used the dramatic events to move on another front shutting down any travel by nonresidents to the Gaza settlements that Israel intends to evacuate beginning in mid-August.

The government and army wanted to head off a march of settlers and others opposed to the pullout planned for Monday. The march could have brought an influx of thousands of protesters, some of whom would have remained in the Gaza settlements, swelling the population currently about 9,000 Israelis in 1,600 families.

The settlers were angry, with a spokesman for the Gaza settlers, Eran Sternberg, accusing Sharon of hitting "rock bottom from a moral standpoint."

The closure also applies to four small settlements in the northern West Bank that are also to be evacuated, but the army said it had no means now to enforce the ban. Essential services will continue to be provided, and there is a provision for relatives and guests of the settlers, as well as journalists.

After mid-August, it will be illegal for any Israeli citizen to remain in the Gaza settlements.

Israeli officials hammered hard on Wednesday at several themes: the need, as they put it, for Abbas to get serious about Islamic Jihad and **Hamas**; the need to ramp up active counterterrorism activities by the Israeli Army in the absence of action by the Palestinian Authority; and the pressures such attacks create in Israel for an even tougher stance against the Palestinians.

Israeli military and political officials also emphasized that Abbas met with leaders of Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** in Damascus last week. They rebuffed the offer by Abbas to join his government, but reaffirmed a pledge to maintain the calm.

Mark Regev, a spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said the bombing had created difficulties for Israel. After the truce, he said, Israel "ceased proactive counterterrorist activities" in Gaza and the West Bank, he said. "The fear is that groups like Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** are using this period of quiet now to regroup and rearm," he added.

Abbas called the bombing "idiotic" and condemned it as counter to Palestinian interests. But he did not blame Islamic Jihad by name and there was no indication that the Palestinian Authority was acting against the group.

Also Wednesday, two Western aid workers, a Briton and an Austrian, were released after being kidnapped earlier in the day in central Gaza, Palestinian security officials said. The kidnappings were apparently carried out by a

Israel shuts Palestinian territories after attack

Palestinian family who hoped to use the aid workers as bargaining chips to gain the release of relatives who are in Palestinian jails, according to the security officials.

*

Greg Myre reported from Tulkarm and Steven Erlanger from Jerusalem.

Load-Date: July 14, 2005

End of Document

PEOPLE/ NEWS/GOSSIP/SCOOPS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; People Column; Pg. A2

Length: 570 words

Byline: From News Services

Body

MATERIAL GIRL MAKES A DETOUR: Madonna says she has canceled three Israeli stops on her "Re-Invention" tour because of violence in the region, including the killing of the leader of the militant group Hamas. Madonna, who kicked off her worldwide tour in Los Angeles on Monday, told "Access Hollywood" that her manager wouldn't let her travel to Israel because of the "attack on the leader of Hamas."

London tabloids had reported that the singer backed out of the Israeli stops, scheduled for September, after an unidentified Palestinian terrorist group threatened her and her children, Lourdes, 7, and Rocco, 3. Asked by "Access Hollywood" if she had been threatened, she replied: "No, if I had my way, I'd go. My manager wouldn't let me."

Madonna, who practices Jewish mysticism known as cabala, included provocative images in the tour, such as video footage of a Palestinian boy and an Israeli boy walking arm-in-arm, and simulated sex during a tango with a female dancer.

AND MISSY WON'T GO, EITHER: Hip-hop star Missy Elliott canceled a planned concert in Jakarta after the U.S. Embassy warned Americans about potential terrorist attacks in Indonesia. Elliott had been scheduled to perform today as part of an international tour.

SINGING COP IS GOING PRO: Officer Daniel Rodriguez, the "singing cop" who gained prominence when he performed at the Yankee Stadium memorial service shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, turned in his retirement papers Tuesday and will devote himself to music.

"I'd like to dedicate myself to learning how much I can actually accomplish as a singer," said Rodriguez, 40. "I'm sad to leave because I really love the job, but I'm also happy to be moving forward."

KEEPING IT FRIENDLY: Former Miss Universe Dayanara Torres says that she and singer Marc Anthony plan to remain amicable during their divorce and custody negotiations. "Sometimes it's out of your control," she said in an interview on "Access Hollywood." "But, we are both very responsible, that's all we want for our kids, and there's no need to do it any other way."

"We're friends," she said. "He's a great father and that's the way it should be."

The couple were married in May 2000 in Las Vegas. They briefly separated, then renewed their vows in Puerto Rico in December 2002. They have two young children, Cristian and Ryan. Some press accounts have speculated that Jennifer Lopez is Anthony's new love interest.

PEOPLE/ NEWS/GOSSIP/SCOOPS

"WEST WING" STAR FINDS LOVE OUT WEST: Allison Janney of "The West Wing" found her heart in San Francisco, where she and actor Richard Jenik became engaged to marry. The couple, who live in Los Angeles and have dated for two years, were vacationing in the city May 17 when he popped the question. Janney is a three-time Emmy winner for her role as communications director C.J. Cregg on the NBC White House drama. Her workaholic character finds little time for love. A wedding date was not announced. Jenik has appeared in TV series including "Home Improvement" and "The District" and in the 2002 film "Hidden Agenda."

NEW TWIST IN MINNELLI SAGA: Famed celebrity lawyer Raoul Felder has resigned as attorney for music producer David Gest in his bitter divorce battle with Liza Minnelli, saying he often had trouble getting his client on the telephone. "There was no bad feelings. He wants to go in a different direction," Felder told Reuters. He said he withdrew from the case two weeks ago in a letter he sent Gest in Hawaii.

Notes

PAGE 2

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Daniel Rodriguez, New York's "singing cop," kicked off an ad campaign for Hilton hotels Tuesday in Times Square with renditions of the national anthem and "God Bless America."

Load-Date: May 27, 2004

End of Document

Two takes on terror: Imagine if it had been Israeli police who'd shot an innocent foreigner on a train

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

July 26, 2005 Tuesday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A14

Length: 1076 words

Byline: Tom Gross, Jerusalem Post

Body

Last Friday, as British police frantically searched for four presumed suicide bombers on the run, the people of London had a glimpse of what the people of Israel live with daily. The explosive devices of all four men had failed to go off properly on London's transport system the day before and the men had subsequently escaped.

During the course of Friday, there were roadblocks and house searches throughout London. Closed-circuit TV footage of the four was released to the public in the afternoon, and by evening two suspects had been taken into custody. The people of London expressed the fear of "living with terror 24/7," the world expressed their sympathy and there was much supportive and understanding coverage of Britain's plight by international media and politicians.

Palestinian terrorists have carried out over 25,000 attacks on Israelis since September, 2000, resulting in thousands of deaths and injuries. Israeli security forces have thwarted thousands of attacks, and Israelis have grown used to living with manhunts of the kind seen in London on Friday, yet they are barely reported on abroad.

The head of Israel's Shin Bet intelligence service confirmed last week that Israel presently receives some 60 intelligence warnings of potential Palestinian terror attacks every day. This month alone, several Israeli women and teenage girls have been killed in various attacks.

Such was the nervousness in London on Friday that at 10 in the morning a dark-complexioned man was shot dead on a train. Witnesses immediately said that it was clear the man had been unarmed, and in the words of one, was "literally executed." He was already lying on the ground motionless, having tripped, when British police pumped five bullets into his head at close range. On Saturday evening, the police confirmed that they had mistakenly targeted an innocent man. (It turned out he was a Brazilian electrician.)

Israel has taken enormous care in its "targeted killings" of "ticking bombs," almost never killing anyone in a case of mistaken identity.

Contrary to the lies told in the British media in recent days, the Israel Defense Forces have not instituted a shoot-to-kill policy, nor trained the British to carry out one. For example, on Friday, at the very time British police were shooting the man in the Tube, the IDF caught and disarmed a terrorist from Fatah, already inside Israel, en route to

Two takes on terror: Imagine if it had been Israeli police who'd shot an innocent foreigner on a train

carrying out a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. Israeli forces didn't injure the terrorist at all in apprehending him and disarming him of the five-kilogram explosives belt, packed with nails and metal shards, that he was wearing.

And yet, for taking the bare minimum steps necessary to save the lives of its citizens in recent years, Israel has been mercilessly berated by virtually the entire world.

Had Israeli police shot dead an innocent foreigner on one of its buses or trains, confirming the kill with a barrage of bullets at close range, in a mistaken effort to thwart a bombing, the UN would probably have been sitting in emergency session by late afternoon to unanimously denounce the Jewish state.

By evening, 12 hours had passed since the shooting, but the BBC still hadn't interviewed a grieving family, no one had called for British universities be boycotted, Chelsea and Arsenal soccer clubs hadn't been ordered to play their matches in Cyprus, and The Guardian hadn't yet called British policy against its Pakistani population "genocide."

As for London Mayor Ken Livingstone, who is in overall control of transport in the city, including the train where the man was shot, and who strongly defended the shoot-to-kill policy as a legitimate way to prevent suicide bombings, he was not yet facing war crimes charges -- as Livingstone himself has demanded Israeli political leaders should be.

Instead, on Friday, Polly Toynbee, the leading commentator for The Guardian, wrote that the terrorists were "deranged," "savage" and "demented" "killers" who "murder in the name of God." This is a far cry from the habitual manner in which The Guardian and others describe the suicide killers of Israelis "fighters" and "activists."

One of the London terrorists responsible for the bombings on July 7, Mohammed Sidique Khan, traveled to Israel in February 2003. He stayed in Israel for just one day, and we can surmise that he wasn't there to volunteer on a kibbutz. Two months later, on Apr. 30, 2003, two other Britons of Pakistani origin were involved in the suicide attack on Mike's Place, a popular bar in Tel Aviv, killing or injuring 58 people. Hamas later released a video of the two British citizens explaining their motivation for the attack, which included calling on God to punish Tony Blair and George W. Bush. It has now been revealed that, back in England, Mohammed Sidique Khan had been friends with one of the Mike's Place bombers.

Khan's visit to Israel was the main international headline in the Washington Post last Tuesday. Yet, most British papers have completely ignored it. The Independent and The Daily Telegraph didn't mention it at all; the Scotsman, the Times and the Sun newspapers only very briefly.

There seems to be little interest in Britain in the murder of Israelis by British citizens. Many British journalists evidently have difficulty in admitting that people murdered on buses in Israel are as much victims as those on London buses.

Another British citizen, Richard Reid, who became known as the "shoe-bomber," also visited Israel and the Gaza strip for 10 days in July 2001. Reid was arrested in December 2001 after he tried to light a fuse extending from his shoe on a flight from Paris to Miami.

If people in Britain and the U.S. want to stop terrorists, they need to recognize the inspiration and quite possibly the training that Hamas, the masters of the suicide attack, have given to would-be British and other terrorists, such as Reid. Instead, British officials continue to embrace Hamas, and hold talks with them.

Another of the problems Britons will have to overcome if they want to successfully deal with suicide bombers is to stop listening to the lies propagated by large sections of their media. For example, the cover story of this week's New Statesman, the favoured publication of many in Britain's ruling Labour party, says "there were no suicide bombers in Palestine until Ariel Sharon, an accredited war criminal, sponsored by Bush and Blair, came to power." You begin to wonder whose side some of Britain's elite are on.

Graphic

Two takes on terror: Imagine if it had been Israeli police who'd shot an innocent foreigner on a train

Black & White

Photo: Uriel Sinai, Getty Images; A fifteen-year-old Palestinian is arrested by Israeli soldiers in February, after an explosive belt was discovered in his bag.

Load-Date: July 26, 2005

End of Document

Arabs vow revenge after raids on Gaza

The Times (London)

March 8, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 11

Length: 653 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Jerusalem

Body

Thousands of Palestinians vowed revenge yesterday for the deaths of 14 people, including three boys, after an Israeli attack on two refugee camps in Gaza.

A crowd of more than 10,000 gathered for the funerals of 13 of the victims killed in early morning raids at the Bureij and Nusseirat camps.

The bloodiest day of fighting in Gaza for 17 months began with Israeli snipers and attack helicopters, hovering above narrow alleyways, engaged in fighting with Palestinian militants unleashing rocket-propelled grenades and anti-tank missiles.

After the incursion, tens of thousands joined the funeral march through the streets. Women threw sweets on to the crowd as gunmen fired in the air and shouted for revenge "until we uproot the last Zionist invaders from our sacred soil".

The latest in a series of Israeli raids into Gaza in recent months came against the backdrop of proposals by Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, to withdraw settlers, and maybe even all troops, from the Gaza Strip. The plan has provoked anger among Mr Sharon's right-wing coalition partners and suspicion among Palestinians, who have long seen the Israeli former general as a champion of the 7,000 Jewish settlers living among 1.2 million Palestinians in Gaza and 240,000 in the West Bank.

The prospect of a withdrawal appears, if anything, to have hardened the resolve of both sides, with some Palestinian groups declaring it a victory and Mr Sharon apparently determined to dispel any notion that he is acting out of weakness.

The Israeli Right holds it as an article of faith that the country's overnight departure from Lebanon under Ehud Barak, Mr Sharon's predecessor as Prime Minister, in 2000 sent out the wrong signals to its Arab neighbours.

Of the casualties yesterday, hospital officials said that the dead included ten gunmen and three boys under 15. More than 80 people were wounded.

Palestinian children were seen running after Israeli vehicles, hurling stones as armed militants fired at the troops, which departed at around 10am.

Arabs vow revenge after raids on Gaza

Israel said that the raid -which officials described as a "pinpoint operation" - had come after militants had attacked Israeli convoys and fired rockets into Jewish settlements near by. It had been intended to seize weapons, although none were recovered.

The Palestinian death toll was the highest in Gaza since October 2002, when 19 were killed in fighting in the Khan Younis refugee camp.

Officials argued that the Israeli military had to act because the Palestinian Authority had failed to curb violent groups such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad.

"Terrorism is pouring out of this refugee camp, and we have to stop it," Avi Pazner, an Israeli government spokesman, said. "We believe that by doing so we have prevented acts of terror in Israel and saved many human lives."

He denied any link with the proposed withdrawal. "We are now fighting terrorism.

This has nothing to do with any future plan about Gaza," he said.

Palestinians have accused Mr Sharon of undermining any chance of peace. "At a time when they're speaking about withdrawing from Gaza, they're destroying Gaza," Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian Cabinet minister, said.

The Israeli raids came after a carefully planned weekend suicide bomb attack by Palestinian factions on the main Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel, in which militants in vehicles disguised as Israeli army Jeeps tried to penetrate the heavily guarded junction.

The attack was thwarted. Four Palestinian attackers and two Palestinian policemen were killed. **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed joint responsibility.

The mooted Gaza withdrawal is part of Mr Sharon's proposal for a "unilateral disengagement". Coupled with the erection of the 450-mile separation barrier sealing off the West Bank, this would see Israel dismantling some isolated settlements there, while seeking to annex the larger, more easily defended settlement blocs.

Load-Date: March 8, 2004

Bad girls, PETA and rover troubles

University Wire

January 21, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The Crimson White via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 558 words

Byline: By Marlin Caddell, The Crimson White

Dateline: Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Body

As the designated Watchman, I feel it is only proper to spend this space categorizing blatant stupidities of the United States and the world.

Facetiousness exists rampantly throughout this column, and it is the responsibility of the reader to separate humor from seriousness.

Hamas only wants 'bad girls' to be homicide bombers

Well, here goes the only freedom Muslim women have in the Palestinian settlements. **Hamas**, a terrorist organization that only recently "allowed" Muslim women to blow themselves to smithereens, has apparently reneged this precious privilege. Blowing yourself up is men's work, so only really bad girls should be made to kill themselves.

U. Alabama

By blowing themselves up, these bad girls can make up for what they did wrong. However, exceptions can be made for good little girls if women happen to be near a school bus, elementary school or other places where "legitimate" military targets of women and children exist.

I suppose female homicide bombers also present a problem theologically to Muslims. Gosh, if women are going to go to the effort of blowing themselves up, they are not going to be satisfied with the whole 72-virgins thing.

PETA to give fliers telling children their mommies are murderers

Beware fur-wearers. PETA has launched a 20-city flier campaign at local Nutcracker ballets to tell children their mommies are murderers for wearing furs. Pictures portraying a rabbit being stabbed in the stomach are followed by warnings about how the children should keep house pets away from Mom. "The sooner she stops wearing fur, the sooner the animals will be safe," the flier says. "Until then, keep your doggie or kitty friends away from mommy -- she's an animal killer."

This may just be me, but I have never seen a woman wearing a dog fur in my whole life, and I am fairly sure I will not see any mothers in the future hacking up old Fido to keep warm. Also, the entire PETA philosophy is idiotic, because the first time these people ever actually went hungry, they would be the first ones with a knife to hack some animal to eat. In response, I think I'll go eat some KFC.

Bad girls, PETA and rover troubles

Rover lands on Mars, world yawns

It's tough luck for those hoping for water on Mars. The rover, Spirit, which recently landed on the red planet, has yet to find water in the area where scientists believed water to be. The rover will attempt to travel to another area to continue the search, but scientists are unsure if the machine can make it through the rough terrain.

I continue to be entirely disgusted with this insanely idiotic idea that water plus time equals life. Though NASA scientists drool at the concept of finding water, when they actually find some of the liquid gold after spending billions of our dollars that could have been used to save human life, it will be a sad day for the destitute of this planet to know all their money was flushed down the toilet.

NASA is the gasping, dying entity of the evolutionist movement, whose only purpose is to gather one shred of evidence to prove its faulty theory that human beings are not special in the universe and that life can spontaneously generate from lifeless rock.

Give me a break, and please, spend my tax dollars on something a little more profitable, like feeding people so they will not die from starvation.

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Load-Date: January 21, 2004

End of Document

Israel has tough decision: PM: Peace with Syria means no more Golan Heights

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 605 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told legislators Monday that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and he ordered a review of the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments on the Golan, made to parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, were an unprecedented admission by the career hardliner. In the past, right-wing Israeli governments insisted a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast War.

The prime minister did not tell the closed-door meeting whether he was willing to pay what he defined as the price for peace. However, one committee member said it was clear from the context that Sharon is not ready to return the Golan in exchange for a peace deal.

Also Monday, the founder of **Hamas** announced a change in strategy, saying the Islamic militant group would increasingly recruit **female** suicide bombers. Last week, **Hamas** sent its first **female** assailant, a 22-year-old woman who blew herself up at the Gaza-Israel crossing and killed four Israeli border guards.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin told reporters in Gaza there had not been a need in the past for **women** to carry out bombings. Now, he said, **women** must step up and fulfil their "obligations." He suggested male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

Sharon's meeting with the parliamentary committee came at a sensitive time.

Israel is preparing to defend the security barrier next month before the world court in The Hague. The government also is considering how to react to offers by Syrian President Bashar Assad to restart peace talks, which broke down in 2000.

In an interview published Monday in the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat, Assad appeared pessimistic about the chances of talks with Sharon.

Israel has tough decision: PM: Peace with Syria means no more Golan Heights

"From the beginning and until this moment, the U.S. administration did not wish to throw itself into the peace process," Assad said. "As for Sharon ... it is hard for him to succeed on a peace platform."

The Syrian president has said talks must resume at the point at which they broke off under Sharon's predecessor, Ehud Barak. But Sharon wants to start from scratch and also has demanded that Syria crack down on militant groups.

Israeli officials believe Assad is trying to deflect U.S. pressure, especially in light of the American presence in neighbouring Iraq. Syria is on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, and Washington has threatened to impose sanctions for harbouring anti-Israel militants. But some cabinet ministers say Israel should take Syria up on its offer.

Sharon was asked by a legislator at Monday's committee meeting if now is a good time to renew talks with Syria, said Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin.

"No one should have any illusions: the price of peace with Syria is leaving the Golan Heights," Gissin quoted the prime minister as saying.

Ran Cohen, a committee member from the left-wing Meretz party, said Sharon suggested that such a pullback would be too much for Israel to bear.

"His main declaration was that he is not ready to withdraw from the Golan, even for peace with Syria," Cohen said. "He didn't agree to pay the price that President Assad asks to complete a peace treaty with Syria."

At Monday's meeting, Sharon also said he has asked governmental committees to review the separation barrier, a senior official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government has asked committees to study possible changes in the route, as well as technical means of easing movement for Palestinians.

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

ABBAS DECLARES VICTORY IN VOTE BY PALESTINIANS

The New York Times

January 10, 2005 Monday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 6; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1; THE PALESTINIAN ELECTION: THE VOTE

Length: 1319 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank, Jan. 9

Body

Mahmoud Abbas, who opposes continuing violence against Israel, declared victory Sunday night in the election for president of the Palestinian Authority after two surveys of voters leaving the polls showed him winning by a large margin.

"We offer this victory to the soul of the brother martyr Yasir Arafat and to our people, to our martyrs and to 11,000 prisoners" in Israeli jails, Mr. Abbas, 69, told his supporters here.

Honking horns, waving flags and firing gunshots into the air, supporters celebrated an expected victory. The strong margin, if it is borne out in final results, should help give the quiet, cerebral Mr. Abbas the ability to remake and reinvigorate the Palestinian Authority and to try to put an end to violence.

Based on the voter surveys, released moments after the polls closed at 9 p.m., Mr. Abbas is expected to win election to a five-year term with about 65 percent of the vote, more than 40 percentage points ahead of his nearest challenger in a field of seven. Official results are not expected until Monday.

In Washington, President Bush welcomed the victory of Mr. Abbas, calling it "a historic day for the Palestinian people and the people of the Middle East," as administration officials prepared to increase the tempo of their involvement in the region while cautioning that Israel and the Palestinians must both take concrete steps to capitalize on the election of the new president. [Page A7.]

It was the first presidential election in nine years, made necessary after the death of Mr. Arafat on Nov. 11. The voting was judged by international observers to be generally free and fair, with little interference from Israel, which eased travel curbs on Palestinians and largely halted military activity in the territories.

But there was concern about a turnout that was lower than expected on a chilly but sunny winter's day, and Palestinian election officials decided to keep the polls open two hours longer than originally planned. The election officials first said that Israeli restrictions at checkpoints and confusion at Jerusalem polling stations were the reasons for the extension. But the announcement came after reports of low turnout in some cities, including Ramallah, where election workers at one polling place, Al Qarami School, said that only 30 percent of those registered had voted by 4:30 p.m. The officials then acknowledged that they wanted more people to vote, because only 30 percent of the 1.8 million or so eligible voters had cast their ballots by noon.

ABBAS DECLARES VICTORY IN VOTE BY PALESTINIANS

The officials also declared during the late afternoon that voters who faced travel difficulties because of security restrictions, and so could not make it to their home polling places to cast their ballots, as was originally required, would be able to vote at any polling place by showing an identity card.

The voting was extended last month for municipal elections and in 1996, too, when the last presidential vote was held. Then, as now, the radical Islamic groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad called on their followers to boycott the vote.

One of the voter surveys estimated turnout at about 65 percent, but actual figures will not be available until Monday. In partial municipal elections last month in 26 towns and villages, turnout was 81 percent.

Mr. Abbas, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the candidate of the main Palestinian faction, Fatah, faced little real competition. His main challenger was an independent, Mustafa Barghouti, 50, a medical doctor and a human-rights campaigner.

Mr. Abbas was looking for a sizable popular mandate to provide him the legitimacy and authority to make difficult internal reforms, to reorganize Palestinian security services and to negotiate with Israel.

Despite their boycott call, Hamas spokesmen made it clear on Sunday that they would work with an elected president. Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader in Gaza, told reporters that Hamas could have run its own candidate if it had really wanted to undermine Mr. Abbas. "Our view is not to undermine," he said, but he insisted that armed resistance to Israel would continue, despite Mr. Abbas's call for a cease-fire.

Mr. Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, called the election a source of pride for Palestinians as he voted in Ramallah. "This process is taking place in a marvelous fashion and is an illustration of how the Palestinian people aspire to democracy," he said. He urged women in particular to exercise their right to vote.

Dr. Barghouti, while noting some voting irregularities, including complaints that the ink put on voters' thumbs to prevent fraud could be washed off, also praised the election. "I felt my dream is coming true," he said. "This is a great step for the Palestinian people, a good test of our institutions and proof to the world that we can establish an independent state." He called the election "free, and I hope fair."

Ekram Quraan, a graphics designer monitoring the vote at a school, called the day historic. "For us, it happens once in a lifetime" she said.

Waleed Obeidallah, a Palestinian-American, said: "This is milestone in our lives, and hopefully the peace process will be reignited. Israelis always say that they have no partner for peace, and now we are electing a president, and there are no excuses anymore."

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian legislature, spoke of a new process of democracy to hold leaders accountable. But she was most struck by the context. "This is a unique case of a people under occupation being asked to hold free and fair elections when they themselves are not free," she said. "I think it's unique in history. But this is a nation adamant to vote. It's an important internal test, and I think it's a turning point."

Michel Rocard, leader of the largest group of international observers, from the European Union, said there were few problems with the election despite Dr. Barghouti's complaints. There were some difficulties for voters in East Jerusalem, where Israel required Palestinians to vote in post offices, as if they were casting absentee ballots, given Israel's claim to sovereignty over East Jerusalem. Senators Joseph R. Biden Jr., Democrat of Delaware, and John E. Sununu, Republican of New Hampshire, led a delegation from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Biden said the election was "an important statement for the Palestinians and their pride and maturity, and it can change the world's attitudes toward the Palestinians after the death of Arafat."

Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, said: "It has been a very good day. The moment is historic." He promised further European aid.

ABBAS DECLARES VICTORY IN VOTE BY PALESTINIANS

Israeli officials have made it clear in recent days that they support Mr. Abbas and that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his top ministers would like to meet with him as soon as possible. Israeli officials say they are willing to release more Palestinian prisoners and talk to Mr. Abbas about a more permanent easing of security measures.

The Israeli defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, said last week that he was willing to give a newly elected Palestinian leadership responsibility for security in Gaza and the major cities of the West Bank.

But Israel also wants Mr. Abbas to move quickly to reorganize his security services and to crack down in a serious and committed way on Palestinian militants attacking Israel and its civilians, as the Palestinians have promised to do in the first stage of the plan known as the road map for peace. The Israelis have promised to stop new settlement activity.

In a possible sign of solidarity with Palestinians opposed to the vote, the Lebanese group Hezbollah detonated a bomb under an Israeli jeep on Sunday along Israel's northern border, killing an Israeli officer. Israel responded with artillery fire and an airstrike and was investigating reports that an officer with the United Nations monitoring force was killed.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Mahmoud Abbas, above, appeared to be the winner in yesterday's election for president of the Palestinian Authority. In Gaza, below, election workers tallied votes at a polling place. Final results are expected today. (Photos by Top, Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

above, Yuri Cortez/Agence France-Presse--Getty Images)(pg. A1)

Election workers in Ramallah kept warm with a heater yesterday at a polling place where turnout was light.

A carload of Palestinians in Ramallah celebrated the likely victory of Mahmoud Abbas last night. (Photographs by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)(pg. A7)

Load-Date: January 10, 2005

**Sharon: Golan exit is key to any Syria deal;
A lawmaker said the Israeli leader was not ready to
do that. Also, a security-barrier study was ordered.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 20, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A08

Length: 519 words

Byline: Josef Federman ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told lawmakers yesterday that peace with Syria would require a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and he also ordered that governmental committees review the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's Golan comments, made to parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, were an unprecedented admission for him. Right-wing Israeli governments have long insisted a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast War.

The prime minister did not tell the closed-door meeting whether he was willing to pay what he defined as the price for peace. However, one committee member said it was clear from the context that Sharon was not ready to return the Golan.

Also yesterday, the founder of **Hamas** said the Islamic group would increasingly recruit **female** suicide bombers. Last week, **Hamas** sent its first **female** assailant, a 22-year-old woman who blew herself up at the Gaza-Israel crossing and killed four Israeli border guards.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin said in Gaza that there had not before been a need for **women** to carry out bombings. Now, he said, **women** must step up to fulfill their obligations. He suggested that male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

Sharon's meeting with the parliamentary committee came at a sensitive time.

Israel is preparing to defend the security barrier before the world court in the Hague, Netherlands, next month. The government also is considering how to react to offers by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to restart peace talks, which broke down in 2000.

Sharon: Golan exit is key to any Syria deal; A lawmaker said the Israeli leader was not ready to do that. Also, a security-barrier study was ordered.

In an interview published yesterday in the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat, Assad appeared pessimistic about talks with Sharon.

"From the beginning and until this moment," Assad said, "the U.S. administration did not wish to throw itself into the peace process. As for Sharon . . . it is hard for him to succeed on a peace platform."

Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin, said a lawmaker at yesterday's committee meeting had asked the prime minister whether now was a good time to renew talks with Syria.

"No one should have any illusions," Gissin quoted Sharon. "The price of peace with Syria is leaving the Golan Heights."

Ran Cohen, a committee member from the left-wing Meretz Party, said Sharon had suggested such a pullback would be too much for Israel to bear. "His main declaration was that he is not ready to withdraw from the Golan, even for peace with Syria," Cohen said.

At yesterday's meeting, Sharon also said he had asked governmental committees to review the separation barrier, a senior official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government had asked committees to study possible route changes and technical means of easing movement for Palestinians.

Israel says the 440-mile barrier, which is one-quarter built, protects against suicide bombers and other attackers. It has severely disrupted the lives of tens of thousands of Palestinians, separating them from their farmland, jobs, hospitals and schools.

Graphic

PHOTO;

ODED BALILTY, Associated Press

A Palestinian boy walks near the separation barrier Israel is building between Jerusalem and the West Bank in the village of Abu Dis. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has ordered a review of the barrier, seeking ways to ease movement for Palestinians.

BASSEM TELLAWI, Associated Press, File

Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights is key to peace with Syria, Sharon said yesterday. This photo of the Golan Heights was taken from the Syrian side. United Nations headquarters are at left.

Load-Date: August 21, 2005

**LEADER COLUMN; TIME FOR VIGILANCE BY ALL IN WAR AGAINST
TERRORISTS**

The Express
September 2, 2004

Copyright 2004 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: LEADER; Pg. 12

Length: 211 words

Body

OUR HEARTS go out to the terrified children held hostage in a Russian school and to their distraught mothers and fathers. Chillingly, we cannot pretend that this, every parent's nightmare, could not happen here.

Chechnya is far away but terrorism is spreading fast. Those who would murder the innocents could one day reach our own doorstep and schools are soft targets.

No barbed wire and guards surround them. Our children are vulnerable.

Analyse the news; see how much of the evil in the world is now perpetrated by extremists. In Iraq two French journalists are held by terrorists, who have claimed responsibility for the death of an Italian journalist, while 12 Nepalese workers have been slain by militants.

In Russia, 89 people died in suspected bombings of two airliners. A **female** suicide bomber killed 10 people and injured 51 at an underground station in central Moscow.

In Israel, 16 were killed and nearly 100 injured in a double suicide bomb attack by Palestinian group **Hamas**.

The most pressing humanitarian crisis in the world, the famine in Darfur in the Sudan, has been caused by Arab militia committing mass genocide.

All of us in Britain must now imagine that the Chechen school is in our own town and harden our resolve to defy extremism everywhere.

Load-Date: September 2, 2004

London or Tel Aviv, it's still murder

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

July 27, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: ED; Pg. 18

Length: 740 words

Byline: TED LAPKIN

Body

FROM both the tactical and technical perspectives, the attacks were functionally identical.

In London, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, religious fanatics carrying explosives on their bodies deliberately slaughtered civilians whose sole crime was taking a commuter bus to work.

And the commonalities between the suicide bombings in Britain and Israel extend to the realm of ethics as well.

There is no moral difference between bombing the No. 30 bus in London's Tavistock Square and bombing the No. 19 bus in Jerusalem's Arlozorov St.

Unless, of course, someone is willing to argue that the murder of innocent Britons is abhorrent while the murder of equally innocent Jews is fine.

Yet this is the implicit message broadcast by those British and Australian Muslim community leaders who have rushed to condemn the recent terrorist incidents in London.

The Muslim Council of Britain issued a religious edict stating that suicide bombings were "vehemently prohibited" by Islamic law.

But this denunciation rang hollow in light of the MCB's explicit support for deliberate attacks against Israeli civilians.

Throughout the long bloody years of Palestinian suicide terrorism that has killed more than 700 Israeli civilians, the Muslim Council of Britain has employed specious logic to excuse the inexcusable.

As wave after wave of Palestinian suicide bombers slaughtered Jewish women and children in the cafes and buses of Tel Aviv, the silence of Muslim leaders was deafening.

The most prolific Palestinian practitioner of terrorism is Hamas, an Islamic radical movement with more than 100 suicide bombings to its discredit.

But when the Israeli Air Force killed two war chiefs who played key roles for Hamas, the Muslim Council of Britain sprang into furious action.

It said these legitimate strikes against senior members of an armed terrorist organisation were "criminal" acts of Israeli "state terrorism".

London or Tel Aviv, it's still murder

Here at home, some Muslim leaders bridled when Prime Minister John Howard criticised the Islamic community for its failure to combat extremism within its own ranks.

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils president Ameer Ali declared: "Howard knows we have done enough. What more does he expect us to do?"

Well, how about an unequivocal rebuke of those who are deliberately killing innocent civilians, even when the victims are Israeli Jews?

Such a statement would challenge the public stand of organisations such as the Islamic Council of Victoria, the so-called "peak Victorian Muslim body".

The ICV criticised the London bombings "in the strongest possible terms". But at the height of the blood-soaked Palestinian terrorist offensive against Tel Aviv and Jerusalem three years ago, the council sounded a different tune altogether.

The May 24, 2002 edition of the ICV News urged the Palestinian Authority to prevent future suicide attacks.

BUT this same article also justified the right of the Palestinians to "retaliate" against Israeli civilians "with the only tactic they possess, suicide bombing".

This contradiction reduced the ICV's call for restraint to more fluff than substance.

Terrorism is the intentional infliction of military-calibre violence against civilians

for political gain. It should not be relevant who the perpetrators are, or who the victims might be.

And it must not matter that you find the terrorist's ideological rationale to be congenial.

One person's terrorist cannot be allowed to be another person's freedom fighter. The deliberate attacks on non-combatants must be declared an abomination, regardless of cause or creed.

But for years, too many in the Islamic community have been trying to have their cake and eat it too.

Even more moderate Muslim organisations traffic in a form of double speak that condemns or condones suicide terrorism on the basis of political convenience and affinity.

The tolerance that British and Australian Muslim leaders have demonstrated for deliberate attacks against Israeli civilians has come back to bite us all on our collective posterior.

It was a matter of time before the same murderous tactics that wrought havoc on the streets of Tel Aviv would reach Manhattan, Madrid and now London.

The jihadist suicide genie is out of the bottle.

We can't afford to allow the Islamic establishment to get away with their game of modulated morality.

TED LAPKIN is director of policy analysis at the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council

Load-Date: July 26, 2005

\$12.2M in aid 'down payment' to peace process: Canadian funds a fraction of \$50M pledged by U.S. to Palestinians

Ottawa Citizen

May 28, 2005 Saturday

EARLY Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A5

Length: 593 words

Byline: Grant Robertson, The Calgary Herald

Body

Canada pledged \$12 million in financial support to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday, but Prime Minister Paul Martin said it was merely a down payment on Canada's efforts to broker peace in the Middle East.

The aid package includes money for judicial reforms, support for upcoming Palestinian elections, housing construction and aid for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Mr. Martin said.

While the dollar figure was a fraction of the \$50 million in direct funding Mr. Abbas received a day earlier from U.S. President George W. Bush, Mr. Martin said Canada is willing to do what it can to take advantage of a new opportunity to bring stability to the region.

Mr. Abbas was visiting Ottawa for the first time since being elected in January.

Mr. Martin praised him for allowing the peace process to begin by rejecting the use of violence in the area to settle disputes.

The Palestinian Authority's opposition to **Hamas**, which Canada has listed as a terrorist organization, and its support for international calls to end violence against Israel has created an opportunity for stability, Mr. Martin said.

"These initiatives are just a down payment. Canada and the international community must clearly do much more at this crucial moment in the Middle East," he told reporters.

"I feel that there is a real window of opportunity that is being created by the transition in the Palestinian Authority as well as Israel's decision to withdraw from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, to reinvigorate the peace process."

Both the prime minister and Mr. Abbas condemned **Hamas** as "terrorists" and the Palestinian leader reiterated his stance that there is no room for the group under his rule. "There needs to be one and only one authority of Palestinian land," Mr. Abbas said. "We will not accept to have more than one military in our lands."

Mr. Abbas, who was in Ottawa for less than eight hours, thanked Canada for its generosity.

\$12.2M in aid 'down payment' to peace process: Canadian funds a fraction of \$50M pledged by U.S. to Palestinians

The money will ensure "Canada will have a special place in the region," Mr. Abbas told reporters. "We do expect that Canada will be playing a very important role."

The aid package comprises entirely new spending, the federal government said, including:

- \$5 million for judicial reform to create an independent Palestinian court system.
- \$1.2 million to oversee Palestinian Legislative Council elections. Canada will also deploy 50 observers to oversee the process.
- \$5 million for housing support in the West Bank and Gaza, which is also intended to create jobs and bolster the economy.
- \$500,000 to assist the Palestinian Authority with border management, with a focus on security and trade.
- \$500,000 towards an existing program that helps Palestinian refugee women in Lebanon pursue undergraduate university degrees.

As well, Canada is deploying another four security officers to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula region to act as observers, bringing the total number to 32.

Israel and Palestinian authorities have both committed to a Mideast peace process developed by the U.S., Russia, European Union countries and the United Nations.

The road map process, as it is known, calls for an end to violence against Israel and for Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza to be dismantled.

That process is aimed at creating a two-state region, which Canada fully supports, Mr. Martin said.

He called on Mr. Abbas to continue reform and said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon must also ensure the withdrawal from settlements.

"Both have commitments under the road map and we expect both sides to take action towards that end," Mr. Martin said.

Graphic

Photo: Jean Levac, The Ottawa Citizen; Mahmoud Abbas, left, president of the Palestinian Authority, was in Ottawa yesterday on a short visit to meet with Prime Minister Paul Martin. 'Canada will have a special place in the region,' Mr. Abbas said after thanking Canada for its \$12.2-million aid package.

Load-Date: May 28, 2005

[More Online](#)

Ottawa Citizen

October 13, 2005 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 253 words

Byline: The Ottawa Citizen

Body

Online Extras

The following stories are available exclusively online for seven-day subscribers. To read full stories, check out: www.ottawacitizen.com

North Korean Children Trained to Perform

Thousands of North Korean child performers move their arms and legs in perfect unison, leaving the impression they aren't human but smiling robots trained to dance and sing. North Koreans boast it takes only a few months to teach the 100,000 students to perform in the massive propaganda spectacle known as a "mass game."

Read the full story by Bo-mi Lim.

Female Bombmaker Is University Graduate

Hamas' first **female** bomb maker is a 22-year-old university graduate who was recruited in Gaza and sent to the West Bank to teach others to assemble explosives, Israeli security officials say.

Read the full story by Ali Darmaghmei.

Quake Could Help Search for Bin Laden

Did Osama bin Laden's secret lair crumble in the earthquake that devastated northwest Pakistan? So far, U.S. government officials and terrorism experts caution against too much speculation about whether the al-Qaeda chief may have been killed, injured or forced from hiding.

Read the full story by Katherine Shrader.

White House Hopes It Won't Lose Rove

For nearly a quarter century, Karl Rove has been President George W. Bush's political mentor. Some have called him "Bush's brain." Now, with a grand jury nipping at Mr. Rove's heels in its CIA leak investigation, the president may have to contemplate managing without his right-hand man.

[More Online](#)

Read the full story by Tom Raum.

Load-Date: October 13, 2005

End of Document

U.S. DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 11, 2005 Friday

FIVE STAR LATE LIFT EDITION

Copyright 2005 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A5

Length: 694 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

TAMPA, Fla.

Judge rejects effort to keep woman alive

A judge ruled Thursday that Florida's social services agency cannot intervene to delay the removal of the feeding tube keeping brain-damaged Terri Schiavo alive.

The Department of Children & Families had asked for a 60-day delay in the removal of the tube, now set for March 18. The agency said it wanted time to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect against the woman's husband, Michael Schiavo.

But Circuit Judge George W. Greer said those allegations and many others had been investigated in the past and found to be groundless. He said the agency was apparently trying to pull an end runaround by getting involved at this late stage.

NEW YORK

2 men are convicted of aiding terrorists

A Yemeni sheik and his assistant were convicted Thursday of plotting to funnel money to al-Qaida and **Hamas**.

Sheik Mohammed Ali Hassan Al-Moayad and Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed were found guilty on all but two of the 10 charges in an indictment that accused them of vital roles in a terror-funding network that stretched from Brooklyn to Yemen.

Prosecutors said Al-Moayad could face 75 years behind bars and Zayed could face 45 years for conspiring to support **Hamas** and al-Qaida and related charges. Defense attorneys said they planned to appeal.

MONTGOMERY, Ala.

Bush addresses fears on Social Security

President George W. Bush sought Thursday to assure older adults that their Social Security benefits were safe.

U.S. DIGEST

"I don't care what the TV ads say. I don't care what the pamphlets say," Bush said at an appearance at Auburn University's Montgomery campus. "If you are retired or near retirement, the government will pay you what we said we'd pay you."

Bush is on a two-day Southern swing designed to soothe concerns and build congressional support for his Social Security plans. In two appearances Thursday, Bush sat onstage with hand-picked grandparents and their grandchildren who voiced support for the president's goal of letting younger workers divert a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes into private investment accounts.

WASHINGTON

U.S. says lawmakers took prohibited trips

At least eight House members and 15 House aides accepted trips to South Korea from a registered foreign agent despite rules prohibiting the practice, government documents showed Thursday.

Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, and an aide to Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., were among those traveling at the expense of the Korea-United States Exchange Council since the group registered as a foreign agent on Aug. 22, 2001.

The organization describes itself as a nonpartisan, nonprofit group that provides insight on the national security, cultural, historical and economic interests of the United States and South Korea. The council said it worked on behalf of the South Korean government.

Lawmakers who took the trips said either that the travel was approved in advance by the House ethics committee or that they relied on information provided by the council.

SAN FRANCISCO

Mutilation victim gets asylum in the U.S.

A woman subjected to genital mutilation is automatically eligible for asylum in the United States, a federal appeals court ruled Thursday.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the argument by government attorneys that ***female*** genital mutilation on its own cannot be a basis for a claim of past persecution because it is "widely accepted and widely practiced."

"The fact that persecution is widespread" does not make "a particular asylum claim less compelling," the court said in a 3-0 ruling. The ruling came in a case involving a Somali woman.

WASHINGTON

DeLay goes home after treatment

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was treated for a heart condition Thursday at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center, his office said.

The Texas Republican was released and returned home after a series of tests.

He intends to stick to his plans to go to Florida, Georgia and Texas this weekend.

Capt. Michael Curran, the head of cardiology at the hospital, said DeLay, 57, had a condition known as arrhythmia, or an irregular heartbeat. He said DeLay met doctors at the Capitol and then in Bethesda after experiencing minor fatigue.

U.S. DIGEST

End of Document

Gaza border closure makes thousands pay for attack;

Morning Star
January 16, 2004

Copyright 2004 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 221 words

Body

ISRAEL closed border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel yesterday, preventing thousands of Palestinians from reaching their jobs, in response to Wednesday's suicide bombing that killed four Israelis.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz imposed a one-day closure on Gaza, and also shut down the Erez industrial park where 6,000 Palestinians work.

People in the impoverished Gaza Strip depend on those jobs for much of their income.

The army said that only humanitarian cases would be qualify for crossing the border.

Israeli military commander in Gaza Brigadier General Gadi Shamni indicated that Israel would retaliate for the attack.

"I imagine that we will know how to respond at the time, place and method of our choosing, " he told Israel television.

Thousands marched through the streets of Gaza for the funeral of the suicide bomber.

Masked gunmen from both **Hamas** and Al Aqsa carried the coffin of Reem Raiyshi, who was the mother of two children.

It was the first time that the rival groups have marched together.

Israel usually keeps the bodies of suicide bombers, burying them in unmarked graves, to forestall celebratory funerals.

About 15,000 Palestinian workers and another 4,000 merchants from Gaza have permits to cross the Erez checkpoint to reach jobs inside Israel. The number varies with the security situation.

Graphic

Gaza border closure makes thousands pay for attack;

GRIM CELEBRATION: Palestinian mourners carrying the coffin of **female** suicide bomber Reem Raiyshi in Gaza City yesterday.

Load-Date: March 1, 2004

End of Document

Poll test for Abbas' credibility

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia) (Sydney, Australia)

January 10, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 18

Length: 673 words

Byline: SOPHIE CLAUDET

Body

RAMALLAH: More than one million Palestinians turned out to vote at hundreds of polling stations yesterday in the presidential race to choose one of seven candidates to succeed the late Yasser Arafat.

The first Palestinian presidential election in nine years is a critical test of legitimacy for Mahmoud Abbas, the leading candidate.

Representing the dominant Fatah movement, Mr Abbas has no major challengers and is expected to easily win.

Despite calls by radical Islamist groups to snub the polls, more than 70 per cent of the 1.8 million Palestinians aged over 18 and eligible to vote had registered.

MATP

Voter turnout and Mr Abbas's margin of victory will be closely watched to see whether he gets a ringing endorsement from his people, or only a lukewarm mandate to pursue his platform of renewing negotiations with Israel while ending the armed attacks of the Palestinian uprising.

A boycott by the Islamic militant group **Hamas**, voting constraints in east Jerusalem and a significant protest vote for any of Abbas's six challengers could reduce his majority and weaken his claim to be Arafat's heir.

"He is not only running for Fatah, he is chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, so it is critical that he take more than 65 per cent of the total vote, and the turnout should be more than 60 per cent," Mahdi Abdel Hadi, a Palestinian analyst, said. "Otherwise it will open the door for **Hamas** to say that the PLO is not the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and he will be weakened.

"This is the nightmare for Fatah, that there will not be a big turnout." Fatah has campaigned hard to bring Mr Abbas to the people. The man who for years shunned publicity and preferred to work behind the scenes appeared daily in rallies across the West Bank and Gaza Strip, trying to claim some of the aura that surrounded Arafat, whose military uniform and checked head scarf underscored his status as a national icon to many Palestinians.

Mr Abbas's sober business suit was draped with a similar head scarf, he was carried aloft by Fatah gunmen, and at one rally he even briefly donned the black bandanna of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of Fatah that has killed scores of Israelis during the uprising. After an Israeli tank shell killed seven Palestinian youths in the Gaza Strip, Mr Abbas referred to Israel as "the Zionist enemy", a term favoured by Islamic militants.

Poll test for Abbas' credibility

But he also has put forward an agenda of reforms and argued for a resumption of peace negotiations as the path to achieving Palestinian goals.

He said he was prepared to talk to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to see if progress could be made.

The election is expected to show how well he managed to connect with constituencies to which he reached out: refugees, young militants, women, and relatives of people jailed, killed or wounded by Israel in more than four years of conflict.

Israel has said it will try to ensure a free and fair election can take place by keeping troops away from Palestinian population centres.

The election process will be overseen by several hundred foreign observers, most prominent among them former US president Jimmy Carter.

Israeli officials said that to facilitate movement of voters and campaign workers, the army would remove some checkpoints and roadblocks hindering passage between Palestinian cities and towns, and troops would stay out of main cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Who's in the running

LEADING candidates in Palestinian presidential elections:

Mahmoud Abbas: Fatah party. Former PM, 69, appointed PLO chief after Mr Arafat's death. Favourite to win

Mustafa Barghuti: Strongest challenger to Mr Abbas, averaging 25 per cent support in the polls

Tayssir Khaled: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Mr Khaled's leftist party boycotted the only previous Palestinian elections in 1996

Bassam al-Salhi: People's Party. Secretary-general of former communist party since 2003

Other candidates, all independents:

Abdelhalim al-Ashqar, 46

Alsayyed Barakah, 48

Abdelkarim Shubeir, 45

Load-Date: January 9, 2005

**Out of Egypt... and Into Gaza; Observe a Single Standard of Shoah Justice;
THE STRATEGIC INTEREST**

The Forward

June 18, 2004

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Section: Forward Forum; Pg. 7

Length: 1064 words

Byline: Yossi Alpher

Body

In army staff colleges all over the world, the Egyptian-Israeli military agreement in the Sinai Peninsula is taught as the way two veteran belligerents that are tired of war but still don't trust each other can best manage their cold peace. The solution is simple, if not ideal: They demilitarize the large, empty desert that separates their population centers.

When you travel the long, narrow road along the Negev-Sinai boundary that links Kerem Shalom on the Israel-Egypt-Gaza border confluence in the north with Eilat in the south, you see a border fence 3 feet high. Beyond it, for approximately 130 miles west toward the Suez Canal, there are almost no Egyptian soldiers. Military incidents are rare here. Almost the only unauthorized people crossing the border are hash smugglers and young Moldavian women transported from Egypt into Israel by Russian and Bedouin gangs that exploit them as prostitutes in the fleshpots of Tel Aviv.

The Sinai demilitarization arrangements represent Israel's best answer to its oldest military nightmare. Ever since the Egyptian army tried in 1948 to fight its way through the southern coastal area north to Tel Aviv, Israel's main focus in every postwar negotiation - after 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973 - and ultimately in the 1977-79 peace talks was to institutionalize ways to keep the Egyptian army as far away as possible.

Egypt, too, likes to maintain a healthy distance between its army and the Israeli army. In 25 years of peace, the Egyptians have never cast doubt on the wisdom of force separation through demilitarization.

Nor has Egypt ever offered its services - or been solicited by Israel, the Palestinians or the United States - as a potential caretaker for Gaza, which it occupied between 1948 and 1967. In the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks of the late 1970s, Menachem Begin refused to return Gaza to Egypt because he considered it part of Greater Israel; for his part, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat would never have taken it anyway, because he considered it part of Palestine and was only interested in "sacred Egyptian territory."

This historical background explains why the news of a growing Egyptian military role in the projected disengagement from Gaza is so extraordinary. True, the Egyptians are only sending a small number of military trainers and senior advisers. But they are sending them to both Gaza and the West Bank. True, they will only send a modest contingent of high-quality troops to their side of the Gaza border, where Palestinians smuggle arms through tunnels. But those troops will, if necessary, clash with Palestinian militants, and Egyptian sources promise they will bulldoze homes on their side of the border to reveal the tunnels - without any of the human-rights squeamishness that characterizes Israel's efforts.

Out of Egypt ... and Into Gaza Observe a Single Standard of Shoah Justice THE STRATEGIC INTEREST

If indeed the Egyptians follow through on their new commitments, the potential for military friction of some sort between Egypt and Israel - such as Egyptians being caught in Israeli-Palestinian crossfire - will increase for the first time in more than two decades. So, too, will Egyptian diplomatic involvement in the Palestinian issue.

To be sure, the Egyptians hope to use the influence projected by their enhanced presence to moderate the behavior of Palestinian militants. But they also presumably will be better positioned to project pressure on Israel, both directly and via Washington, regarding peace process issues.

Israel's readiness to countenance such an active Egyptian role, with all the risks and hopes it entails, constitutes an admission of its own inability to restore order in the territories. The Palestinian Authority's willingness to work with the Egyptians reflects its own abject failure.

Noticeably, no one bothered to ask King Abdullah of Jordan, who has an existential interest in what happens in the West Bank and who recently extracted a letter from President Bush that restores the appearance of an even-handed American approach. Jordan's role is happily belittled by the Egyptians, who are reminding the Hashemites of the real pecking order in the Arab world by virtue of the power they are projecting deep into Palestine.

Despite doubts among some Israeli intelligence analysts regarding Egypt's ultimate military intentions toward Israel, the Sharon government has encouraged the Egyptians to enter the fray. Perhaps the best indication that the traditional Israeli military approach toward Egypt is anachronistic is Prime Minister Sharon's very decision to remove the Katif bloc of settlements in Gaza - which were put in place originally to hinder another Egyptian military thrust toward Tel Aviv.

Why is Egypt, normally a calculating and cautious actor, getting involved in this new Palestinian adventure? The explanation appears to lie in the bigger picture of the post-September 11 Middle East. On the one hand, the potential for anarchy in Gaza projected by an Israeli pullout poses the prospect of a Hamas-ruled Gaza. Hamas is an offshoot of the Egyptian fundamentalist group Muslim Brotherhood, and radical Islam is the biggest threat to President Hosni Mubarak's rule. Egypt does not want a Hamas mini-republic on its border.

On the other, Mubarak is hard pressed to deal with American pressures for reform in the areas of democracy and human rights. It was no coincidence that he skipped last week's G8 summit in Sea Island, Georgia. He hopes, with some foundation, that a contribution to regional stability in Palestine will earn him alternative credits with Washington.

Besides, the Egyptians are making every effort to ensure this does not become an adventure. Their preconditions include demands that both Israelis and Palestinians declare and observe a ceasefire; that Yasser Arafat finally agree to cede authority over Palestinian security forces, whereby Egypt will radically reorganize their command structure and turn them over to more responsible and less corrupt Palestinians; and that Israel allow Arafat freedom of movement and eventually withdraw from the narrow strip between Egypt and Gaza known as the Philadelphi Road.

The cynics on both sides argue that Arafat and Sharon each hope the other will torpedo the Egyptian project. Both know how.

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

Messier/ in Israel/ and Iraq Bush, Sharon lurching from crisis to crisis
Misguided policies make all nations less safe

The Toronto Star
May 23, 2004 Sunday

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Section: BUSINESS; Pg. F01

Length: 1000 words

Body

Events in Iraq and the Israeli-occupied territories show how George W. Bush and Ariel Sharon continue to create one nightmare after another. Whereas recent headlines have been about two events - an Israeli tank firing on a Palestinian protest march, and American jets bombing what was said to be an Iraqi wedding - there's been no shortage of horrors.

Israel has rightly apologized for Wednesday's attack that brought worldwide condemnation. But its military onslaught on Gaza in the days preceding or following the tragedy has been no less ferocious.

Besides 13 Israeli soldiers, about 70 Palestinians have been killed in the last two weeks and dozens injured.

Sharon's rationale, as always, is that he is targeting terrorists. But, as always, women and children are dead or maimed. Hundreds of civilians are homeless. Yet, as usual, there's no end in sight to the supply of militants.

Sharon's offensive is part of his plan to pull out of Gaza so as to keep most of the West Bank.

In bulldozing homes, ripping up roads and other infrastructure, and forcing people out, he is clearly trying to carve out an Israeli-controlled buffer between Gaza and Egypt - a smaller version of the one created in south Lebanon two decades ago.

This is no more likely to work than that one did. The ultimate restorer of peace to the Israel-Lebanon border was a political, not a military, solution.

Tear up the Palestinian underground arms-smuggling tunnels, and they'll likely find other ways to fight back. That's always the way of entrenched resistance to unwanted occupation.

Since September, 2000, Israel has demolished 1,200 homes and displaced 17,000 Gazans, with little success. If anything, it has made Hamas more powerful.

Sharon also has a penchant for appearing "tough" when doing something "soft."

Preparing the political ground for his pullout plan, he had Hamas leaders Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and then Abdel Aziz Rantisi assassinated. His current offensive, which is not limited to the area along the Egyptian border, was unleashed after he lost the May 2 Likud referendum on his withdrawal plan.

Messier/ in Israel / and Iraq Bush, Sharon lurching from crisis to crisis Misguided policies make all nations less safe

While America abstained from the Security Council vote condemning Israel for violating international law, Bush continues to back Sharon.

For so doing, he was lustily cheered by a pro-Israeli group in Washington at about the same time as missiles and shells were tearing into Palestinians.

Speaking to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Bush reiterated his support for Israel. But he was mostly mum on what the Arab League called Sharon's "war crimes aimed at ethnic cleansing" and what others characterized as egregious violations of human rights.

In this election year, Bush is trying to win as many Jewish votes and donations away from Democrats as he can.

Palestinians be damned.

As part of this wooing exercise, he earlier endorsed the Sharon plan to grab much of the West Bank, and also reject the right of return for the Palestinians displaced in 1948.

The president put that in writing to help Sharon convince the Likud rank and file. They rejected the plan anyway. But the U.S. commitment remains, with nothing in return to advance the American road map for peace.

This infuriated the other three backers of the map: the European Union, Russia and the U.N.

And it prompted King Abdullah of Jordan to ask for a written American guarantee that the Palestinians would at least be compensated, and that Israel would cede some territory in return for a lot in the West Bank.

Bush balked.

Jordan and Egypt, on whom Israel and the U.S. were counting on to ensure that Hamas does not fill the vacuum in Gaza after the Israeli withdrawal, are hesitating to help out.

But nothing seems to budge Bush and Sharon from their misguided policies.

In Iraq, America continues to make monumental mistakes.

Following the bombing death of about 45 people in a desert, James Mattis of the U.S. Marines said he had nothing to apologize for. "How many people go into the middle of the desert ... to hold a wedding?"

Many. Arabs routinely head to the sands for night picnics or celebrations. No matter. "There were more than two dozen military-age males" there, said the general. "Let's not be naive."

Iraqi women and children be damned.

American credibility is in tatters on several other fronts.

With less than 40 days to hand over power to the Iraqis, security remains elusive, as the murder of the head of the Iraqi Governing Council showed. If the Americans can't guard their own handpicked leaders, even in Baghdad, whom can they?

The U.N., which offers the best hope for putting Iraq on the road to real self-rule, may hesitate before committing itself.

On the prison-abuse scandal, Bush's argument that it was the work of a few guards at the Abu Ghraib prison has fallen apart.

Stories abound of similar tactics used across Iraq and Afghanistan. Popping up are post-9/11 Pentagon and Justice Department directives suspending civil liberties.

Messier/ in Israel / and Iraq Bush, Sharon lurching from crisis to crisis Misguided policies make all nations less safe

Prison guards are not the only ones being scapegoated.

Ahmed Chalabi, the Pentagon's president-presumptive of post-war Iraq, has been dumped after being showered with \$39 million over the last few years.

He has been given the shove not because he was a fraud artist who supplied false intelligence, or because he had little or no popular support (as long argued in this space). He made the mistake of attacking Bush (as a way to build his local credibility).

In the battles in the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, America has got itself into a no-win situation. Landing bombs near shrines is no way to win friends among the majority Shiites.

If nabbing rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr was important, why was he not tackled all these months in Baghdad?

In Falluja, where the Marines went on an undisciplined rampage to avenge the death of four mercenaries, peace has been bought at the price of turning the city over to an ex-Baathist.

As Sharon and Bush lurch from crisis to crisis, they have alienated just about every ally and made the world less safe - even for Israel and America.

hsiddiq @ thestar.ca

Load-Date: May 23, 2004

End of Document

Sea rescue boy dies

EVENING CHRONICLE (Newcastle, UK)

August 27, 2005, Saturday

Edition 1

Copyright 2005 Newcastle Chronicle & Journal Ltd

Section: NEWS,

Length: 271 words

Byline: By The Evening Chronicle

Body

A boy, 16, rescued from the sea off the North Wales coast, has died in hospital after the search was called off for his younger brother.

The boy died in hospital in Bangor after rescuers searching for his 14-year-old brother found a body on a beach near Harlech where they had been swimming.

Coastguards said it was believed to be that of the missing boy.

Fears for girl

POLICE say they are "increasingly concerned" about a missing 11-year-old girl. Skylar Russell was last seen on Wednesday by her family at home in Southgate, north London. But her relatives realised she had gone when they called her for supper about an hour later.

Health crisis

THE financial crisis hitting many hospitals in England could lead to more job losses and closures, the British Medical Association warned today.

Plea to vote

IRAQ'S Shi'ite and Kurdish leaders were sending an amended constitution to parliament this weekend despite the latest document being rejected by Sunni Arab negotiators. Shiites and Kurds will encourage their people to vote for the charter in the October 15 referendum with Sunnis lobbying against it.

Bomber video

MILITANT group ***Hamas*** released a video today of a man it said was the shadowy bomb maker who has eluded Israeli forces for a decade.

The man, identifying himself Mohammed Deif, described Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip as a victory for resistance.

Divorce split

Sea rescue boy dies

WOMEN are more likely to feel vindictive than men when it comes to dividing up possessions after a divorce, research showed today. Out of a list of 24 items, men wanted their ex to keep 19 while **women** only wanted their former husband to have eight.

Load-Date: August 27, 2005

End of Document

Kicking, screaming only gets one so far

University Wire

October 4, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 The Reveille via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 718 words

Byline: By Lake Hearne, The Reveille; **SOURCE:** LSU

Dateline: BATON ROUGE, La.

Body

Attending a Catholic high school has a lot of advantages: one gets to wear nifty uniforms which I happen to like because I enjoy conformity, funny disciplinary actions a public school would never get away with and free trips to the nation's capitol -- least if you protest abortion while you are there.

If I learned one thing my junior year of high school, it was that rallies and demonstrations are an utterly useless right afforded to us by the First Amendment. A trip to see the inauguration of the president is a sight every American should see. If only it were not clouded by a fury of people who think this particular man, aligned with one of two political parties roughly two-thirds of the American people identify with, marks the end of days.

The purpose of my trip was to protest the Roe v. Wade decision in front of the Capitol. It seems funny now that we were protesting against abortion as the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court was swearing in a "compassionate conservative" the very week, if not day of the rally. We did so, however, and had a good time mocking and being mocked by the pro-choice advocates. I admired the spirit of both sides, and I think everyone learned a lot about each other that day and shared some good laughs about the whole affair.

Looking back, the Roe v. Wade decision is still the constitutional precedent, and hence, the law of the land. Pro-lifers still complain about the rights of the unborn, and pro-choicers still complain about the rights of women. Slight changes to abortion procedures have been made, roughly equal, I imagine, to the amount of guns the Brady Bill took out of the hands of criminals who, incidentally, love buying handguns from ATF-licensed dealers.

Since the outbreak of the war in Iraq, there have been countless demonstrations against President Bush, his administration's handling of the war, the war in general, et cetera ad nauseum de profundis. They have been held in Washington, D.C., New York, Paris, London, Madrid, a few of the bigger bergs in Germany and let's not forget the Middle East. After every single one that gets even a minute of air time on the nightly news, I imagine President Bush puffing away at a pipe behind his desk in the Oval Office seriously debating the truths found behind signs like "Read between the Pipelines." Judging by his jogs, I would say he is not losing any sleep over "Daddy Loves You Anyway."

Assigning 1964 the beginning year of organized protests against the Vietnam War, it would be another nine years before the U.S. government finally "got the picture" and suspended offensives in North Vietnam. If this is a new Vietnam War as postulated by so many of the most vicious of "doves," we have a long stretch and at least one change of political party in the White House before we cease our "offensives" in Iraq.

Kicking, screaming only gets one so far

Recently 300,000 protesters descended upon the nation's capital to tell the White House what it already knows, Americans disapprove of the way the war is going in Iraq. Many from this area took the "Peace Train" from Mississippi to the District of Columbia. Ironically, "Peace Train" was an awesome tune from then-named Cat Stevens, now Yusuf Islam, who was denied entry into the United States a year ago for suspected contributions to **Hamas**, a Palestinian terrorist organization. Whether he actually did this will be left to argue among those more informed, namely Yusuf Islam and **Hamas**.

Good for all those wars fought so approvingly, but it was a superintendent of this fine University in its infancy, General Sherman, who said, "War is hell." It will continue to be hell until all wars stop, but four Tiger Stadiums filled to capacity with Cindy Sheehans is not going to stop this war, especially as it is transitioning from an all-out assault to limited skirmishes with insurgents who murder innocents.

I feel safe in stating that most if not all red-blooded Americans have extreme sympathy for those who have fallen in this war. We should be grateful that in these times, at least not right now or in the foreseeable future, there is neither a draft nor conscription. This is not to say to not voice your opinion on the matter -- for over a majority of Americans agree -- but if your protests will not work, perhaps your votes would do better.

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Load-Date: October 4, 2005

End of Document

**Israeli tanks block off Gaza refugee camp;
Forces want to widen a buffer zone near Egypt. Palestinians
fled via one last exit. Later, missiles hit, killing at least seven.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MAY 18, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 657 words

Byline: Tamer Ziara ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli tanks cut off the Rafah refugee camp from the rest of Gaza yesterday, sending panicked residents fleeing amid fears of a major military operation. Helicopters fired missiles at the camp hours later, killing at least seven people and wounding two dozen, residents said.

Early today, 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 was not clear whether that 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 gunships attacked twice after midnight. Palestinians said that around dawn, two missiles killed at least four people as they left a mosque after morning prayers. They said 17 others were wounded.

The military said it was targeting armed Palestinians. **Hamas** said that three of the dead were its members.

A few hours earlier, a helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, Palestinians said. The Israeli military said the target was a group of armed Palestinians approaching Israeli forces.

When the tanks moved in yesterday, frantic residents loaded belongings onto trucks and carts and headed to the neighboring town, also named Rafah. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and at a tent camp.

Women 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 firewood onto a horse cart.

Israeli tanks block off Gaza refugee camp; Forces want to widen a buffer zone near Egypt . Palestinians fled via one last exit. Later, missiles hit, killing at

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 planned 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 that Israel must leave Gaza now and that 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 such as the move into the Rafah camp. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israeli intelligence showed that the Palestinians, supported by Hezbollah and **Hamas** abroad, were trying to create a situation in Gaza like the one in Lebanon, by bringing in long-range missiles.

Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships were 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 were involved in arms smuggling.

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

Load-Date: August 25, 2005

Israel releases prison-swap list

The Australian

January 28, 2004 Wednesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 244 words

Body

JERUSALEM: Israeli officials yesterday released the names of prisoners to be freed in a swap with Lebanese Hezbollah guerillas, after soldiers started exhuming the bodies of Lebanese fighters to be returned as part of the deal.

The list includes 371 Palestinian prisoners, 60 Palestinians being held without trial and 31 Lebanese. APThe Lebanese include the two most prominent inmates to be freed -- guerilla leaders Mustafa Dirani and Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid, abducted from south Lebanon in 1994 and 1989 respectively.

In tomorrow's exchange, Israel will turn over the bodies and release the 462 prisoners in return for a captive Israeli businessman and three soldiers, snatched on the Lebanese border in 2000. The Israeli public remained split over the lopsided exchange, with many feeling it would boost Hezbollah's status and reward its tactic of kidnapping Israelis to secure release for its fighters.

After the exchange, the sides are to open talks to obtain information on missing Israeli airman Ron Arad, who was shot down over Lebanon in 1986 and captured alive.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian militant group **Hamas** yesterday released pictures of its first **female** suicide bomber, Reem Salah al-Rayashi, with her children four days before she blew herself up at a Gaza border crossing on January 14. Rayashi, who had said she had wanted to carry out an attack "where parts of my body can fly all over", had also said: "Only God knows how much I love (my children)".

Load-Date: January 27, 2004

Israel, Jordan talk secretly about pullback proposal

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

March 20, 2004 Saturday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 12A; DIGEST

Length: 697 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM; HAVANA; GONAIVES, Haiti

Body

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Jordan's King Abdullah II held secret talks at the Israeli leader's desert ranch to discuss a proposed Israeli pullback from parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli and Jordanian officials confirmed Friday.

The three-hour lunch meeting on Thursday was part of a quiet Israeli lobbying campaign to get backing for the plan, which Palestinians fear is part of an attempt to unilaterally draw a border in lands they want for an independent state.

Israeli officials, including Sharon, have met recently to discuss the plan with Egyptian, Jordanian and U.S. officials - but none of those countries has indicated that it supports the plan.

Meanwhile in the Gaza Strip, troops in armored vehicles raided a Palestinian village in search of **Hamas** militants, part of a new offensive in the strip. Twelve Palestinians were wounded in gunbattles, including two boys, ages 12 and 15, who were in critical condition.

Compiled from Times Wires

Four Israeli soldiers were wounded when **Hamas** detonated more than 220 pounds of explosives near a tank during the incursion.

Wives of jailed dissidents march through Havana

HAVANA - The wives of 15 Cuban political prisoners jailed in last year's crackdown on dissent held a rare public march in Havana's streets Friday demanding amnesty for their husbands.

The **women** - dressed all in white, with many pinning their husbands' photographs to their chests - started their march early Friday at the well-known Coppelia ice cream restaurant in the city center.

"Freedom for the 75 political prisoners!" the **women** shouted as they marched up to Department of Prisons headquarters seven blocks away.

There, they submitted a letter to the department's director, Gen. Rafael Calderin Tamayo, demanding freedom for their husbands and improved prison conditions.

Authorities did not interfere with the march, which lasted about 2 1/2 hours.

Israel , Jordan talk secretly about pullback proposal

Havana has justified the crackdown, saying it has the right to defend the nation from foreign attempts to change its socialist system.

Seventy-four men and one woman were arrested March 18, 2003, and accused of being mercenaries working with American officials to undermine Fidel Castro's government. The prisoners - including independent reporters, democracy activists and opposition party members - and the U.S. government deny the charges.

After one-day closed trials, they were sentenced to from six to 28 years in prison.

French troops reach northern Haiti

GONAIVES, Haiti - French troops fanned out from Haiti's capital Friday to establish control in rebel-held northern Haiti and allow relief organizations to deliver food and medicines disrupted during the rebellion against Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

A convoy of 150 French Legionnaires reached Gonaives, the city north of Port-au-Prince where a street gang began the armed rebellion that helped oust Aristide. Another 200 French troops arrived in Cap-Haitien, the northern port of 500,000 that is Haiti's second largest city. There was no reported resistance.

Rebels in both cities had said they would disarm only if their enemies in the Aristide camp lay down their weapons, and it was not immediately clear how troops proposed to deal with that. But on Friday, rebels in Gonaives - who apparently had hidden their weapons - said they were ready to cooperate.

Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue planned to visit Gonaives, his hometown, today - his first official trip outside the capital since he was named prime minister after Aristide fled Feb. 29.

Also Friday, Aristide's top security chief, Oriel Jean, 39, was extradited from Canada to the United States to face a drug trafficking charge, said Patrick Charette, a spokesman for Canada's Justice Department.

Elsewhere ...

BUSH GOING TO FRANCE FOR D-DAY: President Bush will join scores of leaders in France for ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the allies' D-Day invasion that proved to be a turning point of World War II.

Bush accepted the invitation for the June 6 ceremony in Normandy in a telephone call with French President Jacques Chirac, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

Relations between Bush and Chirac have been strained by France's opposition to the Iraq war.

Load-Date: March 20, 2004

Palestinians claim abandoned settlements; Gazans celebrate end of Israeli military rule

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

September 13, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. a5

Length: 1196 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

Joyous Gazans flooded into empty Jewish settlements Monday and Palestinians climbed ropes and clambered over walls dividing this border town to join a chaotic celebration of the end of 38 years of Israeli military rule over the Gaza Strip.

Plans by Palestinian police to bar crowds from the settlements quickly disintegrated. Militant groups hoisted flags, fired wildly into the air and set abandoned synagogues ablaze, illustrating the weakness of the security forces and concerns about their ability to control growing chaos in Gaza. The pullout is widely seen as a test for Palestinian aspirations of statehood.

Among those crossing were purported members of the radical Islamic group, **Hamas**, who waved the group's green flag on Egyptian territory, raising immediate concern over Egypt's ability to meet Israeli demands to prevent militants from leaving Gaza.

Egyptian security forces stood by and let crossings in both directions take place, describing it as a "humanitarian" gesture to let people separated for years reunite. Security officials also suggested the crossings would be short-lived as Egypt deploys 750 heavily armed troops to secure its border with Gaza.

Before nightfall, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas arrived at the crossing and raised a Palestinian flag.

Israeli soldiers long guarded the high walls splitting the Egyptian town of Rafah against cross-border infiltrators smuggling weapons and other contraband from Egypt into the volatile Palestinian territory. But within hours of the Israeli withdrawal, hooded Palestinian militants toting guns stood atop the Palestinian wall as grinning Gazans climbed over to meet relatives.

At one point, a group of people strutted and chanted around a large **Hamas** flag on the Egyptian side. But the dance came to a brief, sudden halt after celebratory gunfire on the Palestinian side.

Egyptian border guards shot and killed a Palestinian along the Gaza-Egypt border, authorities said.

Elsewhere, doctors said three Palestinians drowned off the Gaza coast as hundreds rushed to the beach just hours after Israeli troops pulled out. The beach in southern Gaza had been off-limits to Palestinians for years because Jewish settlements ran along the coast.

Palestinians claim abandoned settlements; Gazans celebrate end of Israeli military rule

The last column of Israeli tanks rumbled out of Gaza just before sunrise, completing the withdrawal code-named "Last Watch."

Troops locked a metal gate and hoisted their flag on the Israeli side of the border.

"The mission has been completed, and an era has ended," said Israel's Gaza commander, Brig. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, the last soldier to leave the strip.

As soldiers poured out of Gaza throughout the night, jubilant Palestinians rushed into the abandoned settlements, turning the night sky orange as fires blazed. Women shrieked in joy, teens set off fireworks and crowds chanted "God is great!"

"Today is a day of joy and happiness that our people were deprived of in the past century," Abbas said, adding that the Palestinians still have a long path toward statehood.

He denounced Israeli rule in Gaza as "aggression, injustice, humiliation, killing and settlement activity."

By midday, the situation had calmed, and curious Palestinians quietly toured the abandoned Jewish settlements as feelings of newfound freedom sank in.

"Since last night, I have been in the street, for no reason, just to breathe the air of freedom," said Samir Khader, a farmer in northern Gaza who needed Israeli permits to go in and out of his village, flanked by Israeli settlements. "I don't know what the future will bring, but at least, I can come in and out of my house at any time."

No people crossed through the main Rafah border crossing point, which Israel has closed indefinitely. Instead, people went around it.

The Palestinians are demanding the crossing be opened, saying it is the main gateway for Gaza's 1.3 million Palestinians to the outside world. Egypt is trying to negotiate a deal, and Israel has said it might agree to allow European monitors to man it.

Palestinians hope to build their state in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem - areas that Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast War - but fear that Israel will not hand over more territory. They say Israel still occupies Gaza because it retains control over borders and airspace.

The Palestinians want full control over the Gaza-Egypt border, saying free movement of people and goods is essential for rebuilding Gaza's shattered economy. Israel wants to retain some control, at least temporarily, fearing that militants will smuggle weapons into Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said he remains committed to the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, which calls for an independent Palestinian state, but linked any further withdrawals to Abbas' ability to rein in militant groups.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz urged the Palestinian to impose law and order or face a tough response.

Abbas insists he can persuade militants to disarm peacefully. He has outlined an ambitious plan to reconstruct Gaza's shattered economy, an effort he believes will bolster forces of moderation. But he faces a difficult task in Gaza, where militants and armed gangs operate freely and wield considerable power.

Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader in Gaza, said the group "will support any step that will produce something for our people" but made clear it has no plans to disarm as long as Israel controls the West Bank and Jerusalem.

"We should protect the resistance option and the resistance weapons," he said. "These weapons liberated the land and by these weapons, we will continue the liberation process."

Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, head of Israel's southern command, said the pullout presented an important opportunity for the Palestinians to control their future.

Palestinians claim abandoned settlements; Gazans celebrate end of Israeli military rule

"The responsibility belongs to the Palestinian Authority," he said. "We hope that they will know how to rise to the responsibility, and enable all of us to leave in peace and security."

Palestinian authorities had promised an orderly transition, but the calls were ignored. Police stood by helplessly as gunmen raised flags of militant groups and crowds smashed what was left in the ruins or walked off with doors, window frames, toilets and scrap metals.

Palestinians torched empty synagogues in the Morag, Kfar Darom and Netzarim settlements, as well as a Jewish seminary in Neve Dekalim. Later, a Palestinian bulldozer knocked down the walls of the Netzarim synagogue.

In Netzarim, two young Palestinians waving flags stomped on the smoldering debris outside the synagogue, and others took turns hitting the building with a large hammer.

"They (Israelis) destroyed our homes and our mosques. Today it is our turn to destroy theirs," said a man in Neve Dekalim who gave his name only as Abu Ahmed.

Israel removed some 8,500 Gaza settlers from their homes in 21 settlements last month, and razed homes and most buildings in the communities. However, the Israeli Cabinet decided Sunday to leave 19 synagogue buildings intact, drawing complaints from the Palestinians and criticism from the United States.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the Israeli decision "puts the Palestinian Authority into a situation where it may be criticized for whatever it does."

Load-Date: September 13, 2005

Time to denounce failed leaders

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

September 27, 2004 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: Q: QUERIES - QUIBBLES - QUIRKS; Pg. A11; You Said It Best

Length: 242 words

Byline: Herb Cohen and Carolyn Hedmann, Calgary Herald

Body

Leadership * Re: "Unity of beliefs key to restoring image of Islam," Sept. 18.

Joe Woodard's article reveals clearly that PR is the least of the Muslim world's problems.

The central problem is failed leadership, whether in the Middle East, Africa or the western world.

Hatim Zaghloul is "disgusted and horrified" by events in Beslan, but forgets Darfur, and while bringing up that "big sore spot" Israel, is silent about atrocities perpetrated against Israeli Jews and Arabs. "Even in war we have rules of engagement . . . like not targeting women and children." He could have added, "Jews excluded."

He says Muslims are more often the oppressed than the oppressors, but fails to admit that most often, Muslims are oppressed by their own. One can understand how someone who asserts that Muslims "treat our beliefs as if they're self-evident truths" might gloss over such minor details.

Zaghloul is hurt that "the West is desensitized to the killing of Palestinians." Yet, when Arafat, Hamas and Islamic Jihad send others' children, youths and pregnant daughters to blow themselves and innocent civilians up, and then glorify them, why does the sensitive Zaghloul turn a blind eye?

Such leaders do not teach "a culture of love and justice." They teach envy, destruction and death. Isn't it time for Muslims to denounce outdated leaders who enable, rationalize, glorify or keep silent about failed ideologies and practices?

Herb Cohen and Carolyn Hedmann, Calgary

Load-Date: September 27, 2004

QUICK NEWS

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

May 20, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 21

Length: 279 words

Body

Israeli warning

ISRAEL yesterday said Palestinians firing mortars would now be targeted by the army and warned that escalating violence could delay its plans to pull out of Gaza. Palestinians had earlier fired mortars and a rocket at Gaza Jewish settlements and nearby Israeli communities, a day after militants launched a mortar barrage and Israel killed two **Hamas** militants.

Trade tension

TENSIONS between the US and China escalated yesterday when the Bush Administration said it would set new limits on the amount of clothing that China could ship to America. US firms had complained of a surge in Chinese apparel.

Tycoon waits

A MOSCOW court reading the verdict in the trial of Yukos oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky yesterday said it considered him guilty of fraud, but under a section of the criminal code that carried a lighter sentence. The reading of six other verdicts was delayed.

Taliban attack

TALIBAN militants yesterday ambushed and killed six Afghans as they were taking the body of a government engineer, killed a day earlier in another deadly rebel attack, to Kabul.

UN out of Timor

THE UN yesterday marked the end to its operations in East Timor -- a mission credited with stabilising the nation after its break with Indonesia in 1999.

Combat ban

A US House of Representatives committee yesterday voted to bar **women** from serving in direct ground combat roles.

Riddler dies

QUICK NEWS

FRANK Gorshin, the impressionist with 100 faces best known for his role as the Riddler on the Batman TV series, has died of lung cancer in California aged 72.

Loyal until end

SHOPPERS at the UK's largest supermarket chain, Tesco, can now put their loyalty card points towards their funeral expenses.

Load-Date: May 20, 2005

End of Document

Settlers bid emotional goodbye to Gaza; On first day of Israel's pullout, residents decide to give in or dig in

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

August 16, 2005 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A1; NEWS

Length: 720 words

Dateline: NEVE DEKALIM, GAZA STRIP

Body

On the first day of Israel's Gaza pullout, thousands of Israeli troops handed out eviction notices to sobbing settlers and helped some pack, but also scuffled with crowds of protesters who barricaded themselves in their communities, burned tires and locked arms in a dramatic show of resistance.

Army commanders took pains to avoid clashes and refrained from forcing their way into settlements where opposition was heavy -- a display of sensitivity before unleashing the military muscle to be used against holdouts starting tomorrow.

Palestinians celebrated the beginning of the end of the 38-year occupation of Gaza, and militant factions competed for credit for expelling the Israelis through their violent five-year uprising.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, in a nationally televised address, called the Gaza pullout a painful but essential step for Israel's future. He urged the Palestinians to control their extremists, saying: "To an outstretched hand of peace we will respond with an olive branch, but expressions of terror will be met by fire more intense than ever."

Associated Press

As recently as two years ago, Sharon had said Israel would not give up even small, isolated Gaza settlements.

"But the changing reality in the nation, region and world made me change my mind and change my position," Sharon said yesterday. "We cannot hold Gaza for good. More that a million Palestinians live there, doubling their numbers every generation."

Sharon has repeatedly said the withdrawal is designed to allow Israel to hold on to Jerusalem and major parts of the West Bank -- also territory the Palestinians want for a state. Such statements have cast doubt on whether the withdrawal can lead to new peacemaking.

Over the next three weeks, Israel plans to remove all 21 Jewish settlements from Gaza and four from the West Bank. The withdrawal -- which is shaking up peace prospects in unpredictable ways -- marks the first time Israel will dismantle settlements in areas captured in the 1967 Mideast War and claimed by the Palestinians for their future state.

Settlers bid emotional goodbye to Gaza; On first day of Israel 's pullout, residents decide to give in or dig in

Yesterday was the first day of a 48-hour grace period during which settlers can leave voluntarily without losing any of their government compensation. It became illegal for Israelis to live in Gaza at midnight Sunday, and tomorrow troops will begin dragging out settlers by force.

Eviction notices were distributed in about two-thirds of the settlements to be evacuated, police said. By last night, hundreds of settlers had left Gaza or were preparing to do so, although exact numbers were not known. Complicating the army's mission, some 5,000 pullout opponents from outside Gaza have arrived in the coastal area in recent weeks, and they are vowing to resist. Many Orthodox Jews believe Gaza is part of the biblical land promised to the Jews.

With the deadline swiftly approaching, some 200 families accepted the army's help to load their effects into trucks and move out immediately.

"We don't have any more tears left," said Neve Dekalim resident Michal Yahieli said, packing her belongings, when asked why she had decided to give in.

Protesters burned tires -- a protest tactic often used by Palestinians -- in the industrial zone of Neve Dekalim, Gaza's largest settlement with 2,700 residents.

But in most places encounters were less hostile. Soldiers, both women and men, comforted and hugged civilians who broke down when it came time for them to go.

One woman, leaving a huge home in Nissanit prepared omelettes and cold water for the soldiers dismantling a wooden deck of her swimming pool.

"It's a disgrace," said the woman, who identified herself only as Orly, of the government's decision to evacuate Gaza. "But the soldiers are wonderful."

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said he was filled with hope but that Israel must hand over more land.

Hamas activists in Gaza City hung banners proclaiming the pullout as a victory for their intefadeh, or uprising. "The blood of martyrs has led to liberation," said one.

Many have long feared that militants would attack Israel during the pullout to make it look like a retreat. But **Hamas** spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said the group would hold its fire. "The ball is on the Israeli side now. If they will evacuate the Gaza Strip quietly, I think that there is no one among our people who will obstruct or violate this evacuation."

Graphic

Colour Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; An Israeli army officer comforts Jewish settler Shosh Masicka yesterday as she breaks down in her almost empty house, after receiving her eviction order to leave within 24 hours.

Load-Date: August 31, 2005

Sharon weeps as settlers go down fighting Israel expects to clear Gaza within days

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

August 18, 2005 Thursday

Second Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

Length: 698 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Neve Dekalim and agencies

Body

When the end came for the Jewish settlements in Gaza it was quicker than anyone had expected. At one minute past the midnight deadline yesterday teams of soldiers began knocking on doors throughout the 21 settlements, telling those who remained that it was time to move on.

In Jerusalem, Mr Sharon said the images of Gaza settlers being removed from their homes were "heart-breaking", and praised the restraint of settlers and soldiers.

"It's impossible to watch this, and that includes myself, without tears in the eyes," he said.

Thousands of police and troops had fanned out into every side street, to find most of the settlements abandoned already or at least half-deserted.

But not everyone went quietly. The first group of Israelis to be moved out of Gaza hurled abuse at soldiers manning the Kissufim border crossing.

"Why are you enjoying this? People are being kicked out of their homes," one of 30 passengers screamed from a bus.

Officials suggested the operation could be over in a matter of days, despite diehard radicals barricading themselves behind trenches and barbed wire.

The air was acrid with the smoke of burning tyres and refuse bins, and scattered volleys of paint- and water-bombs were the main signs of violence as the security forces established themselves on every corner.

As the operation unfolded police and troops arrested scores of militant youths and a few local settlers but largely without injury. Meanwhile, the streets rang all night with the sound of hammers as many local families bowed to the inevitable and finished stripping their homes of furniture and appliances.

At dawn troops went door to door to evict those families who had not left during the two-day "grace period", most of whom left with tears but no fight.

Sharon weeps as settlers go down fighting Israel expects to clear Gaza within days

Many of the remaining settlers had resigned themselves to token resistance but one woman was carried out of her house by four soldiers, shouting "I don't want to, I don't want to".

In Neve Dekalim, a group of nine elderly women were seen to be dragged, kicking and screaming, on to a bus by about 50 police and soldiers. "He [Sharon] has destroyed our lives and it's just one big party for you," screeched one of the women. Another yelled: "You are bringing destruction on Israel."

Those settlers who had failed to evacuate under their own steam by the midnight deadline were led with their luggage to waiting buses. In the days ahead soldiers will load their possessions - in many cases already neatly packed and labelled - for storage in other parts of Israel.

By noon yesterday the principal remaining pockets of resistance - mainly by hardline youths from outside the Gaza Strip - were in the isolated settlement of Kfar Darom, the "tent city" at the beach settlement of Shirat Hayam and the main synagogue complex in Neve Dekalim.

In Neve Dekalim, the key to the southern settlement block of Gush Katif, local leaders were reportedly negotiating a compromise with the army that would allow them a last chance to evacuate under their own steam.

As government forces gradually pushed their way into the rest of the settlement on Tuesday night and yesterday most of the mainly teenage protesters fell back towards the synagogue, hoping to force the Government into an embarrassing siege.

Yesterday afternoon about 2000 boys and girls, some weeping, were praying segregated from each other in the twin synagogues normally reserved for Jews worshipping according to Ashkenazi or Sephardic rites.

One 18-year-old gave her name as Avital, from the West Bank settlement of Shiloh.

"I hope and believe that they won't give our land back to the Palestinians that are killing us and murdering us. How could they?" she said. "I believe in miracles. I am planning on staying until there is a miracle and a big celebration."

Thousands of Palestinian security forces have also been deployed around the Gaza Strip, stronghold of the radical Hamas movement.

Masked members of Hamas, carrying weapons and flags, joined a mass demonstration yesterday in Khan Yunis to celebrate the departure of the settlers.

"They destroyed our homes, we'll leave them to destroy theirs by their own hands," read their banners, alluding to Israeli plans to bulldoze all settler homes.

Graphic

PHOTO: Youthful resistance ... a young settler jumps over a burning barricade at Neve Dekalim, blocking the road against Israeli soldiers and police. Photo: AP/David Guttenfelder MAP: Points of departure, phases of withdrawal

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Bush and Sharon working to a plan

The Toronto Star
August 28, 2005 Sunday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. A17

Length: 732 words

Byline: Haroon Siddiqui, Toronto Star

Body

George W. Bush says that as part of his road map for peace in the Middle East, Israel should:

Stop building its security wall/fence on confiscated Palestinian land, and ensure that it does not cause hardship to Palestinians.

Stop expanding the settlements in the West Bank.

Dismantle illegal outposts.

Yet Sharon says and does exactly the opposite. "I will build ," he said after the pullout from Gaza.

His government has since announced it will grab more Palestinian land to build some more of the wall, to enfold the West Bank's largest settlement into Jerusalem, thereby making life more miserable for the Palestinians in Arab East Jerusalem.

Bush says what he says, Sharon does what he does and the twain rarely meet. This is either a joint charade or Sharon feels he can continue to snub Bush.

In either case, any illusion that the withdrawal from Gaza might lead to one from the West Bank can be laid to rest, for now.

Further withdrawals must await future talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. That will depend on whether Israel is satisfied the Palestinians have done enough to control violence. The decision will be Israel's alone.

Furthermore, Sharon is under no obligation to follow the road map. Why? Because his Gaza withdrawal was not carried out under its aegis but unilaterally.

So no road map, no obligations.

Bush concurs. He said Tuesday that "of course, you want to get back to the road map," but the Palestinians must take more confidence-building measures.

So, no need for Israel to get back on the road it never took.

Bush told Sharon Israel could keep some of the more populated settlements. He told Mahmoud Abbas that final boundaries must be negotiated between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Bush and Sharon working to a plan

So Abbas can negotiate the boundaries so long as he first concedes most of the "facts on the ground," which was the precise intent of the illegality called Greater Israel, as conceived and implemented by Sharon.

Both Bush and Sharon tell Abbas he must disarm and dismantle Hamas and other militants. No emulating the British example of bringing the terrorist IRA into the political process and decommissioning its illegal arms. Hamas must be crushed, now.

But Abbas cannot have the guns, the ammunition and the armoured vehicles he needs to do the job, lest the weaponry fall into the wrong hands. Yet he must get the job done. If he does not, Sharon may not talk to him.

This is a new play on an earlier formulation: Sharon had to destroy the Palestinian Authority because it was not controlling terrorism. Having destroyed it, he had no negotiating partner.

So no talks, only unilateralism.

Israel needs moderate Palestinian leaders. When it gets one, it does little to help him. When Abbas was briefly prime minister in 2003, he was undermined as much by Sharon as by Yasser Arafat.

These shell games have Bush's support. We should not be surprised. This is a president who lives in a Kafkaesque world.

Having spawned terrorists where there weren't any, he says he can't quit Iraq because it is now "one of the most important battlefronts in the war on terror."

Iraq never attacked America, yet America must occupy Iraq so that Iraq does not become a staging ground "to launch more attacks against America."

Bush also must keep the war going because 1,800 American soldiers have died there. "We owe them something."

So more must die to honour those who already have.

Iraq was secular, with women enjoying rights. Now it is controlled by clerics who want to control women. Iraq was a foe of Iran, with American backing. Now, right under American noses, it is befriending Iran.

Iraq is also risking a break-up, with Shiites, Kurds and Sunnis pulling their own way. But Bush hails the new constitution as "amazing," because, he says, it "honours women's rights, the rights of minorities."

Does any of it make any sense?

Yes, it does. Both Sharon and Bush are working to plan.

Sharon pulls out of Gaza to regroup Israelis into a new Greater Israel, in defiance of international law and violations of human rights and flouting world opinion.

Bush wanted to occupy oil-rich Iraq and did so, flouting international law and violating human rights. He wants to, and will, keep Iraq under U.S. control, in defiance of world opinion.

The rest is just a poor script around those main plots.

Haroon Siddiqui, the Star's editorial page editor emeritus, appears Thursday and Sunday. [hsiddiq @ thestar.ca](mailto:hsiddiq@thestar.ca).

Load-Date: August 28, 2005

Sharon: Golan is price of Syrian peace

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A; DIGEST

Length: 659 words

Series: IN BRIEF

Dateline: JERUSALEM; GENEVA; BEIJING

Body

Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told lawmakers Monday that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and ordered a review of the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments on the Golan, made to Parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, were an unprecedented admission by the career hard-liner. In the past, right-wing Israeli governments insisted a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

The prime minister did not tell the closed-door meeting whether he was willing to pay what he defined as the price for peace. However, the Associated Press, quoting an unnamed committee member, reported that it was clear from the context that Sharon is not ready to return the Golan in exchange for a peace deal.

Compiled from Times Wires

On the security barrier, the AP, quoting a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity, reported that the government has asked committees to study changes in the route as well as technical means of easing movement for Palestinians.

MORE **FEMALE** BOMBERS: The founder of **Hamas** announced a change in strategy, saying the Islamic militant group would increasingly recruit **female** suicide bombers. Last week, **Hamas** sent its first **female** assailant, a 22-year-old woman who blew herself up at the Gaza-Israel crossing and killed four Israeli border guards.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin told reporters in Gaza there had not been a need in the past for **women** to carry out bombings. Now, he said, **women** must step up and fulfill their "obligations." He suggested male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

WTO upholds some U.S.

duties on Canadian lumber

GENEVA - A World Trade Organization appeals panel gave a boost to the United States on Monday, reversing most of an earlier ruling that said U.S. special duties on Canadian lumber were illegal.

Sharon: Golan is price of Syrian peace

The panel agreed with U.S. claims that lumber from state-owned lands in Canada can be unfairly subsidized if provincial governments sell the wood at below-market price. Therefore the United States has the right to impose extra duties to prevent cheap Canadian wood harming U.S. manufacturers, the panel said.

It stressed, however, that Washington would still have to carry out more extensive investigations before it could justify imposing duties on some imports of logs.

Dutch officials tell of

nuclear knowhow transfer

Two government ministers in the Netherlands acknowledged Monday that highly sensitive nuclear technology developed by a Dutch company may have been transferred to Libya and North Korea along with Iran and Pakistan.

The disclosure in Parliament in Amsterdam marked the first public confirmation of assertions that centrifuge technology for enriching uranium apparently found its way to Libya and North Korea. It was already known that Pakistan and Iran had the technology.

The Dutch officials, Foreign Minister Bernard Bot and Economic Affairs Minister Laurens-Jan Brinkhorst, said it was not clear how the technology had been transferred.

China warns Taiwan about

new wording on ballot

BEIJING - A senior Chinese official rejected the new wording of a referendum that Taiwan is planning to hold in March and warned Monday that it would push cross-strait tensions "to the brink of danger." But he did not say how China would respond if the island goes ahead with the vote.

The statement was the first by a Chinese leader on the subject since Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian, under U.S. pressure, announced Friday that he was changing the questions.

A seriously wounded Israeli soldier is rushed out of the hospital in Nahariya to be flown to a hospital in Haifa. One soldier was killed and two were wounded when Hezbollah attacked an Israeli bulldozer that was clearing land at the Lebanese border on Monday. Hezbollah said the bulldozer strayed into Lebanon; Israel said it didn't.

Graphic

PHOTO, Associated Press; A seriously wounded Israeli soldier is rushed out of the hospital in Nahariya to be flown to a hospital in Haifa.

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

LEADING ARTICLE: ISRAEL'S REPUTATION, SUICIDE BOMBERS AND THE DEATH OF A PEACE ACTIVIST

The Independent (London)

January 15, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: COMMENT; Pg. 18

Length: 654 words

Body

THE DEATH of the British peace activist Tom Hurndall will not, we may be reasonably sure, have much immediate impact on the policies of the Israeli government. It is, however, an event that will further damage Israel's image in the world.

For Mr Hurndall was no suicide bomber or al-Qa'ida agent. He was a member of the International Solidarity Movement, a Palestinian-led group that campaigns against Israeli occupation using non-violent methods. He was an unarmed civilian who was shot by an Israeli soldier during a disturbance at a Palestinian refugee camp.

The soldier has been arrested and ought now to be charged with murder. The way in which his case is conducted by the Israeli authorities will be an important matter. Mr Hurndall's family deserves justice. The Israeli government has said that it "views this tragic event with the utmost severity, and is acting to ensure that justice is served". They must be held to that.

The death of Tom Hurndall comes at a moment when, once again, Israel is re-examining its security. The latest suicide bombing, this time carried out by a female member of Hamas, killed four Israelis on the border with Gaza. It marks a new departure for Hamas: previously only secular Palestinian groups have used women in suicide attacks. The terrorists are clearly placing pragmatic considerations ahead of dogmatic ones. Israel has warned that it might tighten restrictions against Palestinians, already often oppressive: reprisal raids on Palestinian settlements by helicopter gunships may well follow, as they have so often in the past.

Yet the lesson of this suicide attack is that Israeli security cannot be guaranteed by border controls, harassment, revenge attacks or, indeed, the vast wall now being erected by Ariel Sharon's government across Palestinian territory. True, the incidence of terrorist attacks in Israel proper may well be reduced by such measures, although the probability is that the bombers will merely be diverted to less well-defended centres. However, the humiliation and disruption visited upon innocent Palestinians by an angry and hurt Israel have previously only served to increase the well of grievance and resentment that breeds terrorism.

The truth, as many Israelis acknowledge, is that Israeli security can only be attained by a lasting political settlement.

That, it is fair to add, is to say everything and nothing about the prospects for the region, as such a settlement requires painful compromises on both sides, and there is little sign of these being offered.

Every suicide bombing mission makes the possibility of Israeli co-operation that much less likely.

LEADING ARTICLE: ISRAEL 'S REPUTATION, SUICIDE BOMBERS AND THE DEATH OF A PEACE
ACTIVIST

But it is also true that every metre added to Mr Sharon's so called security fence puts back the chances of peace. It is a more or less blatant attempt to change the facts of political life on the ground in the occupied territories and effectively to impose a settlement, in the form of a physical border, regardless of what the Palestinians want or, indeed, the rest of the world may think.

Even President Bush has had to remind the Israeli government that their wall is a rather unhelpful contribution. And it is an international matter, given that it amounts to the unilateral creation of an international border. Legally and physically, the wall cannot be allowed to stand. Israel must come to terms with the Palestinians.

All of which is anathema to large sections of Israeli opinion, evidenced by the huge demonstration, involving 100,000 people, in Tel Aviv on Sunday night.

They were clear that Mr Sharon has given too much to the Palestinians already. Settlers have pledged to gather thousands of supporters to prevent the dismantling of even the small number of "unauthorised" settlements on the West Bank. Mr Sharon, strange to say, is regarded as "soft" by some Israelis. They do not fret about Israel's international reputation. The prospects for peace seem as remote as ever.

Load-Date: January 15, 2004

End of Document

Arafat's No. 2 Is Set to Assume Palestinian Leadership

The New York Times

November 7, 2004 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 16

Length: 1488 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Nov. 6

Body

Mahmoud Abbas wears a business suit, not a military uniform and kaffiyeh. He is a former elementary school teacher -- studious, gracious, pragmatic and opposed to terrorism. He is also tough enough to have been Yasir Arafat's No.2 for many years in the Palestine Liberation Organization, now becoming his probable successor.

In many ways, he was a crucial Arafat adviser, one of the few Palestinians who studied Israeli history and politics, even as some regarded him as a traitor for doing so. "He studies issues intellectually and then tries to draw political conclusions," said Yossi Beilin, an Israeli politician who negotiated with Mr. Abbas on the draft of a peace treaty.

Mr. Abbas has criticized this latest intifada openly as "a complete destruction of everything we built," having said in June, "We call upon all factions to end the attacks as we wish to take the path toward negotiation. We seek a dialogue that will bring calm."

Reluctantly, in March 2003, he accepted the new post of prime minister of the Palestinian Authority because Mr. Arafat and the United States wanted him to -- a vain effort by outsiders to dilute Mr. Arafat's power. Mr. Arafat, never a fool when power is at stake, undermined Mr. Abbas from the start, helped by the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, and Mr. Abbas quit in disgust four months later. He even quit the central committee of Fatah, Mr. Arafat's faction in the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A joke at the time has Mr. Arafat and Mr. Abbas in a car, and Mr. Arafat keeps warning him, "Watch out!" Finally, Mr. Abbas complains: "But you're driving!"

Now Mr. Arafat is apparently on his deathbed, and Mr. Abbas, who is also known as Abu Mazen, is moving into the driver's seat. He is placing the current prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, or Abu Ala, next to him.

It will be an enormous test for both, but it is Mr. Abbas, 69, who will be the most visible Palestinian leader -- and the one with the most clout, once he takes over, as expected, as the chairman of the P.L.O. and Fatah, its largest faction.

As decent and thoughtful as he is, Mr. Beilin warned, Mr. Abbas has strong views about the right of the Palestinians to share Jerusalem and about the fair treatment of Palestinian refugees from 1948. To secure his position, Mr. Abbas cannot appear to be weaker than Mr. Arafat on central questions of Palestinian identity and self-

Arafat's No. 2 Is Set to Assume Palestinian Leadership

respect. "Abu Mazen is good for the peace camps on both sides," Mr. Beilin said, "but don't expect him to be 'a moderate Palestinian' -- he's a pragmatic one."

Mr. Beilin says that Mr. Abbas will manage to secure stability. "He can work with people, his coalition with Abu Ala is very important as a coalition of the veterans," said Mr. Beilin, who met with Mr. Abbas recently. "They understand that if they don't unite, there will be big problems, so they invested in their ability to work together. It might look like a leadership for a short time, but who knows?"

Equally important, Mr. Abbas has his own channels to militant groups, especially **Hamas**, which is powerful in Gaza. When he was prime minister, he worked out a short-lived cease-fire with them and the Israelis. "**Hamas** respects Abu Mazen," Mr. Beilin said.

But **Hamas** has its own demands in the new collective leadership. It has been asking, at least in Gaza, for a monopoly on the education system, for a requirement that **women** wear veils and for autonomy in the mosques, so that the Palestinian Authority can no longer replace imams.

Those are the kinds of internal issues that Mr. Abbas will face, Western hopes for final peace settlements aside, and how he responds to them will be watched very closely by Palestinians and Israelis.

Mr. Abbas is not a natural politician, however. He is described by associates as easily offended, one reason that he stayed away from Palestinian politics, never becoming a legislator or a minister before the job of prime minister was invented and became his. It is also why he has no wider political or local base among ordinary Palestinians. He is respected as one of the founders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, even though, as some say, he came a little late -- "the fifth of four."

Mr. Abbas was an early Palestinian voice advocating negotiations with Israel and an eventual recognition of it. He initiated dialogue with Jewish and pacifist movements in the 1970's, pushed for a two-state solution, coordinated negotiations at the Madrid conference and headed the Palestinian delegation in secret talks with the Israelis and Mr. Beilin that led to the 1993 Oslo accords.

In fact, Mr. Abbas was the Palestinian who signed the accords on behalf of the P.L.O., as well as an interim agreement with Israel in 1995. He and Mr. Beilin also drafted a framework for a final status agreement in October 1995, although its existence was denied for five years.

He returned to the Palestinian territories in 1995 after 48 years in exile. Born in Safed, a town that is now part of northern Israel, on March 26, 1935, he left as a refugee in 1948 for Syria and became a teacher. He has a law degree from Damascus University and a Ph.D. in history from the Oriental College in Moscow. It was there that he studied the contacts between the Zionist movement and the Nazis, and later published the view, since recanted, that the Nazis killed "only a few hundred thousand Jews."

Mr. Abbas is married and had three grown sons, though the eldest, Mazen, died of a heart attack at age 42. Mr. Abbas himself has survived a bout with prostate cancer.

As prime minister, he was undermined by Mr. Arafat, who refused, as he has to this day, to hand over control of the various Palestinian security services to the prime minister or to allow them to be reorganized.

Mr. Abbas was also undermined by Mr. Sharon, who negotiated slowly with him over confidence-building measures like the release of Palestinian prisoners. In the end, Mr. Sharon carried out a prisoner swap with Hezbollah, the militant group based in Lebanon, and its leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, who is sworn to Israel's destruction, that dwarfed anything Mr. Abbas achieved and created significant bitterness in the Palestinian leadership.

"Had Israel given Abu Mazen, on the issue of prisoners, what it gave its sworn enemy, Hezbollah, many things might have looked different," Zeev Schiff wrote Friday in Haaretz. Had Mr. Sharon given Mr. Abbas, "as a gesture, part of what he is willing to give away free of charge perhaps to **Hamas**, in the Gaza disengagement plan, that would have breathed life into Abu Mazen's chances," Mr. Schiff continued.

Arafat's No. 2 Is Set to Assume Palestinian Leadership

Only three months ago, Mr. Beilin said, Mr. Abbas told him, "Had he gotten the number of prisoners and the quality that Nasrallah got from Sharon, and had the idea of Gaza withdrawal been suggested to him, he would have remained prime minister."

Mr. Beilin said, "A lot depends on the good will of Israel, and whether we want to help the moderate leadership or not. We didn't before." The point is not to embrace Mr. Abbas and Mr. Qurei, which would damage them, but to talk to them in public, something Mr. Sharon has always refused to do with Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Sharon's adviser, Raanan Gissin, said Israel is aware of the opportunities. "Down the road at least there's some reason for hope," he said. "We won't do anything to hamper or torpedo any emerging leader who wants to change the course. A new Palestinian leadership must begin to deal with terrorism. Terrorists can't continue to rule the streets, and this tiger has to be put back into a cage. If a new leadership can make even a partial effort, we can resume dialogue, both on Gaza withdrawal and on the road map," which lays out steps for a peaceful settlement.

"We will give a new leadership more than a period of grace," Mr. Gissin added. "We will show restraint, and we believe they'll respond in kind. But they need to make a departure from the heritage of Arafat, of terrorism, of hatred and incitement that leads to suicide bombers. They have to extract the poison. It's a process, and slow, but it has to start."

As for Mr. Abbas's complaints about Mr. Sharon, Mr. Gissin said, "Well, it's easier to put the blame on Israel than on the one who delegitimized him, Arafat."

Hisham Ahmad, a political scientist at Bir Zeit University, is skeptical about Mr. Abbas's ability to win credibility from Palestinians. "Arafat was down-to-earth, a people's leader, and while there are many other talented Palestinians, talent is not sufficient for leadership."

Whatever Mr. Abbas and Mr. Qurei try to project, Mr. Ahmad said, "none of them can fill a modicum of the role he played internally, in the region and in the world at large." As for the Israelis, "they will realize that whether they liked Arafat or not, no other Palestinian leader even in the medium term can deliver a balanced solution as Arafat could have done."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Mahmoud Abbas, the former Palestinian prime minister, at a news conference yesterday at Yasir Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah. (Photo by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

Load-Date: November 7, 2004

Saudi school denies radicalism Proximity to D.C. worries critics

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 19, 2005, Thursday

Copyright 2005 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P5C

Length: 732 words

Byline: Matthew Barakat The Associated Press

Body

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - The Islamic Saudi Academy is seen by some as a dangerous outpost of militant Islam on the outskirts of the nation's capital. And as evidence, they point to the school's 1999 valedictorian, who is charged with joining al-Qaida and plotting to assassinate President Bush.

But teachers, students and administrators at the school - which serves nearly 1,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade at two campuses just beyond the Capital Beltway - say such suspicions are unfounded.

"These kids are not drilled in any kind of fanatical Islam," said Matt McClusky, who has taught American literature at the school for three years and is leaving to enroll in the New York Police Department training academy. "The kids are led to be open-minded."

On a recent day at the school, most of the female students wore a traditional Muslim headscarf, but many did not. In one student essay on display, a youngster listed his favorite book as the Quran; another essay was about a student's favorite TV program - the gross-out reality show "Fear Factor." A student's artwork showed the emblems of the three Abrahamic faiths - the Muslim crescent, the cross and the star of David.

The school was founded in 1984, primarily to serve children of the Saudi diplomatic corps. Today the student body is more diverse, with nearly three dozen countries represented, but much of the funding still comes from the Saudi government.

In recent years, the academy has been at the center of debate over the religious curriculum in Saudi schools and whether it fosters radicalism.

Those questions resurfaced when former valedictorian Ahmed Omar Abu Ali was charged in February. Abu Ali pleaded not guilty and argues that Saudi authorities extracted a false confession from him through torture.

Two other people connected to the academy have turned up in terrorism-related cases: A federal indictment in Chicago last year named a former treasurer of the school, Ismael Selim Elbarasse, as a high-ranking official of the militant group Hamas, though Elbarasse was not charged with a crime. Mohamed Osman Idris, an ISA graduate, pleaded guilty in 2002 to lying on a passport application after an investigation into whether he was supporting Hamas.

Frustrated by outsiders' perceptions of the school, academy officials say that two-thirds of the school's teachers are Americans and non-Muslims and would not work there if it promoted anti-Western propaganda.

Saudi school denies radicalism Proximity to D.C. worries critics

Also, with students from across the Muslim world, with a variety of religious and cultural traditions, it would be impossible to promote Wahhabism - a fundamentalist Saudi form of Islam that has influenced extremists - or any other specific strain, they say.

The school's director general, Abdalla I. Al-Shabnan, said some of the religious curriculum that comes from Saudi Arabia is actually toned down at the academy.

"If there is anything in our curriculum that we feel is offensive, we ask the teachers not to teach that kind of subject here," Al-Shabnan said.

School officials cited a textbook for first-graders that contains a notation in the teachers' edition instructing teachers to ensure "explaining that all religions, other than Islam, are false, including that of the Jews, Christians and all others." School officials said teachers were told to disregard that characterization.

"To say the other religions are false is totally absurd," particularly in instructions to first-graders, said the school's education director, David Kovalik.

But Ali Al-Ahmed, director of the Saudi Institute, a think tank that is critical of the Saudi regime, said it is difficult to believe that any amount of revision can salvage the Saudis' religious curriculum. "It's very clear what they teach," he said.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., has asked the Justice Department to investigate the school, saying in a letter, "The continued association of the ISA with individuals linked to terror within the United States must be addressed."

The Justice Department told Schumer it could not comment on whether the school was under investigation.

Abdullah Hijazi, a senior from Mitchellville, Md., said he and other students have not been exposed to extremism in the classroom. At the same time, he said, most of the students have access to the Arab media.

But as for the Sept. 11 attacks, Al-Shabnan said: "Our religion was hijacked by a group of people who do not represent Islam."

Load-Date: May 20, 2005

CLERIC AND AIDE GUILTY OF TERROR FINANCING

Daily News (New York)

March 11, 2005 Friday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 271 words

Byline: BY JOHN MARZULLI and BILL HUTCHINSON DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Body

A YEMENI CLERIC who boasted of being Osama Bin Laden's "personal sheik" was convicted yesterday of plotting in Brooklyn to help finance Al Qaeda and Hamas.

A Brooklyn federal jury found Sheik Mohammed Ali Hassan Al-Moayad and his assistant, Mohammed Zayed, guilty of conspiring to support the two terror groups.

"Today's convictions mark another important step in our war on terrorism," said U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

After hearing the verdict, the 56-year-old sheik and Zayed, 31, erupted in angry protest.

"I want another lawyer," Zayed yelled in Arabic as U.S. marshals rushed him and the sheik from the packed courtroom.

Jurors, who deliberated five days, said a secretly recorded videotape of the defendants promising to funnel \$2.5 million raised in Brooklyn to terrorists weighed heavily on their decision.

"Nothing about Osama Bin Laden had anything to do with our decision," said a male juror, responding to defense claims that prosecutors exploited the panel's fears of terrorism by invoking Bin Laden's name.

"We mainly based it [the verdict] on the evidence we had," a female juror said.

FBI informant Mohamed Alanssi, who recorded the damning conversation in a German hotel room, also testified Al-Moayad told him he delivered \$20 million to Bin Laden. Alanssi testified after setting himself on fire last year in front of the White House.

Al-Moayad's attorney, William Goodman, blasted the verdict as "an injustice."

"Rather than cripple the cause of terrorism, a prosecution such as this can only strengthen those people in the world who wish to perpetrate terrorism," Goodman said.

CLERIC AND AIDE GUILTY OF TERROR FINANCING

jmarzulli@nydailynews.com

Load-Date: March 11, 2005

End of Document

Israel Frees 398 More Palestinian Prisoners

The New York Times

June 3, 2005 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 4; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 738 words

Byline: By CHRISTINE HAUSER

Dateline: HEBRON, West Bank, June 2

Body

Israel released 398 Palestinian prisoners on Thursday at checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza, from where they were transported to joyful reunions with family members and friends.

At Tarkumiya checkpoint in the Hebron area, 134 released prisoners boarded Palestinian buses for the trip to their homes. As they passed through a valley, the prisoners leaned out the windows, some flashing victory signs as they passed cheering crowds waving the flags of **Hamas** or Islamic Jihad. **Women** danced in the highway.

At Hebron, the vehicles stopped near plum and almond groves, and the prisoners, some disheveled and bearded, fell into the arms of Palestinians who came to greet them. Mothers cried and kissed their sons. One man, wearing a **Hamas** cap, cuddled an infant son born while he was in prison.

Several prisoners were carried on the shoulders of the crowd along dusty roads toward the city or nearby refugee camps, followed by Palestinians waving the green or black flags.

One former prisoner, Sabri Manasra, 40, wore a red beret over long hair and a bushy beard.

"For as long as I was in jail I had to maintain the nature of a revolutionary," he said. Mr. Manasra said he had been in a Palestinian Authority force that fired on Israeli soldiers in their raids into Hebron in 2002.

"This prisoner release will not satisfy the Palestinian people," he said. "Behind the thousands of Palestinians still in jail there are thousands of relatives."

At their first meeting in Sharm el Sheik, Egypt, in February, shortly after Mahmoud Abbas took over as president of the Palestinian Authority, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon promised that Israeli would free 900 prisoners.

The first 500 were freed later that month, but the release of the others was delayed after a Palestinian bomb attack in Tel Aviv killed at least four Israelis on Feb. 25 and because of Israeli complaints about the failure of the Palestinians to disarm wanted men in cities under their control.

Only 398 of 400 prisoners were released, because one wanted to finish his academic exams in prison, and the other wanted to serve his full sentence because his brother was also in prison, an Israeli Army official said.

Israel Frees 398 More Palestinian Prisoners

Mr. Sharon has been under pressure from the United States to do more to support Mr. Abbas, but a Palestinian spokesman and the prisoners themselves said Israel should do more.

Palestinians are eager for the release of some of the 360 longer-term prisoners jailed before the 1993 Oslo accords that set up the Palestinian Authority. About 7,000 Palestinians are in Israeli custody.

"Such a step today is not enough, politically speaking," said the Palestinian minister for prisoners, Sufian Abu Zaydeh.

Mr. Sharon said this week that the release was intended to support Mr. Abbas and "moderate forces" in the Palestinian Authority and that none of the prisoners had "blood on their hands." It precedes a planned June 21 meeting of the two leaders.

Mr. Sharon wants to shore up public Palestinian backing for Mr. Abbas before the planned Israeli withdrawal of settlers from the Gaza Strip this summer.

An official in the Israeli prime minister's office, David Baker, said the Palestinians had to do more to thwart terror attacks.

"Israel released these prisoners in accordance with its commitments," he said, referring to the meeting in February at which Mr. Abbas and Mr. Sharon declared a truce.

Mr. Baker mentioned the arrest by the Israeli police of two Palestinians connected to the radical Islamic Jihad movement who are accused of planning a double suicide-bombing for Thursday on a bus and a club.

"This is vivid proof" that the Palestinian Authority should do more, he said. On Thursday, the army announced the arrest of at least six more men it said belonged to the same cell, and five in Idna, a village near Hebron, accused of agreeing to carry out suicide bombings, plan shooting attacks and kidnap soldiers.

The charges against the prisoners released Thursday included possessing weapons, plotting attacks and belonging to a prohibited organization.

In Idna, families of some the freed prisoners waited for their relatives on a dirt road near the highway. Women dressed in traditional embroidered robes sat in the shade of olive trees.

"When the Israelis release some prisoners, they just fill up the empty space in their jails with other Palestinians," said Fida Batran, who said she was waiting for her brother to be released.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Newly released Palestinian prisoners were greeted by family members and friends as they arrived at a West Bank checkpoint aboard a bus. (Photo by Alaa Badarneh/European Pressphoto Agency)

Load-Date: June 3, 2005

Does Outrage! have genuine concerns?;

Morning Star

June 12, 2004

Copyright 2004 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 8

Length: 272 words

Body

I DID notice Outrage! at the Palestine Solidarity Campaign rally, Tatchell and his glum chums with a placard saying: "Israel, stop oppressing the Palestinians; Palestine, stop oppressing queers."

It didn't amount to a counter-demonstration.

Nor did I either notice Muslims intimidating them or lesbians and gay men expressing opposition. So, what is behind these bickering letters (M Star May 29 & June 5)?

Israel's interrogators and torturers sometimes claim to have information of sexual impropriety on the part of their Palestinian captives. Usually women face this but sometimes men - allegations usually concern adultery, sometimes homosexuality. Occasionally, they get into the Israeli press and, from there, they may reach human rights circles in the West.

A few years ago, Gay Times got up a brouhaha alleging that the Palestine National Authority connived at the murder of gay men. In March, the Freethinker reported that Hamas tells women "disgraced" by sexual activity outside marriage to "purify" themselves by blowing themselves up along with a few Jews. Its source was Yediot Aharanot, roughly the Israeli equivalent of the Daily Mail.

On June 2 1997, the secretary-general of the PNA Cabinet issued a statement that "neither the PLO nor the PNA discriminate . . . against gays and lesbians, " a statement made, no doubt, more in hope than in truth, but giving nonetheless the opportunity to raise genuine human rights concerns with PNA representatives.

Does Outrage! have genuine concerns or did they turn up on May 15 only to publicise themselves and help out the Israeli propaganda machine?

BOB DEACON Wolverhampton

Load-Date: June 16, 2004

Christians, Muslims and Jews united in tribute

The Times (London)

April 4, 2005, Monday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 5

Length: 761 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Bethlehem

Body

Never has the death of a Pope elicited so much praise from other faiths, uniting Christians, Jews, Muslims and even atheists in mourning.

In the Holy Land, pilgrims, clergy and Palestinian worshippers packed churches.

Foreign tourists in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Nazareth sat in pews alongside Israeli Arab and Palestinian Christians to pay their last respects.

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, called the Pope "a great religious figure who devoted his life to defending the values of peace, freedom, justice and equality for all races and religions, as well as our people's right to independence".

Even Islamic fundamentalist groups such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad joined in the chorus: "We remember the statements of His Holiness the Pope on the rights of the Palestinians, and we hope that the Vatican leadership will stick to his position against the occupation," Sami Abu Zohari, a **Hamas** spokesman, said.

In Pakistan, Hafiz Hussain Ahmed, of the Islamist Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal alliance, said the world had lost a man of peace. "George Bush's talk of a crusader war was a clear negation of Pope John Paul's efforts to promote interfaith dialogue and harmony," he said.

In Cairo the Arab League saluted the Pope by lowering flags at its headquarters to half-mast. Hossam Zaki, its spokesman, said the Pope had helped to avoid "unnecessary misunderstandings" between Christians and Muslims over Western government policies in the region.

President Khatami of Iran said the Islamic Republic had learned with "extreme sadness" of the Pope's death, saying that he commanded "the three paths of religious learning, philosophical thought and poetical and artistic creativity".

Communist Cuba hailed the Pope's commitment to the poor and rejection of unbridled capitalism, while China - displeased with the Vatican's recognition of Taiwan - offered condolences but pointedly expressed the hope that its ties to the Holy See would improve under his successor.

"We hope that the Vatican under the new pope will create conditions conducive to the improvement of relations with China," Liu Jianchao, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said.

Christians, Muslims and Jews united in tribute

News of the Pope's death spread slowly through Beijing, where people filled government-sanctioned churches, but state-run media released only a trickle of information. At the Southern Cathedral, Beijing's largest Catholic church, mourners sang hymns and clasped their hands in prayer, some clutching rosary beads. Others lined up to light red and yellow rose-shaped candles.

President Katsav of Israel said: "The Jewish people will remember the Pope, who bravely put an end to historic injustice by officially rejecting prejudices and accusations against Jews."

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader who met the Pope a month after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, was generous in his praise. "I think John Paul II had a huge impact on ending the Cold War," Mr Gorbachev said. "Today humanity has bid farewell to a great figure, an exceptional man."

But many Russians had harsh words about strained relations between the Catholic and Orthodox churches, a legacy of the great East-West Christian schism of 1054.

Although the Pope visited Orthodox countries such as Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia and Ukraine, he was not invited by the Russian Orthodox Patriarch, Alexiy II, who feared that Rome was trying to poach his followers.

CATHOLICS BY NUMBERS

Americas 541 million

Europe 282 million

Africa 143 million

Asia 113 million

Oceania 9 million

The top Catholic countries

Brazil 151.2 million

Mexico 93.6 million

Philippines 66.4 million

America 66.3 million

Italy 55.8 million

France 48 million

Spain 38.5 million

Poland 36.9 million

THE WORLD REMEMBERS

'Humanity will preserve an emotional memory of the tireless work of His Holiness John Paul II in favour of peace, justice and solidarity among all people' FIDEL CASTRO, PRESIDENT OF CUBA

'We remember that during the years of Afghanistan's occupation by the Soviet Union, the Pope raised his voice of support to the Afghan people' HAMID KARZAI, PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN

Christians, Muslims and Jews united in tribute

'He waged a ceaseless war against the human rights of women and gay people; opposing the right of women to control their own fertility; blocking women's equality in the Church; and endorsing state-sponsored discrimination against lesbians and gay men' PETER TATCHELL, GAY RIGHTS CAMPAIGNER

'He always had positive and just positions toward the rights of the Palestinian people' AHMED QUREIA, PRIME MINISTER OF PALESTINE

'This news touches me greatly' WAMIBH YUHANA, CHRISTIAN IN IRAQ

Load-Date: April 29, 2005

End of Document

It was a massacre - not a killing

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 8, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A28; Letter

Length: 248 words

Body

The second paragraph of your front-page article "Party rejects Sharon's plan" (Gazette, May 3) read "Palestinian attack kills a Gaza settler and her four children." If this is a killing, when does The Gazette use the term "massacre," or is this a term reserved only for Israeli reprisals? The Gazette

A few months ago, a Gazette editorial criticized the CBC for not calling terrorists what they really are. Isn't murdering a 34-year pregnant mother, her 2-year-old baby and her three young daughters ages 7, 9 and 11 an act of terror?

Calling these butchers "Palestinian gunmen" speaks volumes regarding the quality of The Gazette's reporting. It's not as if The Gazette does not know better, as it identified the murderers as members of the terrorist groups Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Finally, you keep referring to Sheikh Yassin as the founder and spiritual leader of Hamas. He was the founding member of the terrorist group, but shouldn't the term "spiritual leader" be reserved for people like the Dalai Lama, Gandhi or the pope?

What spiritual leader sends young men to kill pregnant women, babies and children? What kind of spiritual leader encourages the children of his own people to become suicide bombers and to kill other innocent children - acts forbidden by all religions, including Islam?

Good journalism begins with the precise use of correct language.

Amos Sochaczewski

Chair, B'nai Brith Institute for International Affairs

Load-Date: May 8, 2004

Israel 'not shedding any tears' for Arafat

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

November 15, 2004 Monday

National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 716 words

Byline: Stewart Bell, National Post

Body

National Post reporter Stewart Bell, author of *Cold Terror*, a bestselling study of international terrorism, talks to Israelis about the man they consider the biggest terrorist of all.

- - -

JERUSALEM - Sipping coffee at a bakery in downtown Jerusalem yesterday, Reut Mirom shuddered when she recalled that it was at this spot three years ago that a Palestinian terrorist strolled in during lunch hour and detonated a bomb.

Fifteen people were killed, seven of them children, and so when Ms. Mirom was asked what she thought of Yasser Arafat's death, her response was understandably different from the celebratory words of his mourners around the world.

"He had the talent to be a leader, he was charismatic," said the social worker, sitting at the window of what used to be the Sbarro Pizzeria but reopened after the bombing as a bakery and coffee shop, "but he was unfair to his people and unfair to us."

Around the corner on Ben Yehuda Street, where a plaque marks the site of another suicide bombing that killed 11, storekeeper Haim Ben Ezra was less diplomatic.

Three days after he died in a Paris hospital, Mr. Arafat has received a grand send-off in France, a state funeral in Egypt and a raucous homecoming in Ramallah, and countries around the world have sent their condolences.

But in Jerusalem, Israelis have not forgotten that Mr. Arafat was the terrorist leader who made their lives miserable for so many years and caused them so much grief and sorrow. And while Israelis have not celebrated his death, they are not shedding any tears.

"Naturally, we are not sorry of his death, we are sorry about the thousands who have been murdered by him -- for them, for their families, for the tens of thousands who have been injured by all the organizations of terror that he created," said Meir Indor of Israel's Terror Victims Association.

Israel 'not shedding any tears' for Arafat

While Mr. Arafat has been eulogized as a great leader and courageous guerrilla who brought the Palestinian cause to world attention, Israelis know better than most that he did so partly by orchestrating high-profile acts of terrorist violence, and later by failing to rein in terror factions such as Hamas.

"He based his political career on killing people -- women, children, old people -- and when we see the funeral, the crowd that was going after him, what a pity," Mr. Indor said. "He is a father of evil. His legacy was the thousands of people who have been killed."

Judith Dasberg said she was disappointed that Mr. Arafat had died of natural causes because she wanted him put on trial. "He is a murderer, he is a terrorist," the former Toronto resident said. "All that he knew was to kill Jews, that's what he did."

Ms. Dasberg's daughter Effi Unger, 25, and son-in-law Yaron, 26, were driving with their baby in 1996 when Hamas gunmen opened fire at the car. The Ungers were killed but the baby, then nine months, was shielded from the bullets by his mother.

"They just saw that they were Jews and they shot at them, 50 bullets," she said. Ms. Dasberg has raised the boy and his brother, now ages 9 and 10, ever since. The man behind the shooting later blew himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe.

Ms. Dasberg blames Mr. Arafat but also her own government, which she said made a decisive mistake when it allowed Mr. Arafat to return to the Palestinian territories from exile in Tunisia in 1994. She had hoped the government might one day redeem itself by prosecuting him, but now it is too late.

"The fact that he died before being executed denied for us the option to correct the wrongdoing," Ms. Dasberg said.

An item on the front page of yesterday's Jerusalem Post summed up the mood in the city: "The man killed my son," said the headline above a column by Stewart Weiss, whose 21-year-old son was gunned down by Islamic Jihad members.

"The real Arafat, the Arafat beyond the hype and the hyperbole, can most clearly be seen through the prism of all the tragedies over which he presided, all the orphaned children and widowed wives and grieving mothers he leaves in his wake," he wrote.

Many Israel fear that another like Arafat, such as the jailed Marwan Barghouti, might take control

At the coffee shop where 15 died, Ms. Mirom paraphrased the Bible to make her point: "When your enemy shall fall, you shall not be glad because another will come."

Load-Date: November 15, 2004

SINGER APPEALS TO KIDNAP PERS TO SHOW MERCY

Daily Post (North Wales)

September 27, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd

Section: NW Merseyside Edition; NEWS; Pg. 4; Newspaper

Length: 271 words

Body

SINGER Cat Stevens has urged Ken Bigley's militant Islamic kidnap pers to show mercy to their captive "in the name of Allah".

The star, who converted to Islam and changed his name to Yusuf Islam in the 1970s, has written an open letter to the ruthless hostage-takers, begging them to release the 62-year-old.

His call is the latest in a series of efforts to free the Liverpool engineer, including emotional appeals by Mr Bigley's family, Christian and Muslim leaders, and a British Muslim delegation to Baghdad.

The singer's letter, dated September 24 and released via the British Embassy in Baghdad, reads "As a member of the Muslim Council, I request you, in the name of Allah, the Rahman, to release the British citizen, Ken Bigley, for the good name of our religion and according to the sayings of Allah. "

Since their capture, gruesome video footage of the beheadings of Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley, who were seized with him, has been broadcast on the internet.

The Tawhid and Jihad group threatened to murder all three unless female prisoners were released from Iraqi prisons.

The singer hit the headlines this week after being detained and questioned by the FBI after his Washington-bound flight was diverted on Tuesday. He was then returned to the UK.

It later emerged the London-born star's name was spelled incorrectly on a "watch list" and was refused entry to the US because of fears he had financially supported the terrorist group Hamas, a claim he denied.

The move by the Americans sparked a protest to the US government by Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, and angered Muslim groups on both sides of the Atlantic.

Load-Date: September 27, 2004

Barghouti Pulls Out of Race For Palestinian Presidency

The New York Times

December 13, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 16

Length: 1224 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE; Taghreed el-Khodary contributed reporting from Gaza for this article.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Dec. 12

Body

The imprisoned leader of the Palestinian uprising, Marwan Barghouti, withdrew from the Palestinian presidential race on Sunday. His decision removes any serious challenge to Mahmoud Abbas in the Jan. 9 vote for a successor to Yasir Arafat as head of the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Abbas, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and a critic of the uprising, was in Kuwait on Sunday, where he apologized for Palestinian support for Saddam Hussein after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Elsewhere on Sunday, in the deadliest Palestinian attack in more than a month, at least four Israeli soldiers were killed and eight wounded when explosives packed inside a tunnel caused two huge blasts at a border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip. The blast was aimed at soldiers who check Palestinians traveling to and from Egypt.

Until the bombing, one Israeli had been killed since Mr. Arafat's death on Nov. 11, and both Israelis and Palestinians had been talking about the possibility of renewed dialogue after four years of fighting.

"These acts of terror show that there are Palestinians who want to miss this opportunity to normalize relations," said Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon. "We will go after those responsible, but we are not going to undertake a major offensive."

Israel says it will not disrupt the Palestinian election next month, but tensions have been rising in recent days, particularly in Gaza.

The fiery and charismatic Mr. Barghouti, 45, had posed the only serious threat to Mr. Abbas, 69, a former prime minister and longtime associate of Mr. Arafat.

But both Mr. Barghouti and Mr. Abbas belong to the dominant Fatah movement, which was founded by Mr. Arafat. Fatah leaders and many ordinary Palestinians feared that Mr. Barghouti's candidacy would splinter Fatah as well as the Palestinian public.

Mr. Barghouti waged an on-again-off-again campaign from his prison cell in the southern Israeli town of Beersheba, delivering messages through visiting colleagues and his wife, Fadwa. He had at first said he would not run in order to preserve Palestinian unity. Then, on Dec. 1, he declared his candidacy, instantly turning the election into a genuine contest.

Barghouti Pulls Out of Race For Palestinian Presidency

With opinion polls showing Mr. Barghouti and Mr. Abbas in a tight race, Fatah leaders were stepping up pressure on Mr. Barghouti to pull out, and he relented.

"I again reaffirm my support and solidarity with brother Mahmoud Abbas," Mr. Barghouti said in a statement read by his campaign manager, Ahmed Ghanem, in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "He's a big brother and dear friend, and a capable man for the presidency in the Palestinian Authority. I wish him success in his mission."

Mr. Barghouti is regarded as a central figure in the Palestinian uprising that began four years ago. He was arrested by Israel in 2002, and was convicted in May this year of involvement in the killings of five Israelis. He has been sentenced to five life terms.

Mr. Abbas still faces seven other candidates, but none is receiving significant support, according to several opinion polls released last week.

In Gaza, meanwhile, Hamas, the Islamic movement that has carried out dozens of bombings, claimed joint responsibility with a group called the Fatah Hawks for the attack on Sunday. The latter group is an offshoot of Fatah and carried out attacks during the first Palestinian uprising in the late 1980's, but had seemed to have disappeared.

The attackers burrowed for several hundred yards and placed more than a ton and a half of explosives beneath the Israeli checkpoint, Hamas said. Almost simultaneous blasts were detonated under two Israeli positions, and Palestinian assailants followed up with a barrage of mortars and automatic rifle fire, the Israeli military said. One Palestinian attacker was killed and another escaped, Hamas said.

Television film showed Israeli flares lighting up the nighttime sky over Rafah, the scene of heavy fighting throughout the past four years.

Israel closed the border crossing for about three weeks last summer, saying it had information that Palestinians were digging a tunnel for a planned attack.

Palestinians and human rights groups complained about the Israeli decision to close the crossing at the time. Some 2,000 Palestinians heading home to Gaza, including many women and children, were forced to sleep outdoors, or in tents on the Egyptian side of the border until it reopened.

"In August, we had warnings about exactly this kind of attack, and we came under criticism for closing the border," said Capt. Jacob Dallal.

Palestinians did carry out a similar attack on June 27, setting off a powerful explosion in a long tunnel that reached beneath an Israeli military post in southern Gaza. That blast, a few miles to the north of the explosion on Sunday, killed one Israeli soldier and wounded five.

Palestinians have frequently burrowed under the Gaza border to smuggle weapons from Egypt, and this has prompted the Israelis to stage frequent raids into Rafah. Israel has uncovered close to 100 tunnels in the past four years, and has destroyed hundreds of Palestinian homes, leaving thousands homeless.

Mr. Abbas made his apology to Kuwait on Sunday as the leader of the first official Palestinian delegation to Kuwait in more than a decade.

The visit was part of a series of fence-mending trips to Arab countries that had extremely tense relations with Mr. Arafat.

Asked about the Palestinian support for Iraq in 1990, Mr. Abbas said, "Yes, we apologize for what we have done," The Associated Press reported from Kuwait City.

After Iraq's invasion, Mr. Arafat openly sided with Mr. Hussein, a move that greatly angered Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other wealthy gulf nations that had provided considerable financial support to the Palestinians over the years.

Barghouti Pulls Out of Race For Palestinian Presidency

When the American-led coalition drove out the Iraqi forces in 1991, Kuwaitis vented their anger against the 450,000 Palestinians living and working in their country. Some were assaulted, and most were eventually expelled or pressured to leave.

Mr. Arafat, who had worked in Kuwait as a young man, never again visited the country or reclaimed his former stature in the gulf region. But as the years passed, Kuwait and other gulf states did provide some assistance to the Palestinians through pan-Arab and international organizations.

Kuwait's prime minister, Sheik Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, said the dispute with the Palestinians was over. But some Kuwaiti lawmakers said Mr. Abbas should have gone further.

"We want an official apology in an official statement," one legislator, Mussalam al-Baarak, was quoted by The A.P. as saying.

Mr. Abbas's stop in Kuwait followed visits to Lebanon and Syria.

No senior Palestinian figure had visited Lebanon since Mr. Arafat and his P.L.O. fighters were driven out by invading Israeli forces in 1982. Many Lebanese accused the P.L.O. of fueling the Lebanese civil war.

In Syria last Monday, Mr. Abbas was received by President Bashar al-Assad, who, according to Mr. Abbas, was "very receptive" to upgrading relations.

Mr. Assad's father, the late president Hafez al-Assad, had difficult relations with Mr. Arafat. They had a major falling out over the 1993 interim peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, which the elder Mr. Assad staunchly opposed.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Supporters of Marwan Barghouti yesterday with copies of the statement that he would not run for office. (Photo by Atef Safadi/European Pressphoto Agency)

The P.L.O. chairman, Mahmoud Abbas, yesterday with the Kuwaiti information minister, Muhammad Abu al-Hassan, right. (Photo by Raed Qutena/European Pressphoto Agency)

Load-Date: December 13, 2004

Missile-carrying Israeli choppers pound suspected weapons factory

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

July 31, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A8; News

Length: 267 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

GAZA CITY (AP) -- Israeli helicopters launched a missile attack in Gaza City against a suspected weapons workshop Friday, in a building owned by the family of a female suicide bomber.

Medics at the scene said at least two people were injured.
Associated Press

One missile slammed into the three-story building, sending a huge fireball high over the city. A second missile failed to explode.

The Israeli military said the building in the Zeitoun district of Gaza was a bomb factory that produced explosives for the Hamas terrorist organization. Palestinian officials said it was a small factory that produced car batteries.

Israeli helicopters continued hovering over the site as ambulances raced to the scene. But the building was empty at the time of the strike, and two bystanders were treated at the site for minor wounds.

The target was on the middle floor of the building that belonged to the family of Reem Raiyshi, a 22-year-old mother of two who killed herself in an attack last January at the Erez Crossing, the checkpoint between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

In a separate incident, Palestinians shot four rockets at an Israeli town Friday, hours after Israel's army expanded an operation in the northern Gaza Strip.

Before daybreak, Israeli troops moved to the outskirts of Beit Lahiya, a town near Gaza's northern edge, residents said. Soon afterward terrorists fired four Qassam rockets across the border into Israel.

Two of the homemade rockets landed in residential areas of the town of Sderot, causing panic but no injuries, an army spokesman said. He said two more rockets hit open areas.

Load-Date: July 31, 2004

SAS lauded

Townsville Bulletin/Townsville Sun (Australia)

June 10, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 304 words

Body

THE Special Air Service was commended at a special ceremony yesterday. Governor-General Michael Jeffery praised the SAS for consistently "outfighting, outsmarting and overwhelming" its enemy in Iraq. The Governor-General presented 1 SAS Squadron with the first-ever Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry in a ceremony at Perth's Campbell Barracks.

Minister quits

JERUSALEM -- Ariel Sharon's government faced new turmoil yesterday after the leader of one of his coalition partners quit the Israeli cabinet in protest at the prime minister's Gaza pullout plan. The move came as helicopter gunships attacked a suspected **Hamas** weapons workshop in Gaza City.

Lightning hits

PESHAWAR -- A lightning bolt struck a home in a remote area in northwest Pakistan, killing six people and injuring three others, police said yesterday. The bolt hit the home of Usmani Zar in the village of Ghan Shan in North West Frontier province late on Tuesday, killing his four grandsons and two **female** relatives, said Mohammed Iqbal Khan, a local police official.

Facing recall

CARACAS -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez will face a recall referendum on August 15 that could lead to an election for a new president a month later if he is defeated. National Electoral Council president Francisco Carrasquero said the body had ruled voters could go to the ballot box in August to challenge Mr Chavez, a former army officer accused by his opponents of edging Venezuela toward communism.

Building falls

DHAKA -- A six-storey apartment building collapsed early yesterday in the Bangladesh capital, killing at least 11 people and injuring several others. About 25 people were feared trapped inside, rescuers said. Some 60 people were asleep in the brick and cement building in Dhaka's impoverished Shakhribazar district when some of the lower apartments crumbled.

Load-Date: June 10, 2004

SAS lauded

End of Document

TERROR AS KIDS KILLED IN REVENGE RAIDS ON CAMPS

The Express

March 8, 2004

Copyright 2004 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 302 words

Byline: By Greg Swift

Body

A SHELL explodes among Palestinians as Israeli forces raid two Gaza refugee camps killing 14 people, among them three children.

Yesterday's raids followed an attack by Palestinian militants on Israeli soldiers at Gaza's border.

Israel said 10 of the dead were gunmen - nine from the Islamist terror group **Hamas**. Hospital medics said the rest were civilians, including three boys.

Seventy-two Palestinians were hurt, many of them teenagers who threw stones and petrol bombs. The Israelis suffered no casualties.

Violence has escalated in the Gaza Strip since Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced a unilateral plan last month to evacuate Jewish settlers from occupied areas of the territory.

Analysts say militants are keen to bloody Israelis as much as possible beforehand to portray any pullout as their victory.

Under cover of darkness, dozens of armoured vehicles joined the sweep for militants in the teeming Nusseirat and alBureij camps in central Gaza.

Tanks and troops backed by helicopters fought militants armed with assault rifles and rocket launchers.

"Soldiers blasted their way into our housing block at 4am, " said Mahmoud Abu Hujair, a father of three. "They turned our roof into a base to battle gunmen. **Women** and children were screaming. The building was heavily damaged."

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie's cabinet denounced the raids as "state terror against our people" which undermined calls for a mutual ceasefire and revival of a USbacked "road map" peace plan.

An Israeli army spokesman said the raids were to "pinpoint" pre-emptive strikes against "terror groups" who had been escalating attacks on Jewish settlements in Gaza and border areas for months. Israel blames the peacemaking impasse on the Palestinian Authority's failure to subdue militants opposed to the road map.

Load-Date: March 8, 2004

TERROR AS KIDS KILLED IN REVENGE RAIDS ON CAMPS

End of Document

Rocket Attack at Israeli Kindergarten Kills Boy and Man

The New York Times

June 29, 2004 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 1078 words

Byline: By JOSEPH BERGER

Dateline: SEDEROT, Israel, Tuesday, June 29

Body

Palestinian rockets killed two people on Monday just yards from a small kindergarten building in this town on the edge of the Gaza Strip: a 3-year-old boy on his way to the kindergarten with his mother, and a 50-year-old Bukharan immigrant from the former Soviet Union sitting on a sidewalk bench nearby.

The deaths were the first in Israel caused by a Qassam rocket fired from the strip, and the first civilian killings in Israel proper by Palestinians in almost three months.

For the past three years the people here have lived with the persistent shock of rocket attacks from Gaza, more than 200 of them, but they have withstood them because the notoriously crude rockets have fallen harmlessly in fields or backyards.

But now, residents said, they are wrestling with what the deaths mean for their future here.

"I didn't feel anything until today," said Chana Melul, 40, a mother of three who rushed to the one-story stucco kindergarten building called Garden of Lilacs to see what had happened. "You think about the children and you care more."

Residents along the quiet residential street wondered whether Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, just a couple of miles away, would increase their exposure to such deadly attacks or ease the assaults by bringing a measure of peace.

They also questioned why they lived in so vulnerable a spot. But Mrs. Melul and others quickly added that there was nowhere in Israel that was not vulnerable.

Some contended that Israelis had to face up to the fact that the rockets -- long steel-pipe missiles cobbled together in workshops by the militant group ***Hamas*** with fertilizer-based payloads of 20 pounds and ranges of up to six miles -- have become more powerful and accurate. But others said the attacks demanded an increased effort for peace.

"This has been my life for the past three years," said Martine Simone, 44, who was talking emotionally in the kindergarten's playground with parents and other residents. "I love my country and I don't have a choice but to live here. But I'm prepared to give up things for peace."

Rocket Attack at Israeli Kindergarten Kills Boy and Man

Mostly there was sorrow in a town of 24,000 that was started 50 years ago to absorb immigrants coming to Israel from Morocco, Algeria and other North African countries and that today is also absorbing immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Five rockets struck Monday, the Israeli Army said, including one near a college and the one that fell just yards from the kindergarten, a stucco one-story building for 35 children.

The slain boy, Afik Zahavi, was late for school, said Simcha Revivo, a teacher, and so was outside when the rocket hit at 8:10, leaving a gash in the street 15 feet from the kindergarten and shattering cars, windows and a stone wall.

Ms. Revivo said she had heard the blast, rushed the children into a small shelter, then had peeked outside and seen the mother, Ruthie Zahavi, lying on her back embracing her son, who was lying on her stomach. She said his right arm had been severed, though other witnesses said the boy had lost a leg.

The mother and her son were taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he died and where she remains in critical condition. The dead man was identified as Mordechai Yossepov, 50, a father of two and grandfather, who had been waiting outside the kindergarten while his daughter, Albina, dropped off her child. Nine other people suffered shock or slight injuries.

"He was very sweet, intelligent boy," Ms. Revivo said, her voice choking. "He usually came in early in the morning, and he used to tell me stories of his father and his mother's nieces and nephews."

Ariel Cohen said Afik had often played computer games at his house with his 5-year-old daughter, May, also a pupil at the kindergarten. As Mr. Cohen spoke, May clung in fright to his leg. "I don't know how to say to my daughter that the little boy will not be coming back," he said.

What was nagging at many residents was the question of whether the boy's death could have been prevented had the town had an ambulance fully equipped for handling major trauma. Mayor Eli Moyal said he was furious at the government, because he had been appealing for such an ambulance and other emergency measures for years.

Hamas took responsibility for the attack, Israel radio reported. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has a farm just outside Sederot, met with top security officials on Monday afternoon.

Early Tuesday, Israeli tanks rolled into the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun, where it believed the Qassam rockets were launched. Reuters reported that a 25-year-old Palestinian man was killed in an exchange of gunfire. Israeli helicopters also struck a weapons workshop in central Gaza, where it said rockets are made, and a **Hamas**-linked media center on the third floor of a building in Gaza City.

Mr. Sharon also discussed responses to an attack the night before in which Staff Sgt. Roi Nissim, 20, from Rishon Lezion, was killed by explosives planted in a tunnel that was dug under the Army's Orhan outpost in Gush Qatif.

Late on Monday, the army blew up two abandoned eight-story apartment buildings in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis, adjacent to Gush Qatif. Military officials said the buildings had been used to conceal the burrowing of the tunnel to the Ohran outpost.

Israel responded to the Sunday attack with two missile strikes in Gaza City. One hit a metal workshop, Palestinian officials said.

Zalman Shoval, an adviser to Mr. Sharon, said Israel would proceed according to its timetable with Mr. Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza, but added, "Whatever the political developments, this will not prevent us from acting forcefully before, during and after withdrawal from whatever place they emanate."

The two victims of the attack on Sederot were buried late Monday in the town's bucolic cemetery. The boy's father, Itzik Ochayon of Beersheba, had to be held up by relatives as his son's small, cloth-draped body was lowered into a grave among the town's other dead children.

Rocket Attack at Israeli Kindergarten Kills Boy and Man

Before the funeral, the father said in an interview with Israel radio that Afik was "a wonderful child, an only child that came to me after 15 years."

"That's what God wanted," he said. "After 15 years he came, and that's it -- he is already not with me."

The country, he said, needs to do more to protect its children. "Who is guarding our children?" he asked. "There is nobody to guard them. And the children, they are our future."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Three **women** sitting in the yard of the Garden of Lilacs kindergarten after Palestinian rockets launched from the Gaza Strip nearby killed a 3-year-old pupil on his way to school and a 50-year-old man. (Photo by Reuters)

Mourners at the funeral of Afik Zahavi watched yesterday as the child was placed in his grave. (Photo by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)Map of Israel highlighting Sederot: Sederot, a town of 25,000, was traumatized by the attack.

Load-Date: June 29, 2004

End of Document

Thousands of Palestinians Flee Rafah Ahead of Battle

New York Sun (Archive)

May 18, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 773 words

Byline: By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Body

As Israel Defense Force troops and Palestinian gunmen prepared for battle in Rafah on the Egyptian border, thousands of Palestinian Arabs were leaving their homes ahead of what both sides have promised will be a fierce confrontation.

The first shots have already been fired as an IDF position in Rafah came under small-arms fire last night. [Israeli tanks cut off Rafah from the rest of Gaza last night, the Associated Press reported. Helicopters fired missiles at the camp hours later, killing at least seven people and wounding two dozen, residents said.]

While the current build-up marks the largest operation in the Gaza Strip in years, officials stressed that it in no way resembles Operation Defensive Shield in Judea and Samaria in April 2002.

"The plan is to launch a series of operations on the ground and in the air, where and when deemed necessary," a senior IDF officer said.

Troops are expected to encounter fierce resistance, with terrorist groups calling on their members to prepare for the battle.

Islamic Jihad announced a "general call-up" of all its fighters, plus reserves to face IDF troops preparing to enter the city, Israel's Channel 1 reported. Television footage showed groups of armed Palestinian men booby-trapping alleyways and buildings. Islamic Jihad spokespeople promised to turn Rafah into "a graveyard for the Israelis."

The IDF divided the Gaza Strip into four sections yesterday in order to prevent armed Palestinian Arabs from passing from Khan Younis into Rafah and to prevent fugitives from escaping from Rafah into other areas.

The division is also aimed at preventing the passage of weapons from one section of the Gaza Strip to the other.

Blockades have been erected from the northern to the central Gaza Strip and from the center to the south. IDF officers said that the army is expecting a tough battle, with troops fighting house-to-house in search for Palestinian fugitives, weapons caches, and arms tunnels.

Sources in the IDF told Israel Radio that the recent difficult events in the Gaza Strip have opened what they called "perhaps a last chance" to create a new security situation in the Strip before a possible Israeli withdrawal. The sources said the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip would be carried out despite the opposition of the Likud right wing and the settler movement.

Thousands of Palestinians Flee Rafah Ahead of Battle

According to Palestinian reports, thousands of Rafah residents have abandoned their homes in advance of any IDF action. People are living with friends and families, at schools and in tents. Women balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets and door frames, and men carted sofas away from the camp. One man lowered a cooking gas container by rope from a second floor, and another piled fire wood onto a horse cart.

In Berlin, the national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, stressed that America is committed to bringing about Palestinian statehood during talks yesterday with Prime Minister Qurei, a Palestinian delegate told the Associated Press.

A senior American official said that Ms. Rice had urged the Palestinian Arabs to make more progress on political reform and security, and stressed that Washington views Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat as a "negative and unhelpful" factor.

Ms. Rice's meeting with Mr. Qurei was part of a fresh push by the Bush administration to restore movement to Middle East peace efforts. It followed a meeting in Jordan Saturday between Mr. Qurei and Secretary of State Powell.

"Rice reiterated that they are committed to the two-state solution, and that Bush is the first president to commit to a Palestinian state," Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat, a member of Mr. Qurei's delegation, told the Associated Press. He described the encounter as "in-depth, constructive and positive."

Meanwhile, a Hamas leader, Khaled Mashaal, rejected the Palestinian Authority's proposals for a cease-fire, saying Israel was waging a "war of annihilation" against his people. "Our people will not be made refugees again," Mr. Mashaal said. "Our choice is between death and death. Our people will defend themselves until the last breath. The world left us no other choice.

"It is a war of annihilation, destruction of humans and land, a collective punishment in a vengeful way," Mr. Mashaal said. "The whole world is watching and listening, but is not moving" to stop Israel.

"It is not reasonable that there is a talk about a cease-fire in the shadow of a sweeping aggression," the Hamas leader said. "It is not reasonable that the victim volunteers to talk about a cease-fire while Israeli crime continues, and there is no sign of a change in the Israeli and American positions."

Load-Date: May 18, 2004

Gaza looters settle old scores

The Times (London)

September 13, 2005, Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 29

Length: 835 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell and Ian MacKinnon

Body

As the last Israeli tanks depart, the settlements are ravaged, report Stephen Farrell and Ian MacKinnon.

ABANDONED and vulnerable without the Israeli arsenal that had sustained them for decades, the Gaza settlements took only minutes to ransack.

Pillars of fire lit up the night sky even before the last Israeli tanks rolled out before dawn yesterday, as thousands of Palestinians swarmed into the forsaken settlements and youths set fire to synagogues and other symbols of the hated occupation.

The end of a 38-year era had begun. High on triumphalism and bravado, militants planted the flags of *Hamas*, Islamic Jihad and Fatah atop the buildings, singing Allahu akbar (God is greatest).

Israeli political leaders condemned the Palestinian Authority's failure to protect the synagogues. Silvan Shalom, the Foreign Minister, said:

"Unfortunately, in its first task, we saw that it made no real effort to protect the synagogues. This was a barbaric act by people with no respect for holy places."

For weeks the Palestinian Authority had given assurances that its security forces could hold back the floodgates once the Israeli military withdrew, but on the eve of evacuation they dropped the pretence.

Gazans were desperate to see what lay behind the razor wire and watchtowers that had controlled their lives. No one was going to stop them, and Palestinian officials clearly decided that it would be foolish to try. By 3am Kfar Darom settlement was burning. Celebratory shots were fired into the air and the barricades came down.

Within minutes the once-impregnable razor wire coils of Gaza's main Gush Katif settlement block were themselves being looted, by means of donkey carts, 4x4 vehicles and simply rolling them down the sandy coastal highway like steel fanged hula hoops.

Within Neve Dekalim the pillaging was of Baghdad proportions. Palestinian security forces looked on and even helped to load high-value items. But it was less mindless looting than scavenging driven by the twin impulses of revenge and poverty.

Gaza looters settle old scores

Everyone knew how much they could get for their booty. Aluminium? Four shekels a kilo. Air-conditioner and refrigerator motor? Five hundred shekels. The red roof tiles that instantly defined Israel's hilltop Jewish settlements? A shekel each.

Children in school uniform were on an undeclared public holiday. Muhammad Masri, 14, said: "No school today. The Jews left. I knew all my friends would be here, so I came."

Abu Ahmed, 35, from Khan Younis, said: "I brought my children to see the Israelis routed. They have been used to seeing the Palestinians ground down, and now it is their turn to see the Israelis down." Some were undoubtedly intent on destruction, burning all reminders of Jewish hegemony. Hebrew newspapers and books were burnt, and all posters were defaced. But truly astonishing was the frenzy devoted to stripping buildings down to the bare concrete. What was destroyed was smashed again, as teenagers, elderly women and tiny children worked side by side to salvage anything sellable.

Abu Eliyan, 40, said: "They are not stealing. They are not robbers. They are just very poor. These people were impoverished by the Israelis and they are scarcely at subsistence level. Those you see here do this because they want to live, by fair means or foul."

The evacuated Gaza settlers could not bear to watch the destruction of their former homes. "I'm curious to see, but I won't put the television on," Carol Chezi, 48, said, tears welling as she studiously ignored a blank screen in the corner of her new home in Jerusalem. "It would destroy me."

The Palestinian Authority accused Israel of cynically leaving the synagogues standing to make Palestinians look bad for demolishing them. Mahmoud Abbas, the President of the Palestinian Authority, said that the synagogues had had all their holy symbols removed, so "they are no longer religious places". He added: "This is a day of happiness and joy that the Palestinian people have not witnessed for a century."

In the bullet-riddled Rafah thousands of jubilant Palestinians used ropes and shoulders to clamber across the wall separating the border town from Egypt, falling into the arms of relatives they had not seen for decades. Many also rushed to the Mediterranean, their first chance to enjoy the turquoise water since they were sealed off from the coast by a settlement. Rajah, 38, contemplated his little-used fishing rod and said: "It's my hobby and I haven't been able to do it for five years. It is a very good feeling to be back."

As the day wore on, thousands of cars jammed the streets of Gaza as families flocked to see the latest tourist attractions. On the fringes of the outposts Palestinians were hauling away concrete blocks and iron bars from toppled Israeli military watchtowers and bridges.

Once covered in Hebrew graffiti, their walls were already plastered in portraits of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel-Aziz Rantissi, the assassinated Hamas leaders.

www.timesonline.co.uk/mideast - Latest Middle East news

Load-Date: September 13, 2005

Suicide bomber targets Israelis

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 22

Length: 280 words

Body

EREZ, Gaza Strip: A ***female*** Palestinian suicide bomber struck at the main border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip yesterday, killing at least four Israelis and wounding at least seven, security sources said.

The woman blew herself up in a terminal where Palestinian workers were being put through Israeli security checks before entering an industrial complex.

Reuters

"Glass and black smoke flew everywhere," a Palestinian witness said. "Arabs were screaming, Jews were screaming, nobody knew what was going on."

It was the first Palestinian suicide attack since a December 25 bombing that killed four Israelis near Tel Aviv and raised more doubts about the prospects for reviving a US-backed peace "road map".

"A woman suicide bomber infiltrated the transit terminal and blew herself up," Yoav Peled, an Israeli security officer, told Army Radio.

"All of the dead were Israelis," a security source said.

The Gaza Strip is surrounded by an Israeli security barrier, and none of the suicide bombers responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people inside Israel in the past three years of violence have come from there. Erez, however, has been the target of occasional attacks.

Palestinian witnesses said a woman waiting to pass through to the Israeli side blew herself up. The soldiers then forced everyone out and shut down the crossing after the blast.

A Palestinian official said the aim of the bombing was to prompt Israel to declare a closure of the Gaza Strip and cut off access to jobs in Israel.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a group linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, and the ***Hamas*** militant group claimed joint responsibility for the suicide bombing.

Load-Date: January 14, 2004

Disgusted by peace efforts, Gadhafi leaves summit

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 23, 2004, Sunday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 778 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

TUNIS, Tunisia - Arab leaders convened their annual summit Saturday to discuss condemning terrorism, reiterating calls for Arab-Israeli peace and putting Arab nations on the road to political and economic reforms advocated by the United States.

But the opening session was overshadowed by the walkout of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, who criticized peace efforts and threatened to pull his country out of the 22-member Arab League. Eight other Arab leaders, including Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, failed to show up.

"What's the significance of this Arab gathering?" Gadhafi said before packing up and leaving Tunis. "How can this summit convene while there are two Arab presidents in jail?"

"I am disgusted."

Gadhafi was referring to Saddam Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has been holed up in his West Bank headquarters for more than two years, besieged by Israeli forces.

Gadhafi left while Arab League head Amr Moussa was speaking. Diplomats said the Libyan leader apparently was irked by Moussa's criticism of Arabs who act unilaterally - a veiled reference to Libya's decision to renounce programs pursuing weapons of mass destruction.

Gadhafi also skipped Saturday's closed-door session, where Arab leaders reviewed resolutions addressing the turmoil in their region.

One of the strongest proposals denounced the abuse inflicted on Iraqi prisoners by U.S. forces at the Abu Ghraib prison as "crimes and inhuman and immoral acts." It said the abuse constituted a "flagrant violation of human rights and international conventions" and demanded trials and punishment for those responsible.

Reports of degrading treatment, sexual abuse and torture have caused widespread outrage in the Arab world and damaged American credibility throughout the region.

The leaders' commitment to political, economic and social reforms is a response to a Bush administration plan for Mideast reform that has been criticized as brazen interference in internal Arab affairs.

Washington's Greater Middle East Initiative, which will be unveiled at the G-8 summit of major industrial countries next month in the United States, urges Arab states to promote democracy, human rights and economic

Disgusted by peace efforts, Gadhafi leaves summit

liberalization. While the plan has sparked Arab complaints of American meddling, it also has inspired them to draw up their own brand of reform.

The Arab reform proposal is short on specifics but pledges to respect human rights and freedom of expression, enhance the position of women in society and promote tolerance, according to a preliminary copy obtained by The Associated Press.

The proposal binds the greater participation to laws already in place, including Islamic law in some countries - an indication it likely will not require any nation to overhaul its system.

Strong opposition to calls for reform from Arab governments - which are mostly autocratic and long have been criticized for giving their 270 million people little or no voice - was cited as a reason for Tunisia's decision to postpone the March 29-30 Arab League summit 48 hours before it was scheduled to begin.

Jordan's King Abdullah II left after Saturday's closed session. His delegation issued a statement calling for a "permanent and comprehensive truce" between Israel and the Palestinians and a halt to attacks against civilians on both sides.

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali opened the two-day summit by asking delegates to stand in a moment of silence for the Palestinian victims of Israeli actions.

He condemned the assassination of Palestinian political leaders and the killing of civilians, and called for more international efforts to reactivate the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan that envisages a Palestinian state by next year. He also called for international protection of the Palestinian people and a halt to Israeli "violations."

Arafat, who did not attend for fear Israel would bar him from returning, addressed the conference for the third year via video from Ramallah. He accused Israel of waging a "war of annihilation" against the Palestinian people but reiterated that the Palestinians were committed to "the peace of the brave" with Israel.

"I declare from the heart of the [Israeli] siege that occupation and military solutions will not bring peace, security and stability for the Israelis," he said.

Hamas, the Damascus-based Palestinian militant group responsible for scores of suicide attacks against Israelis, called on the Arab League to sever all contacts with the Jewish state.

In a faxed statement, **Hamas** also urged Arab leaders to declare that the peace process "has flagrantly failed despite the Arabs' sincerity and their continuing efforts on behalf of peace."

Load-Date: May 25, 2004

Misleaders lead to more murders

University Wire

April 1, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 The Daily Cougar via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 666 words

Byline: By David C. Salinas, The Daily Cougar; **SOURCE:** U. Houston

Dateline: HOUSTON

Body

Just over a week ago Israeli forces killed Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and a couple of his bodyguards with three missiles, and intensified a battle that has already seen more than enough bloodshed. Now I don't mean to say that Yassin was a good man -- he was the founder of the terrorist organization, *Hamas*, which has killed hundreds of people. But what does murdering an elderly, quadriplegic man do to further the peace process in the Middle East? Apparently it caused a teenager to strap a bomb to his chest and try to kill as many people as possible, including himself. Instead of thinking about girls or sports, this kid was contemplating suicide in an attempt to help his people's "cause." Unfortunately other children have been successful in this "mission."

Just imagine being a Palestinian child who sees nothing but violence and oppression, and has the belief that there is nothing left to do other than end your own life along with the lives of others around you. Now imagine being an Israeli child who kisses their parents goodbye as they go to school, not knowing if they'll return that night. Imagine being afraid to go to a mall because you may be blown up by the person standing next to you. In this conflict we are always too quick to vilify one side or the other, but it's important to remember that a majority of these people have nothing to do with this violence -- they are the victims. The leaders, on both sides, are the villains in this horrific situation.

The people to blame are the leaders -- I should say the misleaders -- like Ariel Sharon and Yasser Arafat, who have done nothing for the people they pretend to defend. We all know that Yasser Arafat, the leader of the terrorist group the Palestinian Liberation Organization, has been involved in the deaths of numerous innocent people, but many don't know about Ariel Sharon's destructive past.

In 1953, Sharon joined the Haganah, an underground military organization, and was given command of "Unit 101." His unit took part in the demolition of refugee camps, killing innocent people, including the elderly, *women* and children. In a village in Qibya he led a group that blew up 45 houses, killing 69 civilians, two-thirds of whom were *women* and children. This could not be chalked up to the miserable concept of "collateral damage" either.

So the first solution to this conflict might be to not let men who deal in violence lead the way to peace. Quite frankly, they wouldn't know how to get there. Over their lifetime, the answer to violence has been more violence. This vicious cycle hasn't seemed to affect them personally, so they, and groups like *Hamas* and Hezbollah, will perpetuate the bloodshed until they are removed from the process.

Misleaders lead to more murders

The next step is to find moderate, secular-thinking people and put them in charge of both sides. Of course this should be done as democratically as possible, but a little pushing and prodding by the United Nations wouldn't hurt. Then, and only then, can we get to some sort of compromise. The word "compromise" is thrown around a lot, but it's what is most needed here. Neither side can get exactly what they want, but if you give Palestinians a fair share of the land they desire, and give the Israelis the peace and security they want, I'm sure the people would be content, if not happy. Remember, it's not the people at large who have been causing the problems here.

I know this issue is more complex than I might realize, but I know you can't solve complexity with violence. For every Sheik Ahmad Yassin you kill, you create 100 more men like him, who are younger, angrier and more violent. They can't bomb their way out of this problem; they'll have to think their way out. I don't believe any of the current leaders there, or here for that matter, can come close to solving this problem. But someone needs to, and fast. Because no child, Israeli or Palestinian, should ever wake up from a nightmare only to realize their reality is much worse.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2004

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Creeping Democracy

The New York Times

March 22, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 5; Editorial Desk; Pg. 23

Length: 726 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

"Democratic creep" is not a derogation of a liberal candidate. On the contrary, it is the process -- now well under way -- by which free nations will win the world war on terror.

In Afghanistan, once a hotbed of Qaeda training and Taliban tyranny, nobody can deny we helped bring forth the beginnings of democratic government. Afghans, including newly liberated women, are helping track down fugitive killers.

In Iraq, we mourn our losses this past year, which now approach 2 percent of U.S. casualties in the Korean conflict. Many Iraqis died, too, but literally tens of thousands are alive today because Saddam did not have the power to torture and execute them -- as mass graves tell us he did every year of his savage misrule.

Nobody can be certain that Iraq will remain whole and free after we turn over sovereignty on June 30. But prospects look far better than predicted by defeatists who claimed a year ago that political freedom had no chance of taking root in hostile Arab soil.

Free electricity keeps TV sets and air-conditioners humming, oil is flowing, schools and businesses have come to life. Unemployment, now over 30 percent, will surely drop as the \$18 billion appropriated by the U.S. Congress -- part of the \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan -- begins to flow heavily next month into reconstruction by Iraqi workers. (The W.P.A. lives.)

We are training a civilian defense corps, twice the size of a joint Shiite-Sunni-Kurdish army, to take over free Iraq's battle against the Ansar-Qaeda terrorists and Baathist diehards. With the transfer of political power to a transitional Iraqi government, public fury at the mortar and rocket attacks on "soft target" civilians will be a nationalizing, not a destabilizing, force -- directed not at occupiers but against the terrorist invaders.

Next year, a trio of local politicians will emerge to lead the country. "Three John Edwardses are out there awaiting their chance," says one observer.

Creeping Democracy

Optimistic? In the grand design to uproot the causes of the rise of radical Islamic terrorism, defeat is no option. We have to believe in the popular success of a combination of democracy and prosperity. In this generation, the world has seen the power of the human desire for freedom.

From Kuwait to Qatar, the coalition's overthrow of Saddam has been a political tonic. Libya's dictator is making weaponry concessions lest his economy be wrecked and he be ousted. Repressive Iran is ripening for revolution. Egypt's boss and Saudi Arabia's princes are nervous because an arc of democracy bids fair to extend from Turkey through Iraq to Israel, with literate, enterprising populations blazing a path to liberating prosperity in the greater Middle East.

Syria's sullen Bashar al-Assad is feeling the heat. He benefited most from Saddam's corruption, probably provided a hiding place for Iraqi weapons and a route of entry into Iraq for Qaeda killers. His troops illegally occupy Lebanon; he supports Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists in rocket attacks and suicide bombings. His so-called intelligence sharing has been singularly unproductive.

A million and a half Kurds live in Syria, despised by the rulers in Damascus. After Syrian Kurds saw the blessings of freedom flow to their ethnic comrades in Iraq, some were emboldened to respond to Arab taunting at a soccer game. Bashar's goons, remembering his father's bloody "Hamas rules," shot a score of the unarmed protesters as a warning to the quarter-million Kurds the dictator keeps stateless.

Congress, more hawkish than President Bush on this state sponsor of terror, passed the Syria Accountability Act four months ago with large majorities; this week, he is expected to put some of its authorized economic squeeze on Bashar. He should consider that Step One.

This unified American message -- substantial largess for free Iraq contrasted with the start of serious sanctions for despotic Syria -- will not be lost on the Arab League meeting in Tunisia.

Success of democracy in Iraq is the key to democratic reform throughout the greater Middle East. When that reform dawns in Ramallah, there can be an independent, contiguous Palestine. When creeping democracy gradually brings a better life to people of the region, the basis for hatred and terror will erode and the suicide bomber will pass from the scene.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: March 22, 2004

Fight for peace

UK Newsquest Regional Press - This is York

January 16, 2004

Copyright 2004 NewsQuest Media Group Limited

Length: 293 words

Byline: Reader's letter

Dateline: York

Body

I MUST take issue with David E Pegg and Roger Westmoreland (Letters January 12) and their references to Israel as an apartheid state.

An apartheid state by its very nature as witnessed in South Africa is one formed along racial lines.

So it is interesting to note the one million-plus Arab Muslim citizens of Israel who enjoy full freedom of religion movement employment and voting rights. Indeed there are three prominent Arab political parties in Israel all of whom hold seats in the Knesset (Parliament).

Before the intifada started tens of thousands of Palestinians worked in Israel without discrimination and it is only the policies of terrorism as preached by Hamas Islamic Jihad Fatah etc that have stopped this.

Before a recent suicide bombing troops sent for a female soldier to check the female bomber out of respect for Muslim tradition.

As they were waiting the bomber blew herself up. This highlights the need for checkpoints and raises a further question: does this consideration which had such deadly consequences sound like the action of "racists"?

Despite this Israel continues to try to help Palestinians issuing more than 30 000 work permits in the past fortnight.

Mr Westmoreland says Palestinians "cannot fight Israel armed only with stones".

I suggest that instead of devising more ways of fighting and killing Israelis the Palestinians and their supporters should be more interested in fighting for peace fighting terrorism and the corruption of their own leadership.

The World Bank has estimated Yasser Arafat's fortune to be more than \$ 800 million.

Meanwhile his people are left poor Israelis and Palestinians are left dead and peace remains elusive.

Simon Taylor

Langwith College

University of York.

Updated: 11:55 Friday January 16 2004

Fight for peace

Load-Date: January 16, 2004

End of Document

From Iraq, democracy creeps forward

The International Herald Tribune

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 736 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

'Democratic creep' is not a derogation of a liberal candidate. On the contrary, it is the process -- now well under way -- by which free nations will win the world war on terror.

In Afghanistan, once a hotbed of Qaeda training and Taliban tyranny, nobody can deny that America helped bring forth the beginnings of democratic government. Afghans, including newly liberated women, are helping track down fugitive killers.

The New York Times

In Iraq, America mourns its losses this past year, which now approach 2 percent of U.S. casualties in the Korean conflict. Many Iraqis died, too, but literally tens of thousands are alive today because Saddam Hussein did not have the power to torture and execute them -- as mass graves tell us he did every year of his savage misrule.

Nobody can be certain that Iraq will remain whole and free after America turns over sovereignty on June 30. But prospects look far better than predicted by defeatists who claimed a year ago that political freedom had no chance of taking root in hostile Arab soil.

Free electricity keeps television sets and air-conditioners humming, oil is flowing, schools and businesses have come to life. Unemployment, now more than 30 percent, will surely drop as the \$18 billion appropriated by the U.S. Congress -- part of the \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan -- begins to flow heavily next month into reconstruction by Iraqi workers. America is training a civilian defense corps, twice the size of a joint Shiite-Sunni-Kurdish army, to take over free Iraq's battle against the Ansar-Qaeda terrorists and Baathist diehards. With the transfer of political power to a transitional Iraqi government, public fury at the mortar and rocket attacks on "soft target" civilians will be a nationalizing, not a destabilizing, force -- directed not at occupiers but against the terrorist invaders.

Next year, a trio of local politicians will emerge to lead the country. "Three John Edwardses are out there awaiting their chance," one observer says.

Optimistic? In the grand design to uproot the causes of the rise of radical Islamic terrorism, defeat is no option. We have to believe in the popular success of a combination of democracy and prosperity. In this generation, the world has seen the power of the human desire for freedom.

From Kuwait to Qatar, the coalition's overthrow of Saddam has been a political tonic. Libya's dictator is making weaponry concessions lest his economy be wrecked and he be ousted. Repressive Iran is ripening for revolution.

From Iraq , democracy creeps forward

Egypt's boss and Saudi Arabia's princes are nervous because an arc of democracy bids fair to extend from Turkey through Iraq to Israel, with literate, enterprising populations blazing a path to liberating prosperity in the greater Middle East.

Syria's sullen President Bashar Assad is feeling the heat. He benefited most from Saddam's corruption, and probably provided a hiding place for Iraqi weapons and a route of entry into Iraq for Qaeda killers. His troops illegally occupy Lebanon; he supports Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists in rocket attacks and suicide bombings. His so-called intelligence sharing has been singularly unproductive.

A million and a half Kurds live in Syria, despised by the rulers in Damascus. After Syrian Kurds saw the blessings of freedom flow to their ethnic comrades in Iraq, some were emboldened to respond to Arab taunting at a soccer game. Bashar's goons, remembering his father's bloody "Hamas rules," shot a score of the unarmed protesters as a warning to the quarter-million Kurds whom the dictator keeps stateless.

Congress, more hawkish than President George W. Bush on this state sponsor of terror, passed the Syria Accountability Act four months ago with large majorities; this week, Bush is expected to put some of its authorized economic squeeze on Bashar. He should consider that Step One.

This unified American message -- substantial largess for free Iraq contrasted with the start of serious sanctions for despotic Syria -- will not be lost on the Arab League meeting in Tunisia next week.

Success of democracy in Iraq is the key to democratic reform throughout the greater Middle East. When that reform dawns in Ramallah, there can be an independent, contiguous Palestine. When creeping democracy gradually brings a better life to people of the region, the basis for hatred and terror will erode and the suicide bomber will pass from the scene.

*

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: March 23, 2004

THE PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ IS VERY SLOW, BUT DEFIANTLY STEADY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 722 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Democratic creep" is not a derogation of a liberal candidate. On the contrary, it is the process -- now well under way -- by which free nations will win the world war on terror.

In Afghanistan, once a hotbed of al-Qaida training and Taliban tyranny, nobody can deny we helped bring forth the beginnings of democratic government. Afghans, including newly liberated **women**, are helping track down fugitive killers.

In Iraq, we mourn our losses this past year, which now approach 2 percent of U.S. casualties in the Korean conflict. Many Iraqis died, too, but literally tens of thousands are alive today because Saddam Hussein did not have the power to torture and execute them -- as mass graves tell us he did every year of his savage misrule.

Nobody can be certain that Iraq will remain whole and free after we turn over sovereignty on June 30. But prospects look far better than predicted by defeatists who claimed a year ago that political freedom had no chance of taking root in hostile Arab soil.

Free electricity keeps TV sets and air conditioners humming, oil is flowing, schools and businesses have come to life. Unemployment, now over 30 percent, will surely drop as the \$18 billion appropriated by the U.S. Congress -- part of the \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan -- begins to flow heavily next month into reconstruction by Iraqi workers. (The WPA lives.)

We are training a civilian defense corps, twice the size of a joint Shiite-Sunni-Kurdish army, to take over free Iraq's battle against the Ansar-Qaida terrorists and Baathist diehards. With the transfer of political power to a transitional Iraqi government, public fury at the mortar and rocket attacks on "soft target" civilians will be a nationalizing, not a destabilizing, force -- directed not at occupiers but against the terrorist invaders.

Next year, a trio of local politicians will emerge to lead the country. "Three John Edwardses are out there awaiting their chance," says one observer.

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Notes

William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times (safire@nytimes.com).

Load-Date: April 1, 2004

**Protest tests Israeli security forces; March by withdrawal opponents
thwarted by police ban, denial of access to buses**

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

July 19, 2005 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A8; NEWS

Length: 734 words

Body

Soldiers and police stopped thousands of Gaza withdrawal opponents marching last night in defiance of a police ban, determined to reach nearby Jewish settlements and stop Israel's pullout next month, the biggest test yet for security forces.

After a two-hour standoff, settlers said they reached an agreement with security forces to spend the night in Kfar Maimon, a village just three kilometres from their starting point and 20 kilometres from their goal, the main crossing point into the Gaza settlements.

Settlers pledged to push on toward Gaza in the morning.

About 20,000 police and soldiers were deployed in southern Israel to block the marchers, who started out after a rally in the town of Netivot.

Associated Press

In an unprecedented step, police fanned out across the country and prevented protesters from boarding buses that were to take them to the demonstration. Angry organizers called on their backers to get there somehow, and dozens started walking toward Gaza from Jerusalem, more than 100 kilometres away.

In Gaza itself, Egyptian mediators held talks with Palestinian militants to try to rescue a five-month-old truce after a violent weekend. Some progress was apparent, and the frequency of Palestinian rocket and mortar attacks subsided somewhat yesterday.

A **Hamas** leader said his group retains the right to retaliate for Israeli violations, but he repeated a commitment to the Egypt-brokered truce.

In a small sea of orange -- the colour chosen by settlers to symbolize their opposition -- about 20,000 protesters gathered in Netivot. Despite police efforts, several dozen buses were lined up in a field near the demonstration after ferrying protesters.

The main target of the settlers was Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, for decades the champion of settlement construction and expansion who suddenly changed course and proposed removing veteran settlements from the West Bank and Gaza for the first time.

Protesters warned that exiting Gaza would leave **Hamas** with a free hand there and encourage attacks.

Protest tests Israeli security forces; March by withdrawal opponents thwarted by police ban, denial of access to buses

Ori Ben-Naim, 15, from the West Bank settlement of Hashmonaim, was determined to march on Gaza. "They don't have a way to stop us," he said. "The march is going to show, especially to the government, that we are not going to give up Gush Katif."

Thousands of police and soldiers lined the roads between Netivot and the crossing, preparing to stop the march. Police commissioner Moshe Karadi declared it illegal. "When it became apparent that the participants would use this event as a platform to disrupt the evacuation by establishing a human block and attempting to enter Gush Katif, I decided to prohibit it," he said.

Almost all of the protesters were Orthodox Jews, illustrating the religious backing of the opposition to the removal of all 21 settlements from Gaza and four from the West Bank, set to begin in mid-August. Rabbis have declared that no Israeli government has the right to relinquish control of any part of biblical Israel.

A long blue tarp down the middle of the site separated the men and the women in Orthodox Jewish fashion. A huge banner over the stage read Mass March to Gush Katif. Anger was tempered with celebration, as youngsters danced in circles and licked orange popsicles.

Police tried to pre-empt the gathering by stopping dozens of buses before they could leave for Netivot, with some success.

In Jerusalem, nearly 100 opponents waited for buses that never arrived. "It's very frustrating . . . you know we're on vacation and we want to do whatever we can to help the country," said New Yorker Sandy Brown, wearing an orange T-shirt to show her opposition to the withdrawal.

A few dozen protesters began walking in the direction of Gaza. At the entrance to Jerusalem, police, including some on horseback, held back a crowd of about 100 demonstrators who briefly blocked traffic.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops remained massed on the Gaza border after a weekend barrage of rockets and mortars. Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said he hopes Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas will stop the attacks. "If he will stop it, we will not have to interfere," Olmert said.

Abbas told reporters he is still hopeful that negotiations among the Palestinian factions can reconstitute the ceasefire. "We are still working very hard to get a full commitment to the truce," but warned he would brook no opposition to his forces. "We hope and pray that we won't have to shoot anyone."

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; An Israeli anti-disengagement protester is detained in Jerusalem yesterday after he was prevented from boarding a bus for a demonstration in Netivot, southern Israel.

Load-Date: July 19, 2005

National Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

January 28, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. d5

Length: 678 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GLOBE, Ariz.

Body

3-year-old survives for days after crash

A 3-year-old girl survived five days alone in a car after an accident that killed her mother, authorities said.

Angel Emery was airlifted Monday to Maricopa Medical Center, where she was being treated for dehydration and severe frostbite on her feet. She was listed Tuesday in good condition.

Authorities said Angel's 44-year-old mother, Patricia Marie Emery-Wade, died in the wreck, which apparently happened the afternoon of Jan. 21 on U.S. 60 in the east-central part of the state.

The woman's car hit a tree about 40 feet off the highway and 20 feet down an embankment, making it nearly impossible to see from the roadway.

A passer-by finally saw the smashed car Monday morning and alerted authorities, who found the girl inside, wrapped in a blanket and cuddled next to her dead mother.

Woman sentenced for murder of 3 infants

MONTICELLO, N.Y.- A woman convicted of killing three of her newborn children in the 1980s was sentenced to 25 years to life Tuesday, less than a year after their mummified remains were found in a storage shed in Arizona.

Dianne Odell, 50, was convicted of three counts of second-degree murder in December. She told Judge Frank LaBuda on Tuesday that she did not kill the children.

LaBuda sentenced Odell to a minimum of 15 years to life for the first baby, 20 years to life for the second and 25 to life for the third. She will serve the sentences concurrently.

Mob killer sentenced to life in prison

BOSTON - Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a mobster who played a central role in a scandal that exposed the Boston FBI's overly cozy relationship with its underworld informants, was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison for 10 murders.

National Briefs

Flemmi, 69, struck a deal with prosecutors in October to avoid the death penalty, admitting his role in a string of slayings committed when he was a boss in the Winter Hill Gang.

Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger were the leaders of the South Boston gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets. The two were also high-level FBI informants, providing the bureau with information on rivals in the Mafia.

2 nurses charged with murder in jail death

MIAMI - Two nurses at a juvenile jail were charged with murder Tuesday, accused of failing to treat a 17-year-old inmate who died of a burst appendix after three days in pain.

In a scathing attack on the juvenile justice system, a Miami-Dade County grand jury said the women skipped examinations or falsified medical records on Omar Paisley, who spent his last days "in agony lying on a concrete bed."

Following a nine-month investigation, the grand jury noted in frustration that the state Department of Juvenile Justice is immune to criminal indictments.

Federal judge issues verdict against Hamas

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - A federal judge Tuesday ordered the Palestinian militant group Hamas to pay \$\$ @116 million in damages for the deaths of an American citizen and his Israeli wife near the West Bank in 1996.

The ruling upheld a magistrate judge's decision last month on behalf of relatives of Yaron and Efrat Ungar, who lived in Israel when they were killed.

Family members of Yaron Ungar sued in March 2000 under a 1991 law allowing relatives of American victims of overseas terrorism to seek damages in U.S. courts. Efrat Ungar was an Israeli.

Judge: Schwarzenegger's \$\$ @4 million loans illegal

SACRAMENTO - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger broke a state law during the closing weeks of the recall race when he took out \$\$ @4.5 million in bank loans to help his cash-starved campaign, according to a preliminary ruling from a superior court judge.

If Monday's decision is upheld, the governor could be forced to pay back the loans out of personal funds.

Judges rip new law

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. - The chief judges of federal courts in the West objected Tuesday to a new law limiting their discretion in sentencing people convicted of crimes, saying Congress should have consulted them before acting.

The opposition was voiced during a two-day meeting of the 15 chief district judges of the U.S. 9th Circuit that concluded here Tuesday.

Load-Date: January 28, 2004

Laura Bush dodges hecklers on tour of Mideast holy sites

The Toronto Star
May 23, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A08

Length: 715 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

America's First Lady smiled through a storm of small but raucous demonstrations yesterday, ignoring hecklers as she donned a black scarf to pay her respects at two of the Middle East's most revered holy sites.

Laura Bush's walkabout in Jerusalem, part of a five-day trek aimed at improving America's image in the Arab world, came to a halt at the Western Wall, the very epicentre of Jewish faith, where dozens of religious women standing a few metres away began shouting "Free Pollard Now."

Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, an American, remains in a U.S. prison serving a life term imposed 20 years ago for selling secrets to Israel gleaned from his days as a civilian intelligence analyst for the American navy. He remains a hero to many in Israel.

Unfazed by the commotion, Bush followed Jewish custom, slipping a prayer note she had written earlier into a crevasse in the ancient wall. A U.S. embassy official said the contents of her note would remain private, as per her wishes.

A secret service team spirited Bush back to her 18-car motorcade for the brief journey to the Old City's Arab quarter. There, she removed her shoes and walked barefoot into the Dome of the Rock, part of a religious compound revered as the third most holy site in Islam, where she gazed in awe at the mosaic-studded interior.

Her brief reverie was broken a second time as Palestinian women nearby began to protest Bush's presence in the shrine.

"You are not welcome here. Why are you harassing our Muslims? How dare you come in here," one elderly woman said.

Again, the First Lady was whisked away as security teams linked arms to hold back the crush of worshippers.

Bush retreated in silence, holding her smile. Later, during a brief visit to the West Bank city of Jericho, she said the demonstrations showed "what an emotional place this is as we go from each one of these very, very holy sites to the next.

Laura Bush dodges hecklers on tour of Mideast holy sites

"We're reminded again of what every one of us would want ... 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," she said.

During a speech to the World Economic Forum in Jordan on Saturday, the American First Lady appealed to the region to seize what she termed "a springtime of hope." She challenged the region to embrace equal rights for women, citing recent steps taken by the governments of Morocco and Kuwait as positive examples.

Bush's visit, her first to the region as First Lady, comes amid a spike in anti-American sentiment following a now-retracted report in Newsweek that U.S. interrogators desecrated the Qur'an in front of detainees at the U.S. navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas, in a statement posted on its website, said it had no objection to non-Muslims visiting Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem, "but we see in the visit of Mrs. Bush an attempt to whitewash the face of the United States, after the crimes that the American interrogators had committed when they desecrated the Qur'an."

The Jewish demonstrators at the Western Wall expressed similar frustration as Bush made her exit.

"She is the wife of the whole world, but I don't know if she can make a difference," said Lila Hannuchah, 62, of Jerusalem.

"Israel is giving up Gush Katif for nothing in return," she said, in reference to the U.S.-backed plan for Israel to withdraw all Jewish settlements and soldiers from the Gaza Strip in August.

"The least America can do in return is to give us Jonathan Pollard. He has been in jail long enough."

The First Lady's Mideast trip is a prelude to renewed focus on the region, as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas journeys to Washington to meet Thursday with U.S. President George W. Bush, the first such encounter since the demise of Yasser Arafat.

Abbas is seeking U.S. assurances the Bush administration will pressure Israel for a return to bona fide peace talks after the Gaza pullout, according to Palestinian sources in Ramallah. The fledgling Abbas leadership is also expected to win pledges of additional U.S. aid as it prepares for a daunting challenge from Hamas, which intends to transform itself into a powerful political force by contesting legislative elections slated for July.

Graphic

GALI TIBBON afp getty images Laura Bush touches the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday. Following custom, the wife of the U.S. president slipped a prayer note she had written into a crack in the ancient wall. She also visited the Dome of the Rock.

Load-Date: May 23, 2005

Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings

The New York Times

October 9, 2004 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1591 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER; Mona El-Naggar contributed reporting from Taba, Egypt, for this article, and Neil MacFarquhar from Beirut.

Dateline: EILAT, Israel, Oct. 8

Body

Thousands of Israelis trudged by foot through the Taba border post on Friday, returning home like shocked refugees from a Sinai bloodied by the bombings of three tourist resorts on Thursday night, one of the largest and most skillfully executed terrorist attacks on Israelis in many years.

At least 29 people are dead, most of them Israelis but including some Egyptians and at least one Russian tourist, according to Israeli officials. More than 160 people were wounded, including 11 Russians and some Britons.

But the death toll is expected to rise as rescue workers from Egypt and Israel dig through the rubble of a collapsed 10-story section of the Taba Hilton hotel, which was hit first by a car bomb and then, as tourists fled, by a suicide bomber near the hotel's swimming pool.

Carrying children, luggage and beach paraphernalia across the border, Israelis mourned the loss of security in yet another beloved part of this region. One made the bitter joke that this was a "second exodus from Egypt."

Carmit Nave, 26, said she had been on a beach within sight and sound of the car bombings at the two other bombing targets, the bungalow camps of Ras al-Sultan and Nuweiba, down the coast from the Hilton. She said she had often visited Sinai, which remained a popular, inexpensive vacation spot even after Israel returned it to Egypt in 1982. "For me, this is the last time," she said. "If someone doesn't want me to come, forget it."

The Palestinian militant groups **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad said they had not carried out the bombings, and both reiterated their policy of attacking Israelis only at home. But Israel recently killed a **Hamas** leader in Damascus, for which **Hamas** promised retaliation.

Still, most political experts consider it unlikely that any Palestinian group would confront and embarrass the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, in such a fashion. Israeli officials speculated that an indigenous Egyptian radical group, perhaps with some affiliation to Al Qaeda or inspired by it, was responsible.

Egypt does have a history of radical Islamic groups, but it cracked down hard on them in years past. At the height of terrorist attacks in the country, in the early to mid-1990's, most were carried out by one of two main groups: the Islamic Group, consisting of followers of the blind cleric Omar Abdel Rahman, who is now serving a life sentence for

Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings

inspiring a thwarted terrorist bombing plot in New York; and Egyptian Islamic Jihad, run by Ayman al-Zawahiri, now the second in command of Al Qaeda. An audiotape attributed to Mr. Zawahiri last week called for attacks against Israel and "crusader America."

A previously unknown pro-Qaeda group called Islamic Tawhid Brigades claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack on a Web site, Reuters reported. The claim, as well as one from another unknown group calling itself the World Islamist Group, could not be verified.

Aharon Zeevi-Farkash, Israel's chief of army intelligence, told an emergency cabinet meeting Friday that he thought the most likely author was Al Qaeda, with help from the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. That group says it is a nonviolent organization, interested in change through political organization; Cairo disputes that.

The Egyptian foreign minister, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, said it was too early to say who had carried out the resort attacks. Egypt, which is heavily dependent on tourism, is expected by Israeli officials to move quickly to try to discover those responsible and to crack down to try to restore confidence.

Egyptian tourism has never quite from the last big terrorist incident there, an Islamic Jihad attack on tourists in Luxor in 1997, when 68 people died. Egypt also suffered from the general falloff in tourism after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The United States warned Americans on Friday to avoid travel to the resorts along Egypt's Sinai Peninsula north of Sharm el Sheikh.

Ziad Abu Amr, a moderate member of the Palestinian legislature in Gaza, said, "The Palestinian groups wouldn't do something like this to alienate their Egyptian friends.

"This should be seen in the broader context of the global war that President Bush talks about. It's a global war on both sides. If you continue to ignore the Palestinians, you can expect to see some kind of retaliation, if not from the Palestinians, then from others who uphold the Palestinian cause."

The wounded from the three resorts poured into Joseftal Hospital here, a 60-bed unit with 34 doctors that treated more than 120 of the wounded, including 16 children and 13 medium to severe cases, a hospital official, Naomi Halevy, said. Doctors on vacation in Eilat volunteered, and others drove from hundreds of miles away to help.

There were many reports of bureaucratic and practical obstacles to rescue efforts. Kobi Zuza, an ambulance driver from Israel, was at the Taba Hilton two hours after the blast, around midnight. It took 90 minutes for the Egyptians to let him in, he said. "When I got to the hotel, the situation of the dead was shocking," he said. "There were bodies and bodies without legs and body parts floating in the swimming pool."

Inside, he said, people were trapped and crushed by the collapsing wall, with an engine from the truck bomb burning in the lobby. "There was a woman trapped, and I couldn't get to her," he said, looking off into the bright desert sun. "We were afraid to pull her out because everything would have collapsed."

On the way back to the hospital, Mr. Zuza said, the Egyptian border guards insisted on having the passports of the wounded. "People were bleeding and screaming in the ambulance, shouting that their documents were still in the hotel -- and the guards then gave them forms to fill out," he said angrily.

Doron Kotler, an ambulance coordinator, said Israelis were not allowed to cross to reach Ras al-Sultan or Nuweiba until 4 a.m.

Shimon Romach, the Israeli fire and rescue commissioner, said his men had had to spend 20 minutes pushing their way through the border to get to the Taba Hilton and begin to extinguish the fire. "Egyptians were helping, but there was no professional Egyptian firefighters still," he said. One car bomb penetrated Ras al-Sultan, but another blew up outside the resort. Two Israelis were killed and 20 wounded.

Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings

Yael Ovadia, 25, and his friend, Moran, came to the hospital in Eilat with their arms around each other, their clothes covered in blood. Mr. Ovadia wore a T-shirt and tan shorts, all spattered with gore. "It's mostly the blood of other people," he said.

"I think it was a pickup truck and a Peugeot that blew up," Mr. Ovadia said. "We were staying on the beach, and there was a huge blast and a white light, and then everyone started to run, running and running and running." He and others spent the night by the water, waiting for the dawn, with no sign of any Egyptian police officers.

Yael, 24, an intern at a law office who did not want to give her last name, lay on a stretcher, her eyes red with smoke. She had come with two **women** friends, and remembered the warnings about possible attacks on Israelis in Sinai. "My parents told me not to go, and I told them that Tel Aviv wouldn't be any safer," she said. "Now I feel lucky. When I was on the beach, I didn't think I'd get out of there alive."

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, praised Mr. Mubarak and the Egyptians for their cooperation in allowing Israeli rescue workers, including members of the Israeli Army, to cross into Egypt. He said he and Mr. Mubarak had also "agreed to continue cooperation in the ongoing struggle against terror."

Mr. Sharon told his cabinet: "Terror does not distinguish between countries or human beings. Terror is global, and its goal is to strike at the free world. Therefore, there shall be no compromise with terror."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement, saying: "Tens of thousands of Israelis who have chosen the Sinai coast as a place to spend the holidays -- despite warnings about possible terrorist attacks -- as well as thousands of their Egyptian hosts, reflect the strong and courageous will of those who seek peace in the Middle East."

The terrorist attack, the statement continued, "is an assault on all those who search for peace, contentment, and calm in the Middle East," adding: "For Israel and Egypt, the Taba Hilton represents a bridge of understanding and peace. This despicable terrorist attack precisely on this symbol of peace is an attack on all those who look forward to a better future for the Middle East."

At the Eilat hospital, Edward Svarts still had the key to room 311 of the Taba Hilton in his hand. His wife, Ina, had been hurt by falling debris, and their daughter, Shannon, 7, wandered aimlessly.

"I saw the engine of the bomber's car burning in the lobby," he said. "Everything was on fire. We saw our car completely crushed from the lobby. We walked out through a hole in the wall."

Mr. Svarts began to breathe shallowly, pale and sweaty. "I saw plenty of small children dead," he said. "It was horrible, horrible."

[Israeli troops killed four armed Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on Saturday as they pressed an offensive trying to stop militants from firing rockets, Reuters reported. Witnesses said two fighters from **Hamas** were killed in a gun battle at Beit Hanoun, one of the main launching grounds for the rocket attacks. Two Palestinian policemen were killed in an earlier missile strike on the refugee camp of Khan Younis, witnesses said.]

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Rescue workers searched for more victims yesterday in the rubble of the bombed Taba Hilton in Sinai. (Photo by Sebastian Scheiner/Associated Press)(pg. A1)

Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings

Israeli tourists crossed the border at Eilat, Israel, yesterday after the bomb attacks on three resorts in Egypt. It was unclear who was responsible for the attacks, though there were two claims by obscure groups. (Photo by Pavel Wolberg/European Pressphoto Agency)

The destroyed facade of the Taba Hilton in Egypt yesterday after the hotel was hit first by a car bomb and then by a suicide bomber. (Photo by Sebastian Scheiner/Associated Press)(pg. A3)Map of Egypt highlighting Taba: Taba, Egypt, has been a popular Sinai vacation spot for Israelis. (pg. A3)

Load-Date: October 9, 2004

End of Document

END OF THE INTIFADA: FOUR LONG YEARS OF BLOODSHED, BULLDOZED HOMES, SUICIDE BOMBS AND TARGETED KILLINGS

The Independent (London)
February 9, 2005, Wednesday

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Section: First Edition; NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 752 words

Byline: ANNE PENKETH

Highlight: Mohammed Durra, 12, before he was fatally wounded; Ariel Sharon at Temple Mount in 2000; the coffin of Yasser Arafat AFP/Getty Images

Body

AN ACT of provocation by Ariel Sharon ignited the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, on 28 September 2000. On that day, the portly head of the Likud right-wing opposition bloc put on sunglasses and walked into one of the holiest sites in Islam, Haram al-Sharif, known as Temple Mount to Jews, in Israeli-occupied east Jerusalem.

The predictable result was an explosion of Palestinian rock-throwing and the second intifada was born. In this, a total 3,350 Palestinians and 970 Israelis have been killed.

The first intifada, the spontaneous revolt against Israeli occupation that lasted from 1987 till 1991, gave rise to the first international attempt to forge a comprehensive and permanent settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians: the Madrid peace conference in 1991.

Four years of this intifada have produced another push for peace. But the world has been shocked by the scale of the devastation unleashed by both sides on the bloody road to Sharm el-Sheikh.

The iconic image of 12-year old Mohammed Durra, who died cradled in his father's arms as they sheltered from a gunbattle between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers defending the Israeli settlement of Netzarim, became a symbol of the intifada. Two days after the Sharon visit to the al-Aqsa mosque complex, the film shot by a French cameraman intensified the Palestinian anger against Israel's targeting of children. The army apologised but in the following days two other children were shot for throwing stones.

The horrifying pictures kept on coming. On 12 October 2000, two Israeli soldiers were lynched at a Palestinian police station in Ramallah; a jubilant Palestinian youth was seen at a window holding up his hands daubed in the victims' blood.

Then on Passover eve, on 27 March 2002, a suicide bomber blew himself up in the resort of Netanyah, killing 28 people as they prepared to celebrate one of the holiest nights of the Jewish calendar.

The retaliation by Mr Sharon, by then Prime Minister, was swift: Israel launched a massive military assault on the West Bank, targeting Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah and condemning him to be a prisoner inside his bunker. He left it only to die.

END OF THE INTIFADA: FOUR LONG YEARS OF BLOODSHED, BULLDOZED HOMES, SUICIDE BOMBS AND TARGETED KILLINGS

The Israeli army chased Palestinian militants into the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. That provoked an international crisis that lasted for five weeks and was defused only by the negotiated departure of 39 militants from the church.

The Palestinian suicide bombers - including women - were undaunted. In response, in April 2002 Israel sent tanks into the Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin, and hundreds of homes were bulldozed.

That spring, the Israeli government began building the towering security barrier designed to keep the bombers out of Israel, but that was condemned by the Palestinians for encroaching on their land. The argument went as far as the Israeli supreme court which ruled in June last year that the security fence must be re-routed because of the hardship to the Palestinians.

But Israel dismissed as "immoral and dangerous" a further ruling by the World Court, the UN's senior judicial body, which nine days later called for the "illegal" barrier to be torn down.

But even the wall failed to stop the suicide bombers. After a ceasefire lasting seven weeks during Mahmoud Abbas' short-lived first term of office as Palestinian prime minister, on 20 August 2003 a suicide bomber killed 20 people on a Jerusalem bus. The militants who claimed the attack said it was in retaliation for the Israeli assassination of Palestinian leaders.

Two days later, another militant leader was targeted by Israel: the co-founder of Hamas, Ismail Abu Shanab, was killed by a helicopter missile strike in Gaza City. Then the Israelis became even more bold: on 22 March 2004 they assassinated the wheelchair-bound leader of Hamas, Sheikh Yassin, and his successor Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi, whose deaths triggered another round of violence. But the final act in the four years of intifada was looming.

With no letup in the violence, Mr Sharon's plan for a unilateral pullout from the occupied territory of Gaza, began to gain traction as a way back to the internationally-backed "road-map" that set a timetable for the creation of a Palestinian state.

The curtain fell on Yasser Arafat with his death in Paris on 11 November last year. He had been politically dead since being declared an obstacle to peace by the Israeli government in September 2003. With both sides weary of conflict, another window of opportunity had opened.

Load-Date: February 9, 2005

Israelis log a deadly toll against Palestinians

The International Herald Tribune

November 2, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 314 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

The Israeli Army killed more Palestinians in October than in any single month since the height of open warfare in April 2002, when Israeli forces moved through the West Bank and fought Palestinian security forces and militants during Operation Defensive Shield.

The army killed 165 Palestinians in October, 159 of them in the Gaza Strip, where the Israeli forces were attempting to stop the rocketing and mortaring of Israeli towns and settlements in what was the largest Israeli military operation in the Gaza Strip in four years.

At times there was heavy fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants in the narrow, crowded alleys of the Jabaliya refugee camp, and a number of the dead were senior members of militant groups like **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades.

The New York Times

According to an inquiry by Haaretz, an Israeli newspaper, 50 of the 165 dead, or just over 30 percent of them, were civilians, including **women**, children, the elderly and males under 16 years of age.

In the Gaza operation itself, called "Days of Repentance," at least 115 Palestinians were killed, and 39 percent of those, or 45 people, were civilians, according to Haaretz's calculations. About 500 Palestinians were wounded, and more than 90 homes, said by the Israeli Army to have been used to launch rockets or harbor militants, were destroyed.

In a second part of that operation last week, in the neighborhood of Khan Yunis refugee camp, 17 more Palestinians were killed and 50 wounded. In the entire month, three of the Khan Yunis dead were girls under the age of 12. Near Rafah, a schoolgirl, 13, was shot numerous times as she approached an Israeli military outpost and refused to stop. The soldiers said they had feared her schoolbag contained a bomb. The commander of that unit, a captain, has been arrested and is expected to face court-martial for his actions there.

Load-Date: November 2, 2004

Gaza the litmus test for Abbas

The Australian

January 11, 2005 Tuesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Opinion / Op Ed; Pg. 13

Length: 818 words

Byline: Leanne Piggott

Body

Can Arafat's successor win over Islamic militants in any deal with Israel, asks Leanne Piggott

FOLLOWING the death of Yasser Arafat last November, Gaza's former preventative security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, identified Mahmoud Abbas as a person who could provide the Palestinians with "a bridge between the past, the present and the future". By electing Abbas as their new President at the weekend, an impressive two-thirds majority of Palestinian voters seem to be of the same view.

But Dahlan's emphasis on continuity in the Palestinian leadership, which was echoed in comments made by Abbas during the election campaign, is strictly for the sake of appearances. Both men know that only by breaking decisively with the failed policies of the past will Abbas be able to lead his people into a new and better future.

MATP

In the past the Palestinians have been poorly served by political leaders who, time and again, sacrificed the requirements of good governance for the crude exigencies of preserving their monopoly over power. Hopefully, in Abbas the Palestinians have a new kind of leader, one whose strengths lie well beyond the politics of public posturing and symbolism.

Abbas is keenly aware of the importance of making the policy transition from a reflexive resort to terrorism to a serious engagement with the long-term tasks of building both state and civil society. His was one of the few voices in the Palestinian leadership that was prepared to take Arafat to task, publicly, for maladministration.

Upon his appointment as the first Palestinian prime minister in April 2003, Abbas announced his intention to fight corruption in the Palestinian Authority. He also sought, unsuccessfully, to weaken Arafat's control over the PA's security services. Arafat was too strongly entrenched to enable Abbas to make real reforms and after five months Abbas resigned.

Significantly, too, Abbas has frequently expressed opposition in the Arab press to the use of violence against Israeli civilians, supporting instead non-violent means to resist the occupation. Accordingly, he has repudiated Arafat's policy of speaking the language of peace for Western consumption while secreting funds and weapons to Fatah's Al Aqsa Brigades and stoking anti-Jewish hatred in the Palestinian media and school system.

Throughout his campaigning for Sunday's poll, Abbas's message that the violent tactics of the intifada have failed, and that "everything can be settled by dialogue", were not well received by those Palestinians who still cling to the

Gaza the litmus test for Abbas

old dream of destroying Israel. If Arafat was the main obstacle to reform in 2003, it is the Islamist groups, **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, who are now the main opposition to Abbas.

The crucial question is whether Abbas is justified in expressing confidence that he can win over the extremists through negotiations. Despite the Islamists' boycott of the poll, the international observers' confirmation of the legitimacy of the electoral process will put pressure on **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad to accept the voters' verdict. But will they?

This will depend on whether Abbas is perceived by his people to be making real gains. An early test will be how well Abbas and his administration handle Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip, scheduled for the second half of the year.

This area has long been an Islamist stronghold. Israel will need to abandon its unilateralist approach and work with Abbas towards a smooth hand-over of Gaza to the PA. If the Islamists take over that area instead, it may well set back the Palestinian cause and the prospects for peace by another generation. The stakes are high indeed.

Another test will be whether Israel relaxes its control over the movement of Palestinians at numerous checkpoints in the West Bank, a daily cause of hardship and humiliation for Palestinians. A renewed inflow of funds and diplomatic support from the US would also be seen as signs of success.

There are already indications of a shift in the popular mood, evident in the high voter turnout for Sunday's poll, especially among **women**. While the Islamist Palestinian groups were opposed in principle to the elections, they did not use violence and terror to try to stop people from voting, in stark contrast to the methods currently being adopted by the Islamists and other extremists in Iraq.

The new mood appears also to extend to Palestinian policy towards Israel. After four years of fruitlessly pursuing a strategy of violence, a growing number of Palestinians seem to feel that concrete political and economic gains are far more important than the past symbolism and posturing of their leaders. Heartened by Abbas's public rejection of violence, they are now prepared to say so, openly, rather than in whispers behind closed doors.

Leanne Piggott, a lecturer in Middle East Politics at the University of Sydney, is writing a book on the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Load-Date: January 10, 2005

Bulldozer Sharon wins through, but bigger battles may lie ahead

Sunday Times (London)

August 21, 2005, Sunday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; News; 20

Length: 1749 words

Byline: Marie Colvin Neve Dekalim

Body

MOST of the teenagers had been awake all night at the three gates of Neve Dekalim when, just before dawn, they caught the first sight of the Israeli soldiers who had come to evacuate the largest Jewish settlement in Gaza. They roused themselves into a linked-arm barricade and began singing psalms.

By 8am the sun was beating down and the teenagers, mostly infiltrators from Israel and West Bank settlements, were joined by long-time residents who were actually the ones being moved out.

One young couple wheeled a pushcart with twin toddler girls with blonde ponytails to the front line. Teenage boys sporting what have become the settlers' characteristic orange T-shirts darted forward with sharpened screwdrivers to puncture the tyres of the army buses.

Despite such initial signs of youthful bravado, by yesterday Neve Dekalim's 2,500 residents had gone -barring a few left behind to ease the handover -as had some 85% of the 8,500 other people who until last weekend had lived in 21 settlements built in the midst of Gaza's 1.3m Palestinians.

When the process resumes today after a break for the Sabbath, Israeli forces hope to clear the remaining settlements of Netzarim and Elei Sinai in northern Gaza and Katif, Atzmona and Slav in the Gush Katif bloc, before turning their attention to four isolated settlements in the West Bank. Once the bulldozers have destroyed the houses, the Palestinians are expected to move onto the land by October.

Some of the last settlers may yet put up resistance, however, especially in the Sanur and Homesh settlements, built on territory in the West Bank that religious Jews regard as part of Eretz, or biblical, Israel. And, in further bizarre twist, youths from Neve Dekalim were last night frantically text messaging each other to gather this morning at the gates of their settlement, which they believed would be lightly guarded, to retake their now empty homes.

Militant Palestinian groups, too, could cause problems despite attempts by Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, to keep a lid on violence. Yesterday dozens of **Hamas** gunmen took over Gaza City's central square, threatening further attacks.

I spent the week with the Jashis, a Yemeni Jewish family. Avi, the father who had never lifted a hand in the home, was in charge of the packing. Naomi, his wife, shouted at him not to touch her things because she was not leaving, cooked ever bigger meals, and washed ever more laundry -even though her five children and husband had lived and slept in the same clothes for days.

Bulldozer Sharon wins through, but bigger battles may lie ahead

On the night the army arrived I went out on a resistance operation with one of their sons, Adiel, 21, and other young "commandos" as they set out to implement a plot they had cooked up since Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, announced the evacuation. Their plan was to short out the entire electricity grid to stop the soldiers. Rubi Braun, 19, led us down secret shortcuts to pick up fellow plotters.

Our raid swiftly turned to farce. First, Adiel shouted abuse at a passing army patrol -not the best move for undercover saboteurs -and broke down in tears. The "commando" team retired to the Jashi family's veranda to make him tea to soothe his nerves. Then it turned out nobody had brought any tools, obliging the boys to disperse to their parents' homes to find some.

It was 3am, after another break for tea and hugs, when our group finally reached the electricity box. They poured their parents' barbecue accelerant onto newspaper, stuffed it into the box and lit a match.

The paper flared and fizzled out and that was it. Everyone appeared hugely relieved and went home, but not before swearing a solemn oath that they would return to Gaza.

Walking home in the moonlight, they passed the settler girls who had arrived from the West Bank in support, now sitting on the curb in their orange T-shirts, no longer shouting abuse at the soldiers but in quiet one-to-one conversations.

When the army surrounded the synagogue at Neve Dekalim at 10am that day, its loudspeakers rang with Sharon's voice. They were playing a recording made six months ago in which the prime minister, once the settlers' champion, had reminded soldiers they had the right to refuse any order that interfered with their personal beliefs. There could have been no more dramatic demonstration of the volte face the pull-out represented for Sharon.

Inside the compound of the main synagogue, the teenage boys and girls finally separated after three days into same-sex groups, the girls into the Sephardic synagogue, the boys across the courtyard to the Ashkenazi synagogue.

The army also split up: male soldiers into the synagogue where the boys had holed up, female soldiers to the synagogue where the girls had gone.

As Neta Balban, an Israeli major, announced they would have to leave, the girls shouted her down with religious songs. They went on for more than 12 hours until the last were finally talked into leaving. Dehydrated and distraught, they were put on a bus to Ashkelon.

Late that night the soldiers came for the Jashi family. Avi cried quietly in the corner. Naomi was hanging up another batch of laundry and had the makings of chocolate cake on the kitchen table. She shouted and cried, was put on the bus out, ran back to kiss her house and was put on the bus again.

But she returned, scampering like a child a quarter her age to give her house a last kiss. Her sons sobbed as they finally corralled her into the bus.

On Friday night, in a hotel in Jerusalem for her first Sabbath outside Neve Dekalim and the first in 20 years that she had not cooked, Naomi sat bewildered at a picnic table, picking like a small bird at the donated fish.

"Where will I live? My boys can be ruined by this city," she muttered. "I am not feeling stable; this is not a good life."

So what really happened last week? What was theatre and what was real? If the army had really wanted -and despite the threats posed by the 8,000 settlers of Gush Katif and 7,000 more infiltrators -it could have evacuated the settlements in 24 hours. Instead the troops listened to lectures from everyone from rabbis to 10-year-old girls on democracy and religion, and stood stone-faced as they were accused of being as bad as the Nazis.

Not one soldier dared to challenge the absurdity of such comparisons and point out to settlers they were being moved three miles, with their families, to inside the borders of a nation ready to receive them sympathetically and compensate them for their monetary, if not spiritual, losses.

Bulldozer Sharon wins through, but bigger battles may lie ahead

For Sharon, like the rest of Israel watching the harrowing scenes on television, there should be cause for quiet satisfaction this weekend. Some 59% of people questioned in a poll for the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper backed the pull-out; 89% said the security forces had handled it well.

For many members of his right-wing Likud party, however, Sharon remains guilty of the worst betrayal. Benjamin Netanyahu, his main rival, has called for an emergency party conference at which he is expected to challenge him for the leadership.

The polls give Netanyahu a 20% lead over Sharon among the 140,000 Likud members, many of whom are angry about the Gaza withdrawal and out for revenge. Sharon's position is complicated by the pressure from America to follow up the withdrawal with other concrete actions, almost of all of them anathema to his rank and file.

Abbas, too, who has announced that long-delayed Palestinian elections will be held on January 25, is under pressure from the militants -as yesterday's show of strength by Hamas demonstrated.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad, another militant group, have hailed Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip as the victorious outcome of their military attacks. Although agreeing to maintain a ceasefire to allow an orderly Israeli pull-out, they have vowed to target the 235,000 Jewish settlers still in the West Bank and the 180,000 living in and around Arab east Jerusalem.

"The battle is not over," said Osama Hamdan, Hamas's representative in Beirut.

"Negotiations alone failed to achieve such results; it was only the second intifada and the armed resistance that made this possible."

There are other questions, too, linked to the ultimate economic viability of Gaza and its 1.3m Palestinians, most of them impoverished. Palestinian sources say the crucial issue to be hammered out with the Israelis over the next few weeks is guaranteeing Gaza unfettered access to the outside world.

The Israelis have been insisting they should have a presence at the crossing to Egypt from Gaza. The Palestinians have refused, but say they will accept monitors from a third party, such as the European Union.

With unemployment running at an estimated 70%, the World Bank has warned that the withdrawal from Gaza could go badly wrong unless the Israeli government relaxes border controls to allow imports of necessities and exports of vegetables and fruit.

"Only when the people of Gaza can make stable contracts and import-export controls are relaxed will their economic situation get better," said a source in the International Crisis Group, "and that is the only security for Israel."

Sharon may be loath to give in to any further pressure from the Americans, let alone from the Palestinians. Those who know him say he has now consolidated the boundaries of Israel to what he considers defensible.

The question now will not be how to move Sharon, because historically he moves only how and when he wants, but rather how he wants history to view him. At 77, this old warrior may be as difficult to predict as the people he leads.

Additional reporting: Aviram Zino, Uzi Mahnaimi and Hala Jaber

Mon Aug 15

8,500 settlers 21 settlements across Gaza are given leaflets telling them they have to leave by the following night

Tue Aug 16

First three settlements u Dugit, Rafiah Yam, and Pe'at Sadeh - are cleared, with little resistance

Bulldozer Sharon wins through, but bigger battles may lie ahead

Wed Aug 17

Settlers weep amid growing demonstrations in Netzer Hazani and Ganei Tal. A **female** soldier is stabbed and protesters set up barricades

Thu Aug 18

Settlers in Netzer Hazani throw paint and stones at soldiers before hiding in synagogue

Fri Aug 19

Bulldozers move in to Kerem Atzmona, while protesters in Kfar Darom try to blind soldiers with mirrors and pour sugar into petrol tanks

Sat Aug 20

Operation suspended for the Sabbath

THE TASK AHEAD: Five settlements in Gaza u Netzarim, Eli Sinai, Katif, Atzmona and Slav - and four in the West Bank - Ganim, Kadim, Sa-Nur, and Homesh - remain to be cleared

Load-Date: August 22, 2005

End of Document

Israelis log a deadly toll against Palestinians

The International Herald Tribune

November 2, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 309 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

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The New York Times

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Load-Date: November 2, 2004

Israelis log a deadly toll against Palestinians

End of Document

Deadly push begins in Gaza

The Toronto Star
October 1, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A07

Length: 813 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel opened a deadly new phase in its war against the Palestinian uprising yesterday, sending armoured forces deep into the most congested refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and claiming one of the highest body counts of the four-year intifada.

By nightfall at least 30 Palestinians and three Israelis were dead, the vast majority killed in the narrow, warren-like alleyways of Jabalya, a militant stronghold that is home to more than 105,000 Palestinian refugees. Until now, the camp was a no-go zone for Israeli military strategists reluctant to send soldiers into so hostile an urban environment.

Israeli officials last night confirmed the military operation, codenamed "Days of Penitence," would continue indefinitely as a sustained, large-scale effort to end of the lobbing of homemade Palestinian rockets into Israel proper.

"Israeli army activities in the Gaza Strip have a clear objective of enabling Israelis to sit in their living rooms and backyards in peace and without fear of being bombarded by Palestinian rockets and missiles," David Baker, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, told the Star.

"This is our inherent right, the right to live in peace, and Israel is committed to the security of its citizens."

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Gideon Meir said early today that the unprecedented military operation will "send a strong message to the entire Palestinian population that they will pay a price unless they resist the terrorists among them.

"We are going to create a buffer of 9.5 kilometres between Sderot and the source of the missiles, which will put them beyond the range of Israelis. We are going to do it with much stronger force than ever before. It is going to work, because the present situation is untenable.

"The bottom line is that Israel has every intention of taking its civilian (settlers) out of Gaza in the coming year. But how can you remove them under fire? We have no choice but to act and act now," Meir said.

The flashpoint for the latest escalation was the deaths Wednesday of two Israeli preschoolers, brothers aged 2 and 4, killed in the random path of a Qassam rocket attack on the Israeli border town of Sderot.

Deadly push begins in Gaza

Sderot, an immigrant town of 2,000 people, has been vexed by an almost daily rain of Qassams from Gaza, despite repeated Israeli military reprisals.

The makeshift Palestinian projectiles seldom cause more than superficial damage. But Wednesday's deadly strike, and the fact that its victims were toddlers on a visit to see their grandparents for the Jewish festival of Succoth, appeared to spark a hardline resolve.

The operation began early yesterday with dozens of Israeli armoured vehicles lining up in northern Gaza with Apache helicopter gunships overhead, closing in on the towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya before plunging into Jabalya. An estimated 22 houses were partially destroyed as Israeli armoured bulldozers carved into the camp, widening the narrow passages for troop carriers.

More than a dozen Palestinians died in early morning clashes, mostly masked gunmen wearing the colours of Izzadine al-Qassam, the military wing of **Hamas**. But as the day wore on, an undetermined number of civilians were ensnared in the crossfire that left Gaza hospitals overflowing with at least 131 wounded Palestinians.

Palestinian gunmen killed three Israelis - two soldiers and a **female** settler - in separate attacks in northern Gaza.

In the single deadliest incident, a tank shell directed at a group of Palestinian gunmen killed at least seven and wounded more than 20 near the United Nations school in the eastern end of Jabalya. Witnesses said many of the wounded were teenagers with no involvement in the heavy fighting that enveloped the camp.

Nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital was overrun with casualties, forcing medical staff to treat the wounded, including two legless men, on the floor.

Israeli commanders voiced regret for civilian casualties, saying the tank opened fire at men who then detonated a bomb that wounded several soldiers. Israeli helicopters dropped leaflets over the camp, warning in Arabic that "terrorism pushes you further into a life of poverty and misery."

Later in the day, after Palestinian militants managed to launch three more Qassams on Sderot despite a blockade, **Hamas** answered with a leaflet boasting of its success against "the most powerful army in the region with homemade weapons."

"The situation is clearly untenable and cannot go on. We are going to make every effort to avert unnecessary civilian casualties and property damage, but the IDF activities will continue as long as necessary," a senior government official told the Star on condition of anonymity.

Former Gaza security chief Mohammed Dahlan said the operation "will result in a bloodbath on both sides because the Palestinian people cannot remain silent in the face of this aggression."

Palestinian leaders called for outside help.

Graphic

MOHAMMED SALEM Reuters Palestinian medical staff treat a youth injured by Israeli tanks in the Jabalya refugee camp, north of the Gaza Strip, yesterday.

Load-Date: October 1, 2004

DOOM & GLOOM

MX (Melbourne, Australia)

May 12, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 13

Length: 315 words

Body

EIGHT DIE IN GAZA CLASHES

A PALESTINIAN killed by Israeli troops in the Zeitun district of Gaza City last night was the eighth person to die in fighting during the day.

Rafiq Dormush, 30, was killed by gunfire in an operation that began at dawn. Six Israeli soldiers also died when their armoured personnel carrier was blown up in an ambush claimed by the Islamic group Hamas.

More than 120 people have been wounded in the fighting.

MURDERED HUSBAND IN FREEZER

A PORTUGUESE woman has confessed to killing her husband and hiding his body in a freezer for three years.

The man's brother found the rotting body on Sunday in Jolda Sao Paio. It was doubled up in the freezer under dirt, blankets and children's clothing.

The man's wife, 33, admitted she and a lover suffocated her husband, a 35-year-old construction worker, in June 2001. She and her three children then lived with the body stuffed in the freezer.

The body was found when the freezer was turned off and began to smell.

CHILDREN FOUND IN MASS GRAVE

FORENSIC experts have begun exhuming a mass grave in eastern Bosnia thought to contain the remains of more than 70 Muslim civilians, including women and children, slaughtered a decade ago.

"We recovered seven complete bodies, including two children," a member of the Bosnian Muslim commission for missing people, Murat Hurtic, said.

The grave near the eastern town of Vlasenica, discovered only last week, is believed to hold 72 bodies, including those of 16 children aged three to 15.

MILLIONS ORPHANED BY AIDS

ABOUT 14 million children under 15 have been orphaned, or lost at least one parent to AIDS, and that figure is likely to increase to 25 million by 2010, the World Health Organisation said today.

DOOM & GLOOM

The illness has become the world's most urgent public health challenge and is now the leading cause of death of adults between 15 and 59 worldwide, according to the World Health Report.

Load-Date: May 12, 2004

End of Document

NEWSDESK

The Forward
January 30, 2004

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Section: News; Pg. 3

Length: 1779 words

Body

Judge Rules on Hamas

A U.S. federal judge ordered the Palestinian militant group Hamas to pay \$116 million in damages for the deaths of an American citizen and his Israeli wife near the West Bank in 1996.

The ruling Tuesday upheld a judge's decision last month on behalf of relatives of Yaron and Efrat Ungar, who lived in Israel when they were killed in a drive-by shooting. U.S. District Court Judge Ronald Lagueux awarded \$30.5 million each to the Ungars' children and \$15 million each to Yaron Ungar's parents, both of whom live in Israel. Three siblings were awarded \$7.5 million each.

Family members of Yaron Ungar sued in March 2000 under a 1991 law allowing relatives of American victims of overseas terrorism to seek damages in U.S. courts. Efrat Ungar was an Israeli.

It was unclear whether Hamas would honor the verdict or whether the group has the money to pay. Hamas has had no legal representation in the lawsuit.

Turkish Leader Praised

The American Jewish Congress is calling on the European Union to admit Turkey to the E.U. as soon as possible. During a luncheon honoring Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in New York on Monday, AJCongress president Jack Rosen praised Turkey for its role as a bridge between the Islamic and Western worlds.

The EU is expected to rule on Turkey's admission at a summit in December 2004. Some European countries have expressed misgivings about admitting Turkey because of its human rights record and its unresolved territorial disputes with Cyprus. Some European politicians have expressed concerns over the cultural and religious differences between largely Muslim Turkey and Christian Europe.

Rosen praised Erdogan, who heads the main Islamist party, for promoting democracy, fighting terrorism and maintaining close ties with both Israel and the United States.

Erdogan also met with President Bush for the first time since American-Turkish relations soured after Ankara's refusal to allow American use of its base for the war in Iraq. Erdogan stressed that Turkey would not tolerate terrorism. "We will act in solidarity to wipe it from the face of the earth," Erdogan said, recounting the deadly bombings that rocked Istanbul in late November. Two synagogues and the British bank HSBC were struck.

NEWSDESK

He said the culprits had been swiftly caught by security forces, and he pledged to protect the Turkish Jewish community. "There is no need for our Jewish friends to be concerned about the security of the Jewish community in Turkey," he said. "Because they are our citizens and have been entrusted to us by the Jewish world."

Victims Compensated

Starting this week, 1,778 victims of Nazi medical experiments will get one-time compensation payments from Germany. The Claims Conference identified the victims who, under an agreement with the German government, will receive payments of about \$5,400 each. Under Nazi rule, German doctors and scientists conducted experiments on Jews including sterilization, amputation of limbs, organ removal, infusion of infectious diseases, immersion in ice water and the infamous experiments on twins. Most of the experiments tested how much pain, torture or disease human beings could endure before dying, so the vast majority of the subjects were killed. "For survivors, it is a day of muted triumph," said Roman Kent, chairman of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, at the news conference in New York announcing the awards.

Brits Oppose Jewish P.M.

Nearly one in five Englishmen would prefer that a Jew not be prime minister. One in seven think the Holocaust is exaggerated, according to a poll published last week in Britain's Jewish Chronicle.

The poll, which interviewed 1,007 people in England, Scotland and Wales, found that 18% disagreed with the statement, "A British Jew would make an equally acceptable prime minister as a member of any other faith."

Last Friday's Daily Telegraph suggested the findings could deal a blow to the electoral chances of Michael Howard, the current leader of the opposition Conservative Party. Howard, a former home secretary, belongs to a Reform synagogue. Britain's home secretary, David Blunkett, told The Guardian newspaper that he was disappointed by the poll's findings.

U.S. To File Fence Brief

The Bush administration will file a brief with the International Court of Justice in the Hague supporting Israel's position that the court should have passed on taking up the legality of the West Bank security fence, administration officials said.

The administration does not intend to endorse Israeli arguments in defense of the fence or its claim that the court has no jurisdiction. Instead, sources said, the Americans are expected to argue that the fence would best be addressed during negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians within the framework of an ongoing peace process.

The administration's apparent decision ended weeks of speculation among pro-Israel activists over how the administration would frame its discomfort with the court's handling of the issue. The White House has publicly blasted the fence in the past.

Israeli officials are content with the administration's decision, sources said.

According to sources familiar with the process, the Russian government rebuffed an administration request to file a joint brief. Russian officials, however, have assured the administration that their brief will offer similar arguments.

Briefs to the court must be filed by Friday, January 30. Court hearings are scheduled to start in late February.

Bush administration officials recently said that despite their objection, they expect the court to take up the issue and to rule against Israel. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, David Satterfield, was quoted as telling congressional staffers last week, in a closed meeting, that no one should delude himself into expecting a ruling in favor of Israel.

UJC Ousts Va. Federation

NEWSDESK

The North American federation system ousted the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, Va., due to delinquency in dues payments. The move marks the first time a federation has been kicked out of the United Jewish Communities, said UJC chief executive officer Stephen Hoffman. The decision came in a unanimous vote by UJC officers Sunday night after a report on the federation by UJC's chairman of the board, Robert Goldberg.

After talking with the federation for 18 months, the UJC concluded, "Tidewater really had no intention of changing its position," said Hoffman, who added that the UJC had not yet given the federation the pink slip. No one could be reached at the Tidewater federation.

Birthright Slashes Spots

Birthright Israel is slashing the number of participants on its summer trips this year because of funding problems.

Some 3,500 participants, all but 500 of whom will come from North America, is all "we can manage in light of all the uncertainties," said Michael Steinhardt, a key Birthright benefactor.

This winter, Birthright took more than 10,000 youths to Israel, including 8,000 from North America. Now in the last of its five pilot years, the free trip to Israel for Jews between the ages of 18 and 26 has brought about 60,000 Diaspora youths to the Jewish state.

The future of the program - hailed as a revolutionary way to strengthen Jewish identity among Diaspora youths - is uncertain.

"We hold out as a serious option closing down the program," Steinhardt said.

When the program began, the North American Jewish Federation system, along with Jewish communities worldwide, the Israeli government and a group of 14 philanthropists, had agreed to divide evenly the funding for the \$210 million, five-year program.

But some of those sponsors have fallen short on their funding responsibilities.

While each party originally was slated to contribute \$70 million for the first five years, the Israeli government severely cut its funding this year. And the federation system now plans to pay only \$35 million, of which it is currently short \$4 to \$5 million. As a result, UJC's overseas partner, the Jewish Agency for Israel, has increased its contribution. The philanthropists have "carried the deficit," according to Marlene Post, chairwoman of Birthright.

Husbands Chain Wives

There are currently 150 women living in Israel whose husbands refuse to grant them a divorce, the director of the rabbinical courts, Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, told the Knesset Constitution Law and Justice Committee on Wednesday.

Ben-Dahan said that since a law was passed seven years ago giving the rabbinical courts powers to compel recalcitrant husbands to divorce their wives, the courts have issued 94 orders, prompting 77 men to agree to divorce their wives.

Under rabbinic law, a husband, being of sound mind and out of free will, must place the divorce decree, or get, into his wife's hands in order for the divorce to be completed. A woman is otherwise considered an aguna, or "chained woman," and is not free to marry.

The court has sentenced 16 men to short periods in solitary confinement (after which eight agreed to divorce their wives), and there are currently eight men imprisoned for refusing to divorce their wives. These husbands can be sentenced to up to seven months in prison.

The panel also approved a bill proposed by Knesset member Gila Finkelstein to extend the maximum period of solitary confinement from 5 to 14 days. Finkelstein said that in many cases the punishments imposed by the

NEWSDESK

rabbinical courts are too light, and extending the maximum period of solitary confinement could help "free" the women and enable them to begin a new chapter in their lives.

Court Rules Against Nazi

A federal appeals court in New York has ruled that an 84-year-old accused Nazi collaborator, who admitted that he shot his gun over the heads of Jews as they waited to die in a pit, had assisted in the persecution of Jews and must give up his U.S. citizenship, the Associated Press reported.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed with Jack Reimer's portrayal of himself as a victim who was captured by the Germans in the Soviet Union in the early 1940s and then forced to follow their orders or be killed.

Reimer, an ethnic German born in Ukraine, maintained that he was forced to be a German guard but that his duties were largely administrative, that he engaged in no personal act of persecution, and that he did not know people were persecuted because of their race, religion or national origin.

The appeals court judges said that to find in Reimer's favor, "we would need to close our eyes to the facts as found by the district court and overlook that many of these same defenses have been rejected by prior decisions of this court and the Supreme Court. We will do neither."

Graphic

IMAGE

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

Sharon cabinet meeting turns nasty;

Morning Star

April 05, 2004

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Section: Pg. 3

Length: 310 words

Body

ISRAEL'S weekly cabinet meeting exploded into a shouting match yesterday between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and hard-line ministers who are opposed to his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

Mr Sharon has said that his "disengagement plan" is intended to separate Israelis from Palestinians after more than three years of fighting and reduce friction between the two peoples in the absence of any movement in peace efforts.

However, some among Mr Sharon's hard-line coalition strongly oppose any withdrawal and have threatened to pull out of the government.

During yesterday's cabinet meeting, the hard-liners, led by Tourism Minister Benny Elon, demanded that Mr Sharon immediately bring his plan to a cabinet vote so they could decide whether to pull out of the coalition, according to officials in the meeting.

The prime minister angrily retorted that the details of the plan had not been finalised and, if he brought it to the ministers, they would leak it to the press, the officials said.

"There is no obligation to be in the cabinet. It is very simple not to be here.

Anyone who wants to can get up and leave, " Mr Sharon said.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz told the cabinet that a closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will remain in effect until after Israel's Independence Day, April 26, to prevent Palestinian militant attacks on Israelis.

Meanwhile, police entered the offices of a foundation for Arab women in east Jerusalem which has been accused of being affiliated with leading resistance group Hamas, authorities said.

Police shut down the office for 15 days, detained two workers for questioning and applied for a warrant to freeze the group's bank accounts, according to police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby.

Police claim that the money may be being used to support families and prisoners connected to terror attacks.

Load-Date: April 6, 2004

Sharon cabinet meeting turns nasty;

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News Summary

The New York Times
September 24, 2005 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 895 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-6

Three Soldiers Recount Abuse of Detainees in Iraq

Three former members of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division say members of their battalion in Iraq beat and abused prisoners in 2003 and 2004 to help gather intelligence on the insurgency and to amuse themselves. The allegations, the first involving alleged abuses by members of the elite unit, are contained in a report by Human Rights Watch. A1

Accident at Hamas Rally Kills 15

A pickup truck carrying rockets exploded at a Hamas rally as the group paraded its weapons through a densely packed refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. At least 15 people were killed and dozens were wounded, Palestinian medical officials said. A6

A Proposal to Refer Iran to U.N.

Britain, raising the stakes in the West's confrontation with Iran, formally proposed that the Iranian government be reported to the United Nations Security Council for its failure to comply with treaties governing its nuclear program. A3

Bombs Kills 6 at Bus Stop in Iraq

An attacker detonated an explosive belt at a crowded bus stop in central Baghdad and killed six people, the latest bloodshed in what American officials have predicted will be a period of heightened violence before the national constitutional referendum in three weeks. A6

Pakistani Leader Causes Stir

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's remark about women and rape has ignited a firestorm of outrage at home and abroad and undermined his efforts to publicize his new governing principle of "enlightened moderation." A3

NATIONAL A8-12, 16

Rita Lashes Gulf Coast; Dozens Die on Evacuee Bus

News Summary

Hurricane Rita began lashing coastal cities up and down Louisiana and Texas with hurricane force winds, bringing fires in Galveston and breaching levees again in New Orleans. The hurricane weakened to a Category 3, with winds at 120 miles an hour. A1

A bus evacuating residents of a suburban Houston senior-living center burst into flames and was rocked by explosions on a highway south of Dallas, killing at least 24. A1

F.D.A. Commissioner Resigns

Dr. Lester M. Crawford, the commissioner of food and drugs, resigned abruptly, causing further upheaval at a troubled agency that has been in turmoil for more than a year. A1

New Option for Prescriptions

In a major step to cut drug costs for older Americans, the Bush administration announced that 10 companies would offer prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries in all parts of the country. A12

Questions on Justice Nominee

Senate Democrats pressed for more answers from President Bush's nominee for deputy attorney general about his relationship with Jack Abramoff, the disgraced lobbyist, but the White House strongly defended its nominee. A16

EDUCATION

University Leader Accepts Deal

Benjamin Ladner, the president of American University, who has been suspended pending an investigation of expenses that he charged to the college, has agreed to accept a more modest contract if the board votes to return him to office. A8

NEW YORK/REGION B1-6

Another Caregiver Gone; More Uncertainty for Heirs

Though they are set to inherit between \$15 million and \$18 million, few would envy the 11-, 8- and 5-year old Kissel siblings. Their mother was convicted last month of killing their father in 2003 and now their rich uncle and guardian Andrew M. Kissel is facing fraud charges punishable by years in prison and likely to leave him penniless. His sister and estranged wife are fighting for custody of the children. A1

Jets Court Two Stadiums

The Jets formally told the National Football League that they are pursuing plans to build a \$1.35 billion stadium in Queens, even as a deadline looms for an agreement to build a stadium in New Jersey with the Giants. They appear to be formally opening up a two-state auction to get New Jersey and New York to outdo each other in offering more lucrative deals for the team. B1

Beliefs B6

OBITUARIES A13

ARTS B9-19

SPORTSSATURDAY D1-8

Tejada Denies Steroid Link

The Baltimore Orioles found themselves absorbed with baseball's steroids problems again, as Miguel Tejada defended himself against claims that a vitamin he gave Rafael Palmeiro ultimately contributed to Palmeiro's testing

News Summary

positive for steroids. The Orioles also announced that Palmeiro will not return this season, likely ending his career with the club. D1

BUSINESS DAY C1-14

Insurance Costs to Rise

The cost of insurance for homes and businesses is expected to rise sharply in the Gulf Coast states because of Hurricane Katrina, and even more so with Hurricane Rita, industry experts said yesterday. Policyholders far from the battered coastline are also expected to face higher premiums. C1

Wolfowitz's Transformation

Paul D. Wolfowitz is irritating some of his former colleagues in the Bush administration by repeatedly calling this week for "stronger commitments" by rich countries to reimburse the World Bank for lost loan repayments. C1

Yahoo Reinventing Itself

Recent media initiatives indicate that Terry S. Semel, Yahoo's chief executive and the former co-head of Warner Brothers, is trying to turn Yahoo into the interactive studio of the future. C1

Business Digest C2

EDITORIAL A14-15

Editorials: Educated by Rita; doctors with ties to device makers; a road map to school peace; a long wait for public toilets.

Columns: Maureen Dowd, John Tierney.

Bridge B18

Crossword B16

TV Listings B19

Weather B20

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Load-Date: September 24, 2005