

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

Job Number: 223362351

Documents (100)

1. [2,000 Return Home After Israel Opens Border Crossing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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2. [Naming the Enemy](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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3. [Mideast peace unreachable with these attitudes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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4. [Five years on, hope starts to grow](#)

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

5. [Faking it for fashion's sake](#)

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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6. [*Christianity Dying In Its Birthplace*](#)

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
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7. [*MINISTERS REBEL OVER WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

8. [*Two-Front Insurgency*](#)

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
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9. [*Cleansing the Holy Land of Christians*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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10. [*Resolute in Iraq*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

11. [TERRORISM: Even sincere censures have little effect](#)

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

12. [Withdrawal rapid, despite protests: Four Palestinians gunned down by upset Israeli driver](#)

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

13. [WITH A TWO-FRONT INSURGENCY IN IRAQ , IT'S TIME FOR DECISIVE COUNTERATTACK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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14. [Friends take hope for peace on road; They grew up in a Jewish-Arab village.](#)

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

15. [Arabs delay summit](#)

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

16. [*Week in review*](#)

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

17. [*Sharon orders reprisals for bombing*](#)

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

18. [*Education: Work in progress: What makes women become suicide bombers. Polly Curtis looks at research that aims to understand*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. [*Wave of democracy leaves Mideast 'unrecognizable': The U.S. might not like the results of the elections it proudly takes credit for, writes Anton La Guardia.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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20. [*Never mind Hillary - it's 'Laura for president' now*](#)

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

21. [*Minister's brother leads Gaza military mutiny*](#)

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

22. [*The case for negotiating with the mullahs ; Bush in Europe I*](#)

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

23. [*Religion out abroad, in at home*](#)

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

24. [*Work in progressfor a better year*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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25. [*The Arafat I knew*](#)

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

26. [*Sharon the optimist*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

27. [How the UN can help fight anti-Semitism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

28. [ARIEL SHARON THE OPTIMIST](#)

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

29. [Palestinians go to polls tomorrow](#)

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

30. [Sharon The Optimist](#)

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

31. [After Arafat](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

32. [AFTER ARAFAT, THE WAY MAY BE OPEN FOR REAL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Dec 01, 2005

33. [After Arafat, Hope](#)

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

34. [The spectacular rise of the female terrorist ; Another failure of imagination?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

35. [Giving into Jihadi kidnappers will only beget more terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

36. [France Pushes For Release Of Hostages](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

37. [Clash of civilisations? No, it's pure evil](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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38. [FURY AS RACE HATE CLERIC 'HONOURED'](#)

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. [With Israelis gone, ex-settlement burns; Palestinians destroyed Netzarim's synagogue after Israel decided to let such structures stand.](#)

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. [Gaza expulsions move ahead quickly: Disgruntled settler shoots four Palestinians](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

41. [FIVE PER CENT..OR THE COMMUTER GETS IT!](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by
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42. [THE HUMAN COST OF A FAKE LABEL They're must-have accessories for thousands of fashionistas. But as this dispatch reveals, fashion fakes are made in child sweatshops to fund gang bosses and even terrorists](#)

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

43. [THE HUMAN COST OF A FAKE LABEL](#)

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

44. [Gunrunners sneak weapons into Gaza at will](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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45. [WORLD IN FOCUS:](#)

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

46. [Najaf stand-off tests Shia leadership SALAMA AL-KHUFAl:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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47. [Israeli teen soldier murders four Arabs in attack: 'A bloodthirsty terrorist': Sharon](#)

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
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48. [Gaza protests wilt in face of huge security operation: Sharon has upper hand](#)

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

49. [Just Vision aims for Mideast peace: 'Peace workers' jobs are not sexy and don't sell papers,' says the 26-year-old founder of a grassroots group devoted to resolving conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. A documentary and Web site are in the works](#)

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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50. [Services held amid tight security](#)

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
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51. [The case for fighting terror](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
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52. [*Veritas?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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53. [*Sharon finds a puzzling place with his stance on Gaza*](#)

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

54. [*America is rolling back global terror*](#)

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

55. [*Gaza dreams of life after the Israelis: Fate of abandoned settler homes undecided as Palestinians plan tourist paradise*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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56. [*Study the Koran?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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57. ['SPINNING INTO CONTROL'; U.S. -LED MILITARY ACTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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58. [Panelists Claim New Republic Cut Their Anti- Saudi Remarks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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59. ['Pothole theory' may get a test in Mideast politics](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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60. ['Spinning Into Control'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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61. [WRITING WOMEN INTO A CORNER DEMANDING](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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62. [Wolfowitz is not a mistake but a chance: ADAM POSEN:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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63. [*Peace . . . from poisoned minds?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [*Jury Selection at Sheik's Trial Tests Passions*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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65. [*Tiger tales*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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66. [*The new totalitarians*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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67. [*Homecoming a heartache; Those who fled Fallujah are returning to a town ravaged by fighting.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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68. [Jailed leader closes in on mainstream candidate in Palestinian elections: Two polls predict a tight race in next month's potentially divisive vote to replace Yasser Arafat](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmingly drawn from the ranks of men in their teens or 20s. But often it seems that radical ideology is not the end in itself, but an outlet for a violent predisposition that changes aimless, identity-less losers into 'agents of destiny,' Don Butler reports.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 01, 2005

70. [Blast kills two officers in Jerusalem; At least 17 people were injured. The bomber, 19, had been intercepted as she tried to board a bus.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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71. [In Focus](#)

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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72. [In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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73. [In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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74. [Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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75. [For Palestinian moms, some painful choices](#)

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

76. [Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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77. [Encouraging bad behaviour can only help the jihadis](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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78. [Israeli 'sound bombs': Palestinians hit by sonic boom air raids: UN condemns night noise attacks as indiscriminate: Agencies say they cause trauma and miscarriages](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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79. [News Summary](#)

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

80. [Israeli Pullback in Gaza Met With Palestinian Rockets](#)

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

81. [COSBY, MCCAIN, HILLARY, MARTHA, FENCES, ABU GHRAIB, ETC.](#)

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

82. [Andalusia 's Islam connection](#)

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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83. [Israelis compromise on Gaza](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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84. [WORLD IN FOCUS:Aussies to make citizenship tougher!Americans braced for recharged hurricane !](#)

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

85. [GAZA SETTLERS RESIST PULLOUT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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86. [Israeli troops strike Rafah: Three killed by missiles as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes](#)

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

87. [Gaza protests wilt amid huge security detail: Sharon has upper hand: Palestinian leader hopes truce can still be salvaged](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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88. [*Israeli soccer teams are finally coming home to play: European federation lifts its two-year ban imposed because of security concerns*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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89. [*Who visits Sweden ?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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90. [*Iraq needs 'jaw-jaw' not more 'war-war'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by

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

91. [*Radical left is being right stupid over terrorism*](#)

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

92. [*A family fun - filled holiday . . . sort of*](#)

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

93. [Tape urges overthrow of Pakistan government](#)

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. [Terrorism by any other name still reeks of death, dearth](#)

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. [Rowdy crowds, hecklers press Laura Bush](#)

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. [Jews, gentiles stand together; Torontonians united in strengthening community against cowardly acts of vandalism](#)

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. [Israeli bank raid breaks new turf](#)

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. [Israel 's human rights leadership still being ignored](#)

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. [The Domino effect: Bush's attack on Iraq was a strategic strike against global terror and it's having positive ripple effects in Libya , Afghanistan , Iran , the Mideast and North Korea](#)

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. [Puppet masters twist young minds to hate](#)

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

2,000 Return Home After Israel Opens Border Crossing

The New York Times

August 7, 2004 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 587 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE; Taghreed El Khodary contributed reporting from Gaza for this article.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Aug. 6

Body

Israel opened a border crossing on Friday between the Gaza Strip and Egypt that had been closed for nearly three weeks, allowing most of the more than 2,000 stranded Palestinians to return home.

Israel closed the Rafah crossing on July 18, saying it believed that Palestinians were planning to attack the site. Since then, Palestinians who were in Egypt have been unable to return to Gaza.

More affluent Palestinians were able to turn back and wait out the delay at hotels in Cairo or elsewhere in Egypt. But many of the travelers spent the entire time at a cramped, sweltering terminal building on the Egyptian side of the border.

Many had to sleep outside, and the terminal had limited sanitary facilities. A large number of the Palestinians had gone to Egypt for medical treatment, and some were still ailing as they tried to return home.

Khalil Abu Foul, a doctor with the Palestinian Red Crescent who was given special permission to cross from Gaza to the Egyptian side, treated the stranded Palestinians for the past two weeks. He said one woman gave birth and two women had miscarriages, while many people suffered from illnesses related to diarrhea and high blood pressure.

Abu Muhammad al-Salahiat, 40, said that his father and aunt, both of them ailing, went to Egypt for medical treatment and that both died in Cairo during the past two weeks. At midday on Friday, he was still waiting for the bodies to be returned.

"They are both dead," said an exasperated Mr. Salahiat. "Why won't they let the bodies cross?"

Egypt had called on Israel to reopen the border for aid reasons, and the United States raised the issue.

Israel had offered to allow a limited number of Palestinians to pass through a separate crossing along the Israeli-Egyptian border. But Palestinian officials rejected the proposal, saying it was a violation of the existing agreement on the border crossing. The Israeli proposal would have permitted just 200 Palestinians to return home each day.

Palestinian authorities also expressed concerns that Israel might be planning to close the Rafah crossing permanently.

2,000 Return Home After Israel Opens Border Crossing

Palestinian officials said that around 1,500 travelers had returned to Gaza as of Friday evening and that the rest were expected soon.

On the Gaza side of the border, Palestinians who were unable to go to Egypt simply remained at home, and there was no backlog of stranded travelers at the crossing point.

In a separate development, the Israeli defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, said some Palestinian police officers in the West Bank would be allowed to carry their weapons in public for the first time in more than two years.

The Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, recently raised the issue, saying the Palestinian Authority could not combat the growing chaos on the streets unless there was an armed police force.

Mr. Mofaz told Israel radio that he was concerned about "a situation of anarchy that could spread and create chaos on the Palestinian side."

The defense minister said that the Palestinian police would only be allowed to carry pistols and clubs, and that officers would have to be approved individually by Israel. The policy will be put in place gradually and is reversible, Mr. Mofaz said.

Elsewhere on Friday, the Israeli military said troops shot and killed a would-be bomber who was approaching a Jewish settlement in southern Gaza. The Israeli forces also shot to death a member of the **Hamas** faction, and arrested a militant during the same operation in the northern West Bank, the military said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A Palestinian man greeted his family in Rafah on Friday after Israel reopened the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. Israel closed the border on July 18 because of concerns about possible militant attacks. (Photo by Getty Images)

Load-Date: August 7, 2004

End of Document

Naming the Enemy

New York Sun (Archive)

August 17, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 723 words

Byline: DANIEL PIPES

Body

In a striking admission, President Bush said the other day: "We actually misnamed the war on terror. It ought to be [called] the struggle against ideological extremists who do not believe in free societies and who happen to use terror as a weapon to try to shake the conscience of the free world."

This important concession follows growing criticism of the misleading term "war on terror" - how can one fight a tactic? - and replaces it with the more accurate "war on ideological extremists." With this change, the battle of ideas can begin. But who exactly are those ideological extremists? The next step is for Mr. Bush to give them a name.

In fact, he on occasion since September 11 has spoken candidly about their identity. As early as September 2001, he referred to the enemy being "a fringe form of Islamic extremism" which seeks "to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and make no distinction among military and civilians, including women and children." This Islamic extremism also is heir to "all the murderous ideologies of the twentieth century," including "fascism, and Nazism, and totalitarianism."

In January 2002, Mr. Bush was more specific yet, adding that the terrorist underworld includes "groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, [and] Jaish-i-Mohammed." In May 2002, he pointed out that a "new totalitarian threat" exists whose adherents "are defined by their hatreds: they hate Jews and Christians and all Muslims who disagree with them," implying that they are Muslims. Those adherents, he noted, feel entitled to kill "in the name of a false religious purity."

A year later, in May 2003, the president provided details about the Islamists' goals, observing that "nineteen evil men - the shock troops of a hateful ideology - gave America and the civilized world a glimpse of their ambitions. They imagined, in the words of [Ramzi Binalshibh, the Al Qaeda leader accused of directing the 9/11 operation], that September the 11th would be the 'beginning of the end of America.'"

The terrorist acts of the past two decades, Mr. Bush noted in April 2004, are the work of fanatical, political ideologues who "seek tyranny in the Middle East and beyond. They seek to oppress and persecute women. They seek the death of Jews and Christians, and every Muslim who desires peace over theocratic terror."

Last month, Mr. Bush for the first time used the phrase "Islamic militants," perhaps his most explicit reference until now to the Islamist threat, saying that until he closed a so-called Islamic charity based in Illinois, the Benevolence International Foundation, it "channel[ed] money to Islamic militants."

Naming the Enemy

Rolling these comments into a single summary statement establishes how Mr. Bush sees the enemy: A false doctrine of Islamic purity inspires a totalitarian ideology of power and domination. In its ruthlessness, murderousness, and global ambition, it resembles the Nazi and communist ideologies. The extremists who advocate this doctrine see America as the chief obstacle to achieving their goals. To defeat America, they initially seek Washington's retreat from the outside world. Ultimately, they hope to bring about a collapse of America as it now exists. Toward this end, they are prepared to murder any number of Americans.

This is a fine description of Islamism, its mentality, methods, and means. It also shows that Mr. Bush draws the subtle distinction between the personal faith of Islam and the political ideology of Islamism, or, militant Islam.

In this, he parallels what a number of Muslim leaders - including even some Saudis - have said. Following acts of terrorism in Riyadh in May 2003, Interior Minister Prince Naif publicly attributed this violence to "ideology" and "fanatical ideas." And if Prince Naif - himself an Islamist - attributes the problem ultimately not to acts of violence but the ideas behind them, surely Americans can say no less.

Mr. Bush has already alluded to America having to confront its third totalitarian ideology. Now he should name that ideology. I hope he will surround himself with a group of distinguished anti-Islamist Muslims, foreign and domestic alike, and formally announce America's acceptance of leadership in the war against Islamism.

Only with such specificity can the civilized world start on the path to victory over this latest manifestation of barbarism.

Load-Date: August 17, 2004

End of Document

Mideast peace unreachable with these attitudes

University Wire

November 10, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 Arizona Daily Wildcat via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 760 words

Byline: By David Schultz, Arizona Daily Wildcat; **SOURCE:** U. Arizona

Dateline: TUCSON, Ariz.

Body

If I hadn't read it with my own two eyes, I wouldn't have believed it.

Two weeks ago The New York Times reported that Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, told an anti-Zionist student rally that Israel "must be wiped off the map."

Something tells me he's probably not going to be getting many Hanukkah gifts this year.

If there was any doubt before Ahmadinejad's remarks that anti-Semitism is alive and kicking in the Arab world, there should be none now. His remarks were not an extemporaneous aberration but were actually a concise and unfortunately accurate summary of Arab attitudes toward the Jewish state.

These attitudes, along with equally repugnant Jewish anti-Arab attitudes, are the true root of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and any attempts to end the conflict without addressing them will fail.

Scholars and pundits alike have tried to theorize about the nature of this conflict and why it is so interminable.

Some believe it is purely nationalistic and that the Palestinians are simply fighting for the right to their own state while the Israelis are simply fighting to maintain the existence of their state.

Others claim that the cause of the conflict is the polar economic disparity between Israelis and Palestinians. After all, they claim, any time intense poverty is physically juxtaposed to economic prosperity, violent conflicts are inevitable.

While these theories contain kernels of truth, they fundamentally miss the mark by ignoring the fact that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an ethnic conflict that can only be solved by the total eradication of ethnic hatred.

For the past 10 to 15 years, Israel has tried to end the conflict through political means such as signing peace accords with Palestinian leaders, or more recently, pulling troops out of Palestinian areas.

Israeli leaders are hoping that these means will lead to the end of hostilities by establishing a Palestinian state. Essentially, the Israeli government is gradually kicking the Palestinians out of their country, and it is hoping that once they have their own they won't bother Israel anymore.

Mideast peace unreachable with these attitudes

This is merely wishful thinking. If Palestine were to become a state right now, the conflict wouldn't end; it would merely change from a civil war to a plain old regular war between two separate countries.

Palestinian politics are becoming increasingly dominated by militant terrorist factions such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad (which are funded by - you guessed it - Iran). These groups' overriding, unabashed goal is the destruction of the Jewish state and the Jewish people.

Don't get me wrong, the Palestinian people definitely deserve their own state.

But a Palestinian state that is in any way influenced by the "destroy Israel now" faction is totally unacceptable for the Israeli government and its people because this state would almost certainly be vehemently hostile toward Israel.

Similarly, the economic uplifting of the Palestinian people, although it would help, would still not end the conflict.

Many Palestinians harbor an entrenched loathing of the Jewish people that, sadly, is created and fostered by their vile, hateful leaders. These anti-Semitic attitudes have been handed down from generation to generation and cannot be erased by throwing money at the situation.

However, Israelis are no less guilty of this hatred than are the Palestinians and an attempted economic solution to this conflict would only exacerbate the antipathy that many, but not all, Israelis feel toward the Palestinian people.

Fanatical Jewish zealots are capable of committing atrocities that are equally if not more horrific than those committed by Islamic zealots, as is evidenced by the Israeli soldier who was absent without leave three months ago and boarded a bus in an Arab town and indiscriminately opened fire on men, women and children.

No matter what political or economic concessions are made by either side in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, until hatred and religious discrimination are eliminated, there will be no end to this decades-old clash.

As we Americans know from our own ongoing racial problems, there is no easy or quick solution to this vicious cycle of loathing.

But one way progress could be made is if the political and religious leaders of both the Israeli and the Arab worlds truly recognized each others' rights to exist and denounced any and all notions of their mutual enmity.

One thing's for sure: No good can come of Ahmadinejad's fueling of the engine that lies in the black heart of this tragic conflict.

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Load-Date: November 10, 2005

Five years on, hope starts to grow

The Times (London)

September 28, 2005, Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 41

Length: 772 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell

Body

The mother of an intifada victim says her next son is a symbol of Israeli defeat, reports Stephen Farrell

MUHAMMAD AL-DURA walks unsteadily towards the fifth anniversary of the intifada that claimed his brother and namesake as its most famous victim. The first Muhammad was killed in the opening days of bloodshed -a 12-year-old shot dead in Gaza as he huddled behind his father in scenes that quickly became the defining image of the clashes.

His mother bore a son to replace him. Aged 3, he now sits in the family home, using sofa cushions to build a wall around himself.

Death, birth and separation. These are the principal features of the latest Israel-Palestinian conflict that reaches its five-year mark today.

Muhammad's mother, Amal, now sits in Bureij refugee camp, keeping a watchful eye on her remaining children.

After Muhammad's death -the Israeli military apologised, then quickly withdrew its admission of responsibility -Mrs al-Dura named her next son as a defiant message to Israel that "we Palestinian women always conceive and compensate for our sons".

But although she wants nothing to do with the numerous Palestinian factions seeking to exploit the al-Dura name, she shares the near-universal Palestinian analysis that credits those militant groups for the recent departure of Israel's soldiers and settlers from Gaza.

"Israel left Gaza because of the Palestinian resistance," she said. "We are still suffering from what happened five years ago and we will suffer all our lives because they killed our son. I get fed up with all the killing and trouble, but still the occupation is like an obstacle that we are forced to struggle and fight."

Amal al-Dura and other Palestinian women are producing babies at a far higher rate than Israelis. The Jewish birthrate is only 1.2 per cent annual growth against 3.94 per cent in Gaza.

Some analysts believe that that, along with the cost in money and lives defending Gaza's remote settlements, led Ariel Sharon, Israel's Prime Minister, to accept the demographic argument that Israel had to separate itself from the Palestinians.

Five years on, hope starts to grow

Sallai Meridor, the former Jewish Agency chairman, said: "In order to secure the future of Israel as a Jewish, democratic state it needs not only securely defensible borders but demographically defensible borders."

It is an irony, therefore, that the intifada that precipitated this separation began on September 28, 2000, when Mr Sharon staged a walkabout on the disputed Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Palestinians already seething after the breakdown of peace talks rioted, drawing a harsh Israeli response that escalated into bloodshed that has claimed 3,700 Palestinian and more than 1,000 Israeli lives.

For all the hopes attendant upon the Gaza pullout that is an integral part of Mr Sharon's separation strategy, the region quickly slid back into blood-letting over the past week.

Though Israeli troops are gone, the warplanes keep coming back. Last night they were in action again, firing missiles at several buildings and plunging Gaza City into darkness.

There are grounds for hope. Israel is no longer in Gaza. Confounding widespread pessimism, the Palestinians delivered a smooth transition from Yassir Arafat to Mahmoud Abbas and a Gaza pullout without missiles raining down on departing Israeli soldiers and settlers. And the militant Islamic group **Hamas** is to compete in elections in January.

But fundamental differences remain as entrenched as ever. Israel insists that the Palestinian Authority cannot be trusted to rein in the men of violence, and Palestinians suspect that Israel gave up Gaza only to consolidate its hold on Jerusalem and the West Bank. This mutual lack of trust, according to Brigadier General Eyval Giladi, head of strategic planning in Mr Sharon's office, helped to bring about Israel's new "separation" strategy, which produced the Gaza withdrawal, the 480-mile separation barrier to seal Israel off from the West Bank and a huge reduction in the 120,000 Palestinian workers who used to flow daily into Israel before September 2000.

"What we will see in the future is something totally different. There is going to be a fence, they are going to be on one side and we are going to be on the other," he said.

"It's not peace that will bring security but the other way around it is security that will bring peace."

ISRAELIS

Deaths since September 2000: 1,064

Injured: 7,441

Suicide bombings: 137

Suicide attacks thwarted: about 450

Life expectancy: 79.3 yrs

PALESTINIANS

Deaths since September 2000: 3,700

Injured: 29,181

Live rounds fired by Israelis: 7,777

Baton rounds: 6,502

Life expectancy: 72.4 yrs

Load-Date: September 28, 2005

Five years on, hope starts to grow

End of Document

Faking it for fashion's sake

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

March 19, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: LIFE; Pg. L04

Length: 1468 words

Byline: Sandra McLean

Body

It may look like a bargain to buy fake fashion goods but there can be a catch

'I can't afford the original so that was the main reason why I bought them. They are also good bags and pretty good quality fakes

THE temptation was too hard to resist. There for the taking, at a mere \$15, was a Von Dutch hat.

The same trendy hat -- well, the one with the genuine label -- had been seen in a major department store for \$100. Surely, it wouldn't hurt to just buy one fake?

If lawyer Stephen Stern was standing with us in that Sydney market he would have tapped us on the shoulder and said: "Just say no."

This might sound like a drug counsellor warning a client not to take a hit but for solicitor Stern the comparison isn't that far off the mark.

As the Australian legal representative for major labels such as Louis Vuitton, Dior, Cartier and Hugo Boss, he deals daily with what has become an international addiction -- the buying of fake designer goods and other counterfeit luxuries. It's an addiction that is not only costing business and governments billions in lost revenue and taxes but recent reports point to a growing human cost of faking it for fashion.

There have been reports of links between the smuggling of fake goods and terrorism, particularly Al-Qaida. Concerns also have been raised about China, where children are reportedly being used to make fake goods.

Stern has heard all these rumours. He believes the Al-Qaida link is true although he has not seen hard evidence of child labour. He knows for sure that more people are addicted to faking it.

Over the past five years Melbourne-based Stern's caseload has multiplied. In 2001, he handled up to 200 cases involving the illegal selling of counterfeit luxury goods in Australia. By 2004 the number of cases had increased to 1600.

"The trade in these goods is just getting so much bigger in Australia and all over the world," says Stern, a partner at Corrs Chambers Westgarth. "Most of the fakes are poor quality but that doesn't seem to matter -- it is just a big, big business with products pouring out of China."

Faking it for fashion's sake

In Europe and the UK the importing of fake goods is out of control. Last month a European Commission report said that British customs was losing the battle against organised criminals smuggling counterfeit goods into the country.

Seizures of such goods had tripled in the past two years, the rise in counterfeiting fuelled by the increasing use of Internet shopping and the sobering fact that counterfeiting has become more profitable than drug smuggling.

Last year the International Chamber of Commerce estimated the worldwide trade in counterfeits to be worth \$450 billion. That's an awful lot of black money.

The biggest growth areas are toys and perfumes, but counterfeiters aren't fussy. They will fake anything. As well as looking for the fake Fendi bag, customs officials now need to keep their eyes peeled for fake apples, grown from stolen seeds, and counterfeit thorn-free roses.

In Australia, the Australian Customs Service has confiscated large amounts of counterfeit or pirate goods. During 2003-04 they made more than 5000 separate seizures, finding more than two million items. The types of goods seized included toys, clothing, footwear, handbags, watches, computer games and mobile telephone accessories.

For most of us though, faking it is generally about that Von Dutch experience -- buying a fashion item, tempted by the fact that we'd be wearing the latest trendy label for a fraction of the price of the real thing.

That's how it was for Kristel Glohe, 22, a manager from the Gold Coast. In 2003, Glohe went to Hong Kong, the key reason was to buy fake luxury goods, preferably Louis Vuitton.

She also went across the Chinese border on a special shopping tour to Shenzhen. Glohe bought about 20 bags for herself and her sister, Louise, 18.

"I can't afford the original so that was the main reason why I bought them," Glohe says. "They are also good bags and pretty good quality fakes."

Glohe says she chose Louis Vuitton fakes because "they are the most popular at the moment and a bit of a trend".

Glohe says people are fine about fakes and that they "always ask me where I got them from because they look good. There isn't a bad attitude about it -- everyone knows how expensive the originals are".

Indeed the bags Glohe bought in Hong Kong and China for between \$30 and \$60 would cost several thousand dollars at a Louis Vuitton shop.

Handbags are priced from at least \$1000 with the popular multicoloured Alma selling for \$US1280.

Glohe says the shopping experience in Shenzhen was "a little scary".

"It was a big deal to get the really good fakes in Shenzhen," she says. "They don't show them in the store. You have to choose what you want from a catalogue. Then the woman disappeared for about 20 minutes down this hallway which was guarded by two other women."

Glohe says another friend who went shopping for fakes in Shenzhen talked about going into secret hidden rooms in shops where the fakes were kept.

Despite the subterfuge, Glohe says she would do it again. Asked how she felt about the links between fakes and sweatshops, she says: "It is not fantastic when you think that someone has slaved away on something for the small amount of money we paid for it."

Glohe is not committing a crime by buying these goods -- it is not illegal to buy counterfeit goods.

And she is probably a lot like millions of others around the world who buy fake goods because it is a cheaper way to get a trendy label. It's an understandable retail decision based on economic logic.

Faking it for fashion's sake

A recent poll by the UK Anti-Counterfeiting Group revealed that a third of women saw "no harm" in buying counterfeit items if the price and quality were right.

However, the problem is that getting a bargain also means paying a price, maybe not at the counter but in other ways.

"If women were aware that the profits from counterfeit bags sold at their local market stall are used to fund highly organised international terrorist networks -- groups from the IRA to Hamas and even Al-Qaida -- they would surely think twice before buying them," Ruth Orchard, director of the Anti-Counterfeit Group, says.

"What people don't realise is that the world of counterfeiting is masterminded by highly sophisticated criminals. Laundered profits from the sale of fakes have been traced to bank accounts funding Middle Eastern groups including Hezbollah, Hamas and Al-Qaida.

"It is now widely agreed that the bombing of the World Trade Centre in 1993 was funded partly by the sale of counterfeit designer textiles from an illegal outlet in New York's Chinatown. There is also strong evidence that the proceeds of counterfeiting have been used to fund IRA activities."

The cynic might say that this latest link between counterfeiters and terrorism could be a tactic by the luxury labels to make people think twice about buying fakes -- after all no one wants to be party to terrorists.

However, Stern believes the terrorism and organised crimes links are very real.

"I am not suggesting that every cent goes to terrorism, however, there have been reports by American and European organisations that show links to crime and terrorism. People might think, 'oh it is just a handbag', but there is more to it than that."

John Ramsden, chief executive director of Australia's Anti-Counterfeiting Action Group (ACAG) says there are definitely links between counterfeiters and organised crime in Australia.

Ramsden has been working for the past decade to keep the production and import of counterfeit goods at bay in Australia. His company represents 18 companies including fashion labels such as Quiksilver and Country Road. ACAG has private investigators who trawl markets and shops looking for fake goods. They even go to Tupperware parties to pick up hints on where to buy the latest fake Gucci sunglasses.

A lot of the fake clothing is made in Australia and sold at more than 1250 markets around the country. Ramsden estimates it's a business that is worth \$5 billion a year.

Overseas, there are claims that many of the fakes come from the same production line as the genuine designer articles. Some factories reportedly have a "day shift" devoted to the production of genuine designer goods, followed by an illegal "night shift" staffed by an entirely new batch of illegal workers and children who produce cheap replicas.

Ramsden says that the laws in place in Australia to prosecute counterfeiters are satisfactory.

Simply, if the general public knew more about the seedier side of faking it they wouldn't buy the goods.

Sounds OK in principle, but fashion can be a demanding beast. And a fickle one.

Who can rely on an industry that one year declares a war on fur and then the next pronounces it a must-have? Only the counterfeiters, who know they have a trend-hungry world by the fake throat.

Load-Date: March 18, 2005

Faking it for fashion's sake

End of Document

Christianity Dying In Its Birthplace

New York Sun (Archive)

September 13, 2005 Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 6

Length: 759 words

Byline: DANIEL PIPES

Body

What some observers are calling a pogrom took place near Ramallah, West Bank, on the night of September 3-4. That's when 15 Muslim youths from one village, Dair Jarir, rampaged against Taybeh, a neighboring all-Christian village of 1,500 people.

The reason for the assault? A Muslim woman from Dair Jarir, Hiyam Ajaj, 23, fell in love with her Christian boss, Mehdi Khouriyye, owner of a tailor shop in Taybeh. The couple maintained a clandestine two-year affair and she became pregnant in about March 2005. When her family members learned of her condition, they murdered her. That was on about September 1; unsatisfied even with this "honor killing" - for Islamic law strictly forbids non-Muslim males to have sexual relations with Muslim females - the Ajaj men sought vengeance against Khouriyye and his family.

They took it two days later in an assault on Taybeh. The Ajajs and their friends broke into houses and stole furniture, jewelry, and electrical appliances. They threw Molotov cocktails at some buildings and poured kerosene on others, then torched them. The damage included at least 16 houses, some stores, a farm, and a gas station. The assailants vandalized cars, looted extensively, and destroyed a statue of the Virgin Mary.

"It was like a war," one Taybeh resident told the Jerusalem Post. Hours passed before the Palestinian Authority security and fire services arrived. The 15 assailants spent only a few hours in police detention, then were released. As for Khouriyye, the Palestinian Arab police arrested him, kept him in jail, and (his family says) have repeatedly beat him.

As the news service Adnkronos International notes, for Palestinian Christians "the fact that the Muslim aggressors have been released while the Christian tailor shop owner is still being held, at best symbolizes the PA's indifference to the plight of Palestinian Christians, at worst shows it is taking sides against them."

A cousin, Suleiman Khouriyye, pointed to his burned house: "They did this because we're Christians. They did this because we are the weaker ones," he said. The Khouriyyes and others recall the assailants shouting "Allahu Akbar" and anti-Christian slogans: "Burn the infidels, burn the Crusaders." To that, an unrepentant cousin of Hiyam Ajaj replied, "We burned their houses because they dishonored our family, not because they are Christians."

This assault fits a larger pattern. According to the Catholic Custodian of the Holy Land, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Christians in the Bethlehem region alone have suffered 93 cases of injustice in 2000-04. In the worst of these, in 2002, Muslims murdered the two Amre sisters, 17 and 19 years old, whom they called prostitutes. A post-mortem, however, showed the teenagers to have been virgins - and to have been tortured on their genitals.

Christianity Dying In Its Birthplace

"Almost every day - I repeat, almost every day - our communities are harassed by the Islamic extremists in these regions," Mr. Pizzaballa says. "And if it's not the members of **Hamas** or Islamic Jihad, there are clashes with ... the Palestinian Authority." In addition to the Islamists, a "Muslim land mafia" is said to operate. With PA complicity, it threatens Christian land and house owners, often succeeding to compel them to abandon their properties.

The campaign of persecution has succeeded. Even as the Christian population of Israel grows, that of the Palestinian Authority shrinks precipitously. Bethlehem and Nazareth, historic Christian towns for nearly two millennia, are now primarily Muslim. In 1922, Christians outnumbered Muslims in Jerusalem; today, Christians amount to a mere 2% of that city's population.

"Is Christian life liable to be reduced to empty church buildings and a congregation-less hierarchy with no flock in the birthplace of Christianity?" So asks Daphne Tsimhoni in the Middle East Quarterly. It is hard to see what will prevent that ghost-like future from coming into existence.

One factor that could help prevent this dismal outcome would be for mainline Protestant churches to speak out against Palestinian Muslims for tormenting and expelling Palestinian Christians. To date, unfortunately, the Episcopalian, Evangelical Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches, as well as the United Church of Christ, have ignored the problem.

Instead, they pursue the self-indulgent path of venting moral outrage against the Israeli bystander and even withdrawing their investment funds from it. As they obsess with Israel but stay silent about Christianity dying in its birthplace, one wonders what it will take to awaken them.

Load-Date: September 13, 2005

MINISTERS REBEL OVER WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA

The Independent (London)

April 5, 2004, Monday

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Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 21

Length: 623 words

Byline: ERIC SILVER IN JERUSALEM Beni Elon, left, and Efi Eitam were told by Mr Sharon to get out' if they would not share cabinet responsibility

Body

THE BATTLE over Ariel Sharon's plan to pull the Israeli army and Jewish settlers out of Gaza and a fringe of the West Bank heated up yesterday as the Prime Minister exchanged abuse with far-right ministers across the cabinet table.

The hard-liners demanded that he bring his programme to them for approval before presenting it to President George Bush on 14 April. "If you have a majority," Beni Elon, the Tourism Minister, threatened, "I will resign immediately."

Mr Sharon responded by rebuking Mr Elon and Efi Eitam, the Minister of Construction and Housing, for drumming up opposition overseas, according to leaks from both sides. "If you don't want to accept responsibility, you can always get out," he said.

Mr Elon, a rabbi who champions Jewish settlement in Arab neighbourhoods of Jerusalem, retorted: "You cannot shut us up. We are entitled to protect the settlements."

Two of Mr Sharon's supporters, Ehud Olmert, the Likud Deputy Prime Minister, and Tommy Lapid of the centrist Shinui party, joined in the shouting match. "How dare you go around the world speaking against your own Prime Minister?" asked Mr Olmert.

Mr Lapid, the Justice Minister, chipped in: "I don't understand why ministers Eitam and Elon are allowed to go to the United States every other day to mobilise the administration against the policies of the government of which they are members."

Mr Eitam also pilloried the Prime Minister for dragging his feet on the West Bank security fence. He blamed the delay for an infiltration on Friday night in which a Palestinian gunman killed a settler at Avnei Hefetz. Binyamin Netanyahu, the Finance Minister, responded by promising an extra 300 million shekels (pounds 36m) to boost settlement security.

Mr Sharon is reluctant to expel the rebels and the 13 MPs of their National Union and National Religious parties until he can be confident of an alternative coalition. He wants to win Mr Bush's support and secure his base in the Likud before risking a cabinet vote on the evacuation.

In preliminary talks, Washington has offered a blessing in principle, but refused to commit the President to any reward that would prejudice a final agreement with the Palestinians.

MINISTERS REBEL OVER WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA

To reassure the right, Mr Sharon sought an American seal of approval for preserving some blocks of settlements under Israeli rule and an undertaking that no Palestinian refugees would have a right to return to their old homes inside Israel.

Israeli officials are now resigned, at best, to a more general declaration that Israel would not be expected to give up every inch of territory beyond the pre-1967 border and that the refugees could be absorbed in a future Palestinian state.

Up to 200,000 grassroots Likud members are due to vote next month on the disengagement plan. Campaign teams are already preparing. Two Likud ministers, Uzi Landau and Natan Sharansky, backed by nine of the party's 40 MPs, are lobbying for a "no" vote. Mr Olmert heads a rival "yes" team.

If the Sharon plan passes the Likud and the cabinet, Mr Elon and Mr Eitam are expected to take their parties into opposition. Haim Ramon, a former Labour minister, hinted last week that his party would replace them. But other Labour leaders have said they would join only after Mr Sharon began the Gaza withdrawal - and if the attorney general rejected the prosecution service's recommendation to indict him on bribery charges. Neither is a foregone conclusion.

w Police entered the east Jerusalem offices of a foundation for Arab women accused of being affiliated with the militant Hamas group. Police shut the office down for 15 days, detained two workers for questioning and were applying for a warrant to freeze the group's bank accounts, according to a police spokesman.

Load-Date: April 5, 2004

End of Document

Two-Front Insurgency

The New York Times

April 7, 2004 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Editorial Desk; Pg. 19

Length: 685 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

In light of about a dozen American combat deaths yesterday, we should keep in mind our historic bet: that given their freedom from a savage tyrant, the three groups that make up Iraq could, with our help, create a rudimentary democracy that would turn the tide against terror.

In the northern group, we can see success: rival Kurdish parties have come together to work within an Iraqi parliament when elections come. "Kirkuk is our Jerusalem," they say, and that oil-rich area -- long the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, before Saddam's ethnic cleansing -- should be their regional capital in unified Iraq.

In the center group -- the Sunnis, who profited most from Saddam's dictatorship -- we see mostly a sullen population, its Baathist diehards allied with an affiliate of Al Qaeda longing for regime restoration. There is where the atrocities of Falluja were committed in the fiercest Sunni challenge to liberation.

In Baghdad and the South, long-oppressed Shiites -- 60 percent of Iraq's population -- have the most to gain from democracy and reconstruction. But they are now split. A minority of terrorists led by the firebrand Moktada al-Sadr, under Iran's influence, are challenging the quietist Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. That ayatollah is keen to protect his following by complaining about the liberation and wrings his hands about Sadr, who has openly declared alliance with **Hamas** and Hezbollah and war on the West.

All this means that we are now fighting an active two-front insurgency. That calls for a change in our strategy. Up to now we have tried to hunker down and train Iraqis to handle security, lest we appear to be nasty "occupiers." That only emboldened the Sunni terrorists and Shiite Iranists. One anti-American confidently told another Iraqi with cool nonpartisanship about ousting U.S. presidents: "We'll do to Bush what we did to Carter."

But now that the Saddam restorationists and Islamic fundamentalists have made their terrorist move on both fronts, we can counterattack decisively.

"In war, resolution." Having announced we would pacify rebellious Baathists in Falluja, we must pacify Falluja. Having designated the Shiite Sadr an outlaw, we must answer his bloody-minded challenge with whatever military force is required and with fewer casualties in the long run.

Two-Front Insurgency

But we must impress on the minds of millions of Shiites that there is no free ride to freedom. We should keep the heat on Shiite ditherers by holding fast to the June 30 deadline for the delivery of sovereignty to Iraq's three groups. It's less about the U.S. election than demanding that Iraqi leaders and U.N. facilitators live up to their promises.

We should couple this with a temporary increase in troop strength, if necessary: we will pull alongside, not pull out or pull alone. We should take up the Turks on their offer of 10,000 troops to fight on our side against two-front terror. The Kurds, who have patched things up with Ankara and know which side of the two-front war they and we are on, would withdraw their ill-considered earlier objection.

We should break the Iranian-Hezbollah-Sadr connection in ways that our special forces know how to do. Plenty of Iraqi Shiites, who are Arab, distrust the Persian ayatollahs in Iran and can provide actionable intelligence about a Syrian transmission belt.

And we should coolly confront the quaking quagmirists here at home.

Does Ted Kennedy speak for his Massachusetts junior senator, John Kerry, when he calls our effort to turn terror-supporting despotism into nascent liberty in Iraq "Bush's Vietnam"?

Do the apostles of retreat realize how their defeatism, magnified by Arab media, bolsters the morale of the insurgents and increases the nervousness of the waverers?

Does our coulda-woulda-shoulda crowd consider how it dismays the majority of Iraqis wondering if they can count on our continued presence as they feel their way toward freedom?

These are the times that try men's souls, and -- as Tom Paine's enlightened acquaintance, Mary Wollstonecraft, would have added -- women's, too. This is the crisis; we'll come through it.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: April 7, 2004

End of Document

Cleansing the Holy Land of Christians

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

September 15, 2005 Thursday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A20

Length: 751 words

Byline: Daniel Pipes, National Post

Body

What some observers are calling a pogrom took place near the West Bank city of Ramallah on the night of Sept. 3-4. That's when 15 Muslim youths from one village, Dair Jarir, rampaged against Taybeh, a neighbouring all-Christian village of 1,500 people.

The reason for the assault? A Muslim woman from Dair Jarir, Hiyam Ajaj, 23, fell in love with her Christian boss, Mehdi Khouriyye, owner of a tailor shop in Taybeh. The couple maintained a clandestine two-year affair and she became pregnant around March, 2005. When her family members learned of her condition, they murdered her. That was on about Sept. 1; unsatisfied even with this "honour killing" -- Islamic law strictly forbids non-Muslim males to have sexual relations with Muslim females -- the Ajaj men sought vengeance against Khouriyye and his family.

They took it two days later in an assault on Taybeh. The Ajajs and their friends broke into houses and stole furniture, jewellery and electrical appliances. They threw Molotov cocktails at some buildings and poured kerosene on others, then torched them. The damage included at least 16 houses, some stores, a farm and a gas station. The assailants vandalized cars, looted extensively, and destroyed a statue of the Virgin Mary.

"It was like a war," one Taybeh resident told the Jerusalem Post. Hours passed before the Palestinian Authority security and fire services arrived. The 15 assailants spent only a few hours in police detention, then were released. As for Khouriyye, the Palestinian Arab police arrested him, kept him in jail, and (according to his family) have repeatedly beaten him.

As the news service Adnkronos International notes, for Palestinian Christians "the fact that the Muslim aggressors have been released while the Christian tailor-shop owner is still being held, at best symbolizes the PA's indifference to the plight of Palestinian Christians, at worst shows it is taking sides against them."

A cousin, Suleiman Khouriyye, pointed to his burned house. "They did this because we're Christians. They did this because we are the weaker ones," he said. The Khouriyyes and others recall the assailants shouting "Allahu Akbar," and "Burn the infidels, burn the Crusaders." To these accounts, an unrepentant cousin of Hiyam Ajaj replied: "We burned their houses because they dishonoured our family, not because they are Christians."

This assault fits a larger pattern. According to the Catholic Custodian of the Holy Land, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Christians in the Bethlehem region alone have suffered 93 cases of injustice in 2000-04. The worst of these was in 2002, when Muslims murdered the two Amre sisters, 17 and 19 years old, whom they called prostitutes. A post-mortem showed the teenagers to have been virgins -- and to have been tortured on their genitals.

Cleansing the Holy Land of Christians

"Almost every day -- I repeat, almost every day -- our communities are harassed by the Islamic extremists in these regions," Mr. Pizzaballa says. "And if it's not the members of Hamas or Islamic Jihad, there are clashes with ... the Palestinian Authority." In addition to the Islamists, a "Muslim land mafia" is said to operate. With PA complicity, it threatens Christian land and house owners, often succeeding in compelling them to abandon their properties.

The campaign of persecution has succeeded. Even as the Christian population of Israel grows, that of the Palestinian Authority shrinks precipitously. Bethlehem and Nazareth, historic Christian towns for nearly two millennia, are now primarily Muslim. In 1922, Christians outnumbered Muslims in Jerusalem; today, Christians amount to a mere 2% of that city's population.

"Is Christian life liable to be reduced to empty church buildings and a congregation-less hierarchy with no flock in the birthplace of Christianity?" asks Daphne Tsimhoni in the Middle East Quarterly. It is hard to see what will prevent that ghost-like future from coming into existence.

One of the best hopes would be for mainline Protestant churches to speak out against Palestinian Muslims for tormenting and expelling Palestinian Christians. But to date, the Episcopalian, Evangelical Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches, as well as the United Church of Christ, have ignored the problem.

Instead, they pursue the self-indulgent path of venting moral outrage against the Israeli bystander and even withdrawing their investment funds from it. As they obsess with Israel but stay silent about Christianity dying in its birthplace, one wonders what it will take to awaken them.

Load-Date: September 15, 2005

End of Document

Resolute in Iraq

The International Herald Tribune

April 8, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 7

Length: 689 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

In light of about a dozen U.S. combat deaths on Tuesday, we Americans should keep in mind our historic bet: That given their freedom from a savage tyrant, the three groups that make up Iraq could, with our help, create a rudimentary democracy that would turn the tide against terror.

In the northern group, we can see success: Rival Kurdish parties have come together to work within an Iraqi parliament when elections come. "Kirkuk is our Jerusalem," they say, and that oil-rich area -- long the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, before Saddam's ethnic cleansing -- should be their regional capital in unified Iraq.

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The New York Times

In Baghdad and the South, long-oppressed Shiites -- 60 percent of Iraq's population -- have the most to gain from democracy and reconstruction. But they are now split. A minority of terrorists led by the firebrand Moktada al-Sadr, under Iran's influence, are challenging the quietist Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani. That ayatollah is keen to protect his following by complaining about the liberation and wrings his hands about Sadr, who has openly declared alliance with **Hamas** and Hezbollah and war on the West.

All this means that America is now fighting an active two-front insurgency. That calls for a change in strategy. Up to now we have tried to hunker down and train Iraqis to handle security, lest we appear to be nasty "occupiers." That only emboldened the Sunni terrorists and Shiite Iranists. One anti-American told another Iraqi with cool nonpartisanship about ousting U.S. presidents: "We'll do to Bush what we did to Carter."

But now that the Saddam restorationists and Islamic fundamentalists have made their terrorist move on both fronts, America can counterattack decisively.

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Resolute in Iraq

But we must impress on the minds of millions of Shiites that there is no free ride to freedom. We should keep the heat on Shiite ditherers by holding fast to the June 30 deadline for the delivery of sovereignty to Iraq's three groups. It's less about the U.S. election than demanding that Iraqi leaders and UN facilitators live up to their promises.

We should couple this with a temporary increase in troop strength, if necessary: We will pull alongside, not pull out or pull alone. We should take up the Turks on their offer of 10,000 troops to fight on our side against two-front terror. The Kurds, who have patched things up with Ankara and know which side of the two-front war they and we are on, would withdraw their ill-considered earlier objection.

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E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: April 8, 2004

TERRORISM: Even sincere censures have little effect

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

August 15, 2005 Monday

Home Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 9A

Length: 728 words

Byline: DAVID D. PERLMUTTER

For the Journal-Constitution

Body

Call it the pre-written script of terrorism. After the deed, after the horror on the front pages and the television and Web screens, come the ritual condemnations. World leaders attack the "heinous crimes." Clergymen and women revile "the perversion of religion." Even other terrorist groups, seeking to separate their cause from the present outrage, denounce the terror.

Condemnations also become political issues. How sincere are they? Who should make them? How quickly? How clearly? What is their wording?

Instead, we should ask a simpler question. Do condemnations against terrorism work? That is, do they have any effect on the terrorists, their supporters or, more important, murderers-in-waiting, cells yet to be activated or young men mulling over the decision to take up a backpack and bomb?

Certainly, condemnations fill news copy. My students and I found several thousand print, television and Internet stories dealing with somebody's denunciation of the London bombings, for example. Condemnations may also make victims feel better: the world "standing with them," as the saying goes. In addition, censure of terrorism is politically revealing when it is flawed or insincere.

But stated disapproval of terrorism probably has no effect on terrorists, present or future, for several reasons. First, condemnations have become too predictable and repetitive, like a police force responding to a crime by rounding up the "usual suspects." When some act of terror occurs, it seems almost everyone in any position of authority holds a news conference to condemn it. Yet, in media effects research we know that while it is true that repeating any message helps us remember it, oversaturation diminishes its impact or leads us to tune it out.

Second, condemnations have limited value when we suspect that they are self-serving political opportunism. So when we hear a leader of a repressive regime elsewhere in the world condemn terror, we should wonder if what he means is "Good, now I can crack down harder on my opponents and call it anti-terrorism." Conversely, in the case

TERRORISM: Even sincere censures have little effect

of the London attacks, the condolences by other terrorist groups who use the same tactics, such as Hamas, cannot be taken seriously.

Then there is the problem of "loophole condemnations" full of obscure language or irreverent points. For example, after the July 7 attacks, a group of British Muslim leaders issued a well-publicized censure of terrorism. Unfortunately, they prefaced their "condemnation" with the following: "The tragedy of July 7 demands that all of us, both in public life and in civil and religious society, confront together the problems of Islamophobia, racism, unemployment, economic depravation [sic] and social exclusion --- factors that may be alienating some of our children and driving them towards the path of anger and desperation."

In other words, all the fault, according to them, was on the British government and society, and on "factors" that will not be solved in the foreseeable future.

The use of the word "children," however, is significant. Almost all terrorists --- the ones who kill and kill themselves if not their paymasters and organizers --- are young males. That makes loophole condemnations counterproductive.

Imagine telling your child the following: "You did something bad, but you were completely justified in doing it because other people are at fault for alienating you and driving you to do it." We would call that bad parental guidance; likewise, it is poor anti-terrorism rhetoric.

Even more ominous, does it really matter to angry young men what distant elders say to them? We would not expect an American 18-year-old to stop binge drinking, for example, because his senator, some group of clergymen or the king of Belgium held a news conference to condemn the act. Would-be terrorist males are even more impenetrable to attitude change. In fact, they may be more energized for terror by wanting to rebel against "authority," a trait not uncommon in the teenager.

So, yes, we should all condemn terrorism, but to solve the problem of terrorism we have to find ways to address future terrorists on the street level, among their peers, in their private rooms, and not just ritualistically through news conferences and speeches.

David P. Perlmutter is a senior fellow and an associate professor of mass communication at Louisiana State University.

Graphic

Photo: David P. Perlmutter /ImageData*

Load-Date: October 28, 2008

Withdrawal rapid, despite protests: Four Palestinians gunned down by upset Israeli driver

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

August 18, 2005 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A11

Length: 607 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher and Jeff Heinrich, CanWest News Service

Dateline: GANEI TAL, Gaza

Body

GANEI TAL, Gaza -- More than 15,000 Israeli soldiers and police moved quickly through Gaza Strip settlements yesterday, dragging out the few Jewish settlers who wouldn't leave their homes willingly as part of the government's forced withdrawal from the territory, occupied by Israel after the 1967 war.

Security forces enjoyed lightning success in evacuating five settlements in the Gush Katif bloc and expect to add the most troublesome, Neve Delakim, to the list of settler-free communities some time today.

But there were sporadic acts of violence in and near several Gaza settlements.

At one checkpoint just outside the strip, a West Bank settler woman suffered burns to 60 per cent of her body after setting herself on fire to protest against the evictions.

In Morag, one of the southernmost settlements, a ***female*** soldier was stabbed after an altercation with a resident who didn't want to leave his house. He was arrested and taken away.

In Neve Dekalim, the town that is Gaza's centre and the heart of the resistance, two injured soldiers were taken to hospital; so was a foreign journalist, who was hurt when a door collapsed on him during one of the house evacuations.

In the West Bank settlement of Shiloh, a Jewish settler, upset over what Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has called his Gaza disengagement plan, killed four Palestinians whom he regularly drove to work.

A similar attack less than two weeks ago on a bus by a Jewish soldier who was absent without leave from the army resulted in the deaths of four Israeli Arabs.

Sharon described yesterday's murders as an act of "Jewish terror . . . aimed against innocent Palestinians, out of twisted thinking, aimed at stopping the disengagement."

From its Gaza headquarters, ***Hamas***, which is regarded as a terrorist organization by Canada and some other western countries, quickly announced its intention to avenge these deaths.

Withdrawal rapid, despite protests: Four Palestinians gunned down by upset Israeli driver

It hinted it may wait until after Israeli forces complete the expulsion of about 9,000 settlers and as many as 5,000 of their supporters from 21 Gaza villages and four remote West Bank settlements.

That may take far less time than had been expected. Senior officials overseeing the historic pullout said the hugely controversial process has gone so well on its first day that it was likely all settlers would be gone from Gaza by Monday or Tuesday.

In the devout farming settlement of Ganei Tal, the entire Orthodox community of about 500 was on hand to scream defiance at about 1,000 unarmed police and troops tasked with carrying out the Gaza evictions yesterday.

But despite the heartfelt sorrow and dread that so many felt at having to give up land they believe was given to Jews by God,

virtually everyone in Ganei Tal was on the road out of Gaza by dusk, carting furnishings and dug-up trees behind them, after a last communal prayer in the village's synagogue.

It was a similar scene in six other Gaza settlements yesterday. As surveillance blimps circled overhead, 17-member evacuation teams encouraged settlers to leave voluntarily or risk being carried out bodily.

Meanwhile, out in the streets, protesters attempted to provoke soldiers and police.

"Are you Jews?" they shouted in Hebrew and sometimes in English. "Here come the heroes of Israel," and "You are no different than the Nazis."

Despite yesterday's initial successes, which followed months of dire speculation about potential problems, a tough slog lies ahead if the Israeli government is to meet its accelerated pullout deadline.

Neve Dekalim, two kilometres from Ganei Tal, was much quieter yesterday than on Tuesday, when young outsiders opposed to the withdrawal set fires and harassed troops.

Graphic

Colour Photo: The Associated Press; A Jewish settler tears his shirt in grief as police carry him to a waiting bus yesterday.;

Colour Photo: The Associated Press; A young boy cries for a relative, one of four Palestinians shot dead by a Jewish settler.;

Colour Photo: The Associated Press; A Jewish settler weeps as Israeli troops start to evacuate the Neve Dekalim settlement.;

Colour Photo: The Associated Press; A teenager runs with a Palestinian flag outside the Jewish settlement of Morag yesterday.;

Colour Photo: The Associated Press; Children, some with the Star of David on their shirts, protest against their eviction.

Load-Date: August 18, 2005

WITH A TWO-FRONT INSURGENCY IN IRAQ, IT'S TIME FOR DECISIVE COUNTERATTACK

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

April 8, 2004 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 684 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

In light of about a dozen American combat deaths on Tuesday, we should keep in mind our historic bet: That given their freedom from a savage tyrant, the three groups that make up Iraq could, with our help, create a rudimentary democracy that would turn the tide against terror.

In the northern group, we can see success: Rival Kurdish parties have come together to work within an Iraqi parliament when elections come. "Kirkuk is our Jerusalem," they say, and that oil-rich area -- long the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, before Saddam's ethnic cleansing -- should be their regional capital in unified Iraq.

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WITH A TWO-FRONT INSURGENCY IN IRAQ , IT'S TIME FOR DECISIVE COUNTERATTACK

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Notes

William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times (safire@nytimes.com).

Load-Date: April 9, 2004

**Friends take hope for peace on road;
They grew up in a Jewish-Arab village.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

APRIL 14, 2004 Wednesday JERSEY EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: SOUTH JERSEY; Pg. B02

Length: 592 words

Byline: Wayne Parry ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

Strangers who meet Laila Najjar and Adi Frish often look confused. How, they ask, can Najjar, a 20-year-old Arab, be a friend of someone whose government oppresses and kills Palestinians?

And why, they wonder, would Frish, a 21-year-old Jew, befriend someone whose people turn themselves into human bombs, itching to kill Israelis?

But friendship is all the young women have ever known; they grew up together in an Israeli village founded three decades ago to prove that Arabs and Jews can live together in peace.

This month, the pair will begin a U.S. speaking tour that is scheduled to include an April 24 visit to Philadelphia.

Their road map for peace is simple: Just start by talking - and listening - to one another.

"People ask me: 'Adi, don't you know she is the enemy?' " said Frish, who is studying dance in Jerusalem. "I tell them: 'Get to know her. Meet her parents. Meet her family. Talk to her. See what she is thinking. Know her as I know her.' "

Najjar, who is studying art, agreed.

"To truly have peace, the first step is for both sides to talk to each other," said Najjar, who loves to design jewelry and hopes for a contract to someday supply one of Israel's biggest department stores. "Under all the government and politics and labels, we are all human beings. We are not so different."

The women were interviewed by telephone from Jerusalem, about a half-hour drive from the village where they grew up. Founded by a Dominican monk who invited Jewish and Arab families to live together and named Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (meaning "Oasis of Peace" in Hebrew and Arabic), the village has a bilingual elementary school and up-close coexistence is the norm.

Friends take hope for peace on road; They grew up in a Jewish-Arab village.

"I never knew any other way," Najjar said. "This is how I was brought up. It was totally normal for Jews and Arabs to live together."

That view does not predominate outside the village. When the pair go shopping, one of their favorite weekend pastimes, Israeli Jews look suspiciously at Najjar - especially when she gets on a bus, fearing she might be a suicide bomber.

The killing of **Hamas** founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin last month has ratcheted tensions even higher in Israel, the **women** said.

"People on both sides are afraid, because no one knows what will happen next," Frish said. "Waiting in fear for the next explosion is no way to live."

Also on April 24, the two are scheduled to speak in Denville, Morris County, at the home of Aref Assaf, one of New Jersey's most vocal Palestinian activists.

"I have always argued that if the warring parties in the Middle East cannot talk peace, then it is incumbent upon Arabs and Jews in the U.S., while passionately concerned about events there but still physically removed from its daily bloodshed, to nurture a just and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Assaf said. "These two ladies and the families they represent provide a real human example that Jews and Arabs can and should live side by side."

Not everyone shares his optimism.

"I am getting a lot of heat over this," Assaf said. "People tell me, as a Palestinian, it is not right to have an Israeli in my home and have her tell us what to do. The only choices are peaceful coexistence of two equal peoples, or the total annihilation of one. Which sounds better to you?"

If You Go

Laila Najjar and Adi Frish are scheduled to appear April 24 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, 1515 Cherry St., and at 2:30 p.m. at the National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut St. For more information about their national tour, visit www.oasisofpeace.org.

Graphic

PHOTO;

BRENNAN LINSLEY, Associated Press

Best friends Adi Frish (left) and Laila Najjar grew up in a village called Neve Shalom, Wahat al-Salam - "Oasis of Peace" - in Israel. Their speaking tour includes a Philadelphia stop on April 24.

Load-Date: August 24, 2005

Arabs delay summit

The New Zealand Herald

March 28, 2004 Sunday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 684 words

Body

TUNIS - Arab leaders have postponed a long-awaited summit 36 hours before they planned to meet in Tunis because of differences over proposals to promote democracy in the Arab world, Tunisia says.

The summit preparations had been in trouble for days as some of the 22 Arab League members were reluctant to attend and Gulf states had decided to send low-level delegations to the annual meeting. No new date has been fixed.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the US-led occupation of Iraq were to have been among the top issues at the summit, along with institutional change in the Arab League and political, economic and social reform inside Arab countries.

The official Tunisian news agency said in a commentary Tunisia had pressed other Arab countries to explicitly embrace democracy and reject what it called "extremism, fanaticism, violence and terrorism".

"While the Tunisian proposals won the support of a number of Arab countries, we are surprised that some others insisted on leaving out these essential matters," said the commentary, thought to reflect the government's views.

"It became clear that there was a variance of positions on...proposals related to fundamental issues on modernisation, democratic reform, human rights, the rights of women and the role of civil society," the Tunisian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

"Tunisia expresses its regret at the postponement of the summit, on which public opinion had pinned many hopes... Tunisia affirms it will continue to consult with the Arab brothers to bring together points of view on these issues and to prepare the best possible circumstances for the success of the summit," the ministry said.

Arab foreign ministers had spent Saturday afternoon looking at democratic reform proposals submitted by five Arab countries -- Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Qatar and Tunisia.

BUSH CHALLENGE

US President George W. Bush challenged Arab states last November to adopt democracy, saying "60 years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe".

Washington's Greater Middle East Initiative was widely criticised in the Arab world as a foreign intrusion overlooking the occupation of Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Arabs delay summit

The summit organisers -- Tunisia and the Arab League secretariat -- had repeatedly dismissed speculation the summit might be postponed and had reported progress on both Iraq and on democratic reform in the Middle East.

Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa told a news conference on Saturday all the reform proposals submitted by governments had been consolidated into a single document and that many of the ideas were complementary.

With few exceptions Arab governments had criticised the US initiative and a consensus appeared to have emerged around the idea that political, economic and social reforms should spring from within the region.

Algeria and Qatar were most sympathetic to the United States and said Arabs should not dismiss the initiative out of hand.

But Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has been in power for 22 years, has said several times that rapid political reform, especially while the Israeli-Palestinian conflict rages, could lead to anarchy and instability in the region.

The strongly secular Tunisian government advocates democracy, but its critics say it is a police state with a veneer of formal democracy. Human rights groups accuse police of regularly beating up dissidents and human rights activists.

The first Arab heads of state had been expected to arrive in Tunis on Sunday evening and the opening session was scheduled for Monday morning.

Israel's assassination of **Hamas** founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Gaza last Monday had cast a shadow over summit preparations by exposing the impotence of Arab governments to respond with anything stronger than words of condemnation.

Earlier on Saturday, the organisers suffered a setback when two Gulf states -- Oman and the United Arab Emirates -- decided to send low-level delegations, on top of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain on Friday.

The Gulf states gave no explanation for their decision.

Load-Date: March 28, 2004

Week in review

Spokesman Review (Spokane, WA)

March 7, 2004 Sunday Spokane Edition

Copyright 2004 Spokane Spokesman-Review

Section: REGION; Pg.B3; COLUMN

Length: 669 words

Byline: Dan Hansen

Body

TOP STORY

Tough job market

A tough job market has forced about one-third of University of Idaho graduates and 30 percent of Washington State University graduates to leave their home states to find work in recent years. But labor officials say the prospects for 2004 college graduates will be slightly improved. Many students from those and other colleges got their first formal exposure to prospective employers at a job fair held Wednesday at UI. "Everyone is looking for anything they can get," said one WSU senior. Another fair, for job-seekers of all ages and backgrounds, was held Thursday in the Spokane Valley. About 200 people were waiting when the doors opened, with more showing up throughout the day.

MONDAY

The family of a 2-year-old girl who was injured at a Spokane day-care center filed a \$22 million tort claim against the state. The claim alleges that state inspectors ignored repeated warnings about day-care provider Danette Zaring, who faces first-degree assault charges for allegedly throwing Hailee Rhoads into a playpen. The girl required emergency brain surgery; it's too early to tell whether she'll suffer long-term effects.

As in other rural areas, doctors in Odessa, Republic and Davenport have stopped delivering babies or offering prenatal care. That means more women who have never had a prenatal checkup are showing up in Spokane hospitals to deliver babies. Hospital administrators blame the situation partly on malpractice insurance premiums that for obstetricians rose by 22 percent between 2000 and 2002.

TUESDAY

Week in review

Ralph L. Perkins, a former judge and prosecutor, was sentenced to 27 months in federal prison for possessing child pornography. Perkins said that as a judge in Pend Oreille County and later as a deputy prosecutor in Okanogan County, he "heard every self-serving excuse" and would make none for himself. His attorney said Perkins first came into contact with child pornography while prosecuting such cases.

WEDNESDAY

Two suspects celebrated with martinis after taking \$600 from an 89-year-old Spokane woman, police allege. "They were looking for the most defenseless victim they could find," Chief Roger Bragdon said. The victim suffered a fractured skull, sprained ankle and bruised hip in the Feb. 26 robbery. She and her husband may have to move from their home into an assisted living center.

THURSDAY

Facing 11 lawsuits by 40 people who allege they were abused by priests, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Spokane is challenging a 1988 change in Washington's statute of limitations for such claims. Prior to the change, victims of childhood sexual abuse had to file claims before their 21st birthday. The diocese says the Legislature infringed on a "constitutionally protected right" by changing the rules retroactively.

A Spokane man was charged with second-degree murder today in the death of Denise M. McCormick, 40, whose body was found Saturday at Long Lake. James C. Metcalf, 35, is accused of strangling the Spokane Community College student. McCormick's family and friends are outraged at Metcalf's contention that the pair had consensual sex after meeting Friday night. He claims to have dropped McCormick off at a supermarket parking lot.

FRIDAY

Federal authorities allege that a University of Idaho computer student managed Web sites and helped raise money for Hamas, a terrorist organization that promotes suicide bombings and other violence in Israel. The latest indictment against Sami Omar Al-Hussayen is the most serious yet. The Saudi national was arrested in February 2003.

The 100-year-old Fort Spokane Brewery building may soon be replaced by a parking lot. The owners have received a demolition permit for the four-story structure at 401 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Historic preservationists call the plans "unfortunate."

COMING UP

Some gay couples in the region are heading to places like Portland. Others say they have no desire to be wed, considering the high divorce rates among heterosexuals. Read about it Tuesday in The Spokesman-Review.

Week in review

End of Document

Sharon orders reprisals for bombing

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

July 14, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 16

Length: 727 words

Byline: Conal Urquhart in Tel Aviv

Body

Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday ordered "a relentless attack" on the leadership of Islamic Jihad following Tuesday's suicide bombing in the Israeli seaside town of Netanya which killed two women and two teenage girls.

Israeli troops re-entered the West Bank town of Tulkarem in response to the attack. Security for the town had been handed over to the Palestinian Authority last month.

Two Palestinians were killed in yesterday's operation, and the army also banned Palestinians from entering Israeli territory or travelling between their towns as a further punishment for the attack.

"Yesterday I ordered police and Israeli security services to launch a relentless attack against the Islamic Jihad terrorist organisation and its commanders," Mr Sharon told reporters at Tel Aviv airport as he welcomed new immigrants arriving from North America.

Israeli analysts took the prime minister's comments to mean that Israel would assassinate Islamic Jihad leaders if it could.

The army said Islamic Jihad had been responsible for the deaths of 10 Israelis since their last suicide attack in February in Tel Aviv, which claimed five victims.

In spite of the ceasefire that was agreed by Palestinian and Israeli leaders in February, the army has regularly operated in Palestinian areas, resulting in the deaths of around 40 Palestinians. However, it has suspended the policy of assassinating senior militants until now.

The four victims of Tuesday's suicide attack by an 18-year-old Palestinian were yesterday named as Anna Lifshitz, 50, and Yulia Weltshin, 31, both from Netanya, and Rachel Ben Abu and Nofar Horvitz, both 16 and from Tel Aviv.

The bomber, Sami Abu Khalil, was from the village of Atil, near Tulkarem, which is under full Israeli control.

Meanwhile, Mr Sharon signalled his determination to continue with plans to evacuate settlements in Gaza and the West Bank by ordering the closure of the Gaza settlements to non-residents.

The closure order was prompted by a march planned for Monday by opponents of the disengagement plan. The army feared that rightwing settlers would use the march as an opportunity to stay in the Gush Katif area of Gaza to frustrate the withdrawal, which is scheduled to begin in mid-August.

Sharon orders reprisals for bombing

Shortly after the announcement of the closure the Yesha Council, the settlers' pressure group, said in a statement: "This is the first time in history that a Jewish prime minister blockades Jewish communities and declares a part of Israel Jews-free."

It added: "This is yet another achievement on the prime minister's part in tearing the nation apart and trampling over the values of democracy and Zionism as well as the residents' human rights."

A separate rightwing group, National Home, announced that it would block roads all over Israel twice a week in protest. The group has already caused traffic jams during two previous demonstrations.

Opponents of disengagement said the government should invest more time in hunting down Palestinian militants and less in evacuating the settlements.

Israeli ministers focused part of the blame on the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, for not doing more to stop Islamic Jihad.

Gideon Ezra, the Israeli security minister, told Israel radio: "Abu Mazen (Mr Abbas) has to understand that these things don't just hurt Israel . . . in the end it will bring down his government.

"His job now is to catch the people. He has the opportunity and the police, and to say 'I can't' is not an excuse. He has to try and he has to do it."

Mr Abbas has attempted to persuade militant groups to abide by a ceasefire by negotiation, fearing a confrontation might lead to a civil war.

In the last month the ceasefire has appeared increasingly fragile as Israeli army operations and Palestinian attacks increase. However, analysts believe that Palestinian groups such as **Hamas** and Israel share an interest in maintaining the imperfect calm until Israel has withdrawn from 26 settlements in Gaza and the West Bank.

In Gaza yesterday Palestinian gunmen released two aid workers, one British and one Dutch, 24 hours after they were snatched from their car. Palestinian police had been negotiating their release. The men were working on a water development project.

The abduction of foreigners in Gaza is usually connected to local disputes rather than political issues.

guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: July 15, 2005

Education: Work in progress: What makes women become suicide bombers.
Polly Curtis looks at research that aims to understand

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

February 24, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Education Pages, Pg. 23

Length: 643 words

Byline: Polly Curtis

Body

In January a 22-year old Palestinian mother walked into a border checkpoint and detonated 2kg of explosives strapped to her body, killing herself and four security guards. She was the first **female** suicide bomber to be dispatched by the militant Islamist group **Hamas** and the images of her children, dressed as martyrs, dominated the front pages around the world.

On February 6, 39 people died on a Moscow train following a suicide bombing believed to have been carried out by a young **female** Chechen rebel. Photos of the bomber's bloodied victims staggering out of the underground exits were beamed around the world.

Those images are now as much of a tool of the terrorists as TNT, according to Cerwyn Moore, lecturer in international relations at Nottingham Trent University.

Moore is carrying out the first investigation of the rise of **women** suicide bombers. He has chosen to focus on Chechnya. In the Israeli/ Palestine conflict, **female** suicide bombers are a relatively new phenomenon, but in Chechnya they are almost common - more **women** than men now carry out the suicide bombings on Russian targets.

The fascination, says Moore, is that these "human bombs" give a face to incomprehensively violent situations. "I think our identity is very much conditioned by how we understand violence. I can readily remember my grandfather talking about his experiences in the second world war and I remember my cousin talking about the Falklands . . . The human face of war is the thing that draws me to it."

There's roughly one suicide bomb ing a month in Moscow. **Women** were involved in a train bombing in the north Caucasus in early December last year, which killed around 50 people, and in a coach bombing in Vedeno that killed 38. In October 2002, 18 **women** took part in the Moscow theatre siege - Russia's September 11.

"Post-9/11 the Chechen issue has been really marginalised. It's an extremely brutal war. Chechnya is now only considered within this war on terror. All that label does is cast a shadow over the country and designate it as a murderous, extremist country. No one considers what is actually going on within that conflict," says Moore.

The Moscow siege, for example, was a good example of postmodern war theory - conflicts that are fought virtually, rather than on a state-by-state basis through an on slaught of communications as well as a military might. The

Education: Work in progress: What makes women become suicide bombers. Polly Curtis looks at research that aims to understand

same theory says the 9/11 attacks on America were not only a physical attack, but also a symbolic attack on America's consciousness.

Moore's theory is that while propaganda has always been part of war, the immediacy that the internet and satellite phones have brought has intensified it. Within that context, photographs of a mother and her children dressed as martyrs is inevitably more shocking than an image of a man.

"There's a very gendered vision of war - war is traditionally seen as a male realm. It's a warrior thing," Moore says.

"Only recently have people started to recognise that women have actually always had an intrinsic role in war. Female combatants are not unusual. Pictures on the front page of the Daily Mail denigrate the role of women in war. They've always been there - and I'm not saying celebrate it, I'm saying don't underplay it."

Moore wants to find out what drives women - and men - to make these attacks. In Chechnya, he says, women are doing it because there are so few young men not in prison. In Palestine it's because women are more likely to make it through the checkpoints.

But he doesn't want to write it off as extremism without attempting to understand it. "The act is incredibly barbaric and seems irrational. But the planning that goes into it indicates that it has been rationalised. It seems to be very, very planned, but how do we accommodate this and what can we do about it?

"It's too simple to say these people are 'just fundamentalists'."

Load-Date: February 24, 2004

End of Document

Wave of democracy leaves Mideast 'unrecognizable': The U.S. might not like the results of the elections it proudly takes credit for, writes Anton La Guardia.

Ottawa Citizen

June 18, 2005 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A11

Length: 727 words

Byline: Anton La Guardia, The Daily Telegraph

Body

The Lebanese vote tomorrow, the Iranians were casting their ballots yesterday, the Palestinians chose a new leader last January, an elected government has taken power in Iraq and Egyptians are being promised a chance to choose their president.

It may be a late spring, but all of a sudden the shoots of democracy seem to be sprouting across the arid politics of the Middle East.

There are buds even in closed monarchies like Saudi Arabia, which held its first municipal elections in February. In Kuwait, women now have the vote.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on her first major Middle East tour this weekend, is delighted, saying "this is a world that is really unrecognizable" from only a year ago.

U.S. President George W. Bush is convinced Islamic terrorism can only be defeated through the "ending of tyranny" in the Muslim world, and he believes he is creating the right soil for democracy. His war in Iraq broke up the hard earth of despotism, the White House believes, and now his calls for freedom are providing the fertilizer.

Many Muslims argue that U.S. tolerance of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the U.S. occupation of Iraq, have encouraged extremism and weakened reformists.

Still, the transformation of American policy has embarrassed friends and foes: Pro-western dictatorial leaders feel abandoned by the U.S., while their opponents are resentful the detested Americans have stolen their arguments.

With Ms. Rice in the Middle East, Egypt's foreign minister, Ahmad Abul Ghait, this week sounded a warning that U.S. "interference" risked "wreaking havoc."

"We want to be friends, but keep your distance," he said.

Muhammad Mursi, a member of the banned Muslim Brotherhood elected to Egypt's parliament as an "independent," said, "Bush is not serious about democracy. His deeds go against his words. Where is the freedom in Iraq? There is bloodshed everywhere and he started it."

Wave of democracy leaves Mideast 'unrecognizable': The U.S. might not like the results of the elections it proudly takes credit for, writes Anton La Guardia.

In many countries, the pressure for change has come about not so much as a result of U.S. efforts, but because of internal factors. In the Palestinian territories, the death of Yasser Arafat created a breathing space in the four-year-old conflict with Israel.

In Lebanon, the murder of former prime minister Rafik Hariri caused such fury that Syrian forces were forced to leave.

In Iraq, Shia spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani forced the U.S. into early elections.

The outcome of the new political freedom is still unclear.

In Lebanon, the anti-Syrian opposition has split, and the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, greatly depends on Israel agreeing to withdraw from the West Bank. In Egypt, the electoral rules have been drawn up to exclude the Muslim Brotherhood.

In contrast, Iran's controlled elections are designed to keep out opponents of the clergy's rule, and the reform process is in reverse. Results won't be announced until today, but it is doubtful any candidate will gain 50-per-cent support, meaning a runoff between the top two candidates will be needed.

The U.S. policy of promoting democracy has been far from consistent as it seeks to reconcile the theory of the "forward strategy of freedom" with the reality of the "global war on terrorism."

In Egypt, for instance, the U.S. demanded the release of Ayman Nour, the jailed leader of a small liberal party accused of tax fraud, while keeping silent on the recent rounding-up of hundreds of Brotherhood members.

Campaigners accused the U.S. of sending suspected Islamic militants back to Egypt where they face likely torture and detention.

The main unanswered question in the quest for democracy is: What happens if freedom brings U.S. enemies to power?

In Lebanon and the Israeli occupied territories, violent groups such as Hezbollah and **Hamas** used elections to gain political influence.

In a region where most states have suppressed rivals, the mosque has provided the main refuge. Islamic groups, mostly hostile to the U.S., are now the most powerful opposition to existing regimes.

Even liberal Muslims worry that an Islamic victory will mean the end of democracy.

Mr. Nour explained the contradictions facing Mr. Bush.

"The public support of America has not been helpful, and the Egyptian government is using it against me.

"It may have shortened the time I spent in jail. But if you come to my constituency, you will see banners accusing me of being an American spy."

Load-Date: June 18, 2005

Never mind Hillary - it's 'Laura for president' now

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

June 1, 2005, Wednesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 09

Length: 711 words

Byline: By John Hughes

Dateline: SALT LAKE CITY

Body

I and my readers had such fun with my provocative column suggesting a Nobel peace prize for President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair that I'm ready to try another: Laura Bush for president in 2008.

The Bush and Blair column drew as much reader reaction as any I can remember in many years of column writing.

At one end of the spectrum, Bush supporters thought it was a nifty idea. I never heard the broadcast, but many readers told me that Sean Hannity commented on the "idea from this feller in Salt Lake City" and said "the country needs more thinking like this."

By contrast, Bush critics thought it was a terrible idea. One of my perennial correspondents, who has routinely suggested that Bush is motivated by Satanic influences, said he was "truly sickened by the proposal." Others suggested I resign from clubs I don't even belong to.

Now to Laura. Her public opinion ratings are currently higher than the president's. Her performance at the Gridiron dinner in Washington proved she has even more comedic flair than her husband. And on her trip to the Middle East last week, she showed she has a mind of her own and can sometimes, with civility, take positions different from Mr. Bush.

Still not persuaded? Think the wife of a former president shouldn't, or couldn't, take a crack at running for the White House? Well Hillary Clinton is the wife of a former president and a lot of people think she's a front-runner for the Democratic nomination in 2008. What a contest that would be: Laura and Hillary. Choose one for first woman president. What a campaign Karl Rove would make.

Of course, Laura would have to elbow out Bill Frist, John McCain, and maybe even brother-in-law Jeb Bush, as well as a string of other aspiring males to get the Republican nomination. But I suspect that beneath that poised and charming exterior are nerves of steel and a canny political sense on issues of great import.

She certainly displayed cool nerve in the midst of rambunctious demonstrating crowds during her five-day Middle East visit. She also shrewdly pitched the president's agenda of freedom and democracy to the audience that could perhaps do more than any other to further that agenda throughout the Arab lands.

Never mind Hillary - it's 'Laura for president' now

That audience, of course, is the women of the region. In male-dominated societies, they have been traditionally disenfranchised and relegated to inferior status, their educational potential and influence for constructive change untapped and dismissed. But if encouraged and unleashed, what a force they could be.

The winds of change are rippling across the Arab lands - evident in voter turnouts in liberated Iraq, pro-democracy demonstrations that have sent Syrian troops out of Lebanon, and the burgeoning of a substantial opposition movement in Egypt. Of necessity, and not always from conviction, political concessions are being made by kings, princes, and traditional rulers.

Islamist parties, which have long curried favor with the population by providing social services, are poised to become part of the opposition. Hamas and Hizbullah, for example, are debating whether to renounce violence and become mainstream political organizations.

Arab women, if empowered, could be a significant factor in shifting their menfolk away from terror and bloodshed and into orthodox politics. That's why it was cheering to see Mrs. Bush sit down with Hanan Ashrawi and other prominent Palestinian women last week to encourage the advancement of women's rights.

Peace and stability will be better served when there are more women legislators and judges and government officials in positions of responsibility in the Islamic world. Some progress is being made, as in Afghanistan.

But throughout Arab nations, 50 percent of women are still illiterate. A recent report prepared for the United Nations by Arab intellectuals found that "despite laudable efforts to promote the status of women, success remains limited." Greater progress, it concluded, is required in women's political participation, legal status, marital rights, and their integration into development.

Laura for president. Maybe that would help.

* John Hughes, a former editor of the Monitor, is editor and chief operating officer of Deseret Morning News.

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Load-Date: May 31, 2005

Minister's brother leads Gaza military mutiny

Sunday Times (London)

June 5, 2005, Sunday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; News; 24

Length: 751 words

Byline: Marie Colvin, Gush Katif

Body

THE brother of a senior Israeli minister has emerged as the leader of an illegal campaign to persuade soldiers to refuse orders to force Jewish settlers out of Gaza this summer.

Noam Livnat, whose sister Limor is the education minister, says that he has a petition with the signatures of 7,000 reservists and 3,000 soldiers who will refuse to take part in the disengagement from Gaza ordered by Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister.

The number of reservists is significant because many have been called up by the army as part of its policy of having the settlers handled by "mature" soldiers.

"We are contacting soldiers to tell them they are not allowed to follow any order to uproot Jews from their homes," Livnat, 46, said last week from an abandoned Arab beach hut that he has commandeered in the Gush Katif settlement.

"We have three rabbis who say the Torah forbids Jews to give up land to non Jews."

Livnat's organisation, Homat Magen (Defensive Shield), has sent text messages to soldiers and updated its internet forum explaining why soldiers should not participate.

It also runs a telephone advice centre. Soldiers are told what to say when they refuse orders so that they will have the strongest possible legal case. They are advised that if they are afraid to refuse, they can go to Gaza and help the cause by doing their job badly.

Livnat, an invalid following a truck accident that injured his legs in Sinai during the Arab-Israeli war in 1967, said that he and his followers will fight if necessary. "I expect violence," he said.

The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) is monitoring the possibility of a mutiny. "The IDF does not tolerate refusal to carry out orders," said Captain Ishai David, a spokesman for the army. "We are a democracy and the order has been handed down by the political echelon." Soldiers who refused would face punishments ranging from demotion to a prison sentence, he said.

Aware of the moral conundrum facing its troops, the force is giving its officers psychological training as they prepare to remove Jewish families from the 21 settlements in the Gush Katif bloc.

Minister's brother leads Gaza military mutiny

Organised extremist groups seem prepared to do almost anything to keep Gaza under Israeli occupation. At demonstrations they hand out leaflets with a photograph of two bewildered children. The title reads: "When daddy is in jail, who will help the kids?"

The answer is Hannan Hanenev, a legal aid organisation that funds the defence of soldiers and civilians involved in fighting for "eretz Israel" -the biblical kingdom of Israel -on the day of disengagement.

Orange bracelets reading "Jews don't expel Jews" are on sale and worn by supporters. Orange plastic strips flutter from cars and orange baseball caps are sported by the elderly. All sales go to a fund to fight the disengagement.

During the Independence Day celebration in Gush Katif last month, Idan Dandiker, a 20-year-old soldier and martial arts instructor from Beersheva, was given a "diploma of honour" by the settler council for his decision to refuse orders and found himself demoted to the humiliating job of cleaning kitchens. He has since been cursed as a traitor, but also sent text messages such as one that read: "You are my hero. I love you. **Female** Israeli soldier."

The refuseniks are not just the ultra-religious Jews. Yaron Olami, a secular, T-shirted former paratrooper, said last week he has prepared a letter to his commander refusing disengagement duty that has so far been signed by 15 officers and five soldiers in his unit.

"History will judge me, not some general," he said. Along with friends he has posted an internet "wall of shame" listing every man and woman involved in the withdrawal.

Despite the turmoil, the IDF is pushing on with its policy.

A commander explained the IDF's plans as he drove along Philadelphia Road, the dangerous border route between the Palestinian city of Rafah and the Egyptian border.

As soldiers evacuated the settlements, he said, his troops would form a "second circle" facing out against any Palestinian attack. A third circle would cut off Gaza from anyone trying to enter -thousands of Israelis are expected to march on Gush Katif on the day. "It's a big tragedy but we are positive our mission will be carried out," the commander said.

oMahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, yesterday indefinitely postponed parliamentary elections scheduled for July 17, giving his Fatah party time to fend off a growing challenge by the rival **Hamas** faction.

Additional reporting:

Aviram Zino

Load-Date: June 7, 2005

***The case for negotiating with the mullahs ;
Bush in Europe I***

The International Herald Tribune

February 19, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 4

Length: 773 words

Byline: Jean Francois-poncet

Dateline: PARIS

Body

While the skies of trans-Atlantic relations have become almost blue again, there persists a very serious disagreement that Condoleezza Rice, in the course of her well-received visit to Europe, either could not or did not want to resolve: Iran's nuclear program.

There is no doubt that this problem and the disagreements it creates will figure strongly in the talks President George W. Bush is about to hold with Europeans.

The difference is not over the desired result, but over how to achieve it. Neither Europeans nor Americans have any doubt about the military character of the Iranian program, nor about the unacceptable threat it poses not only to Israel, but to security and stability in the entire Middle East. They also agree that Iran's declarations, no matter how solemn, and inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency are not enough to guarantee that the program remain civil. That kind of certainty can come only from the renunciation by Iran of all activities linked to the enrichment of uranium and the separation of plutonium.

International Herald Tribune

To achieve this assurance, France, Britain and Germany, with the support of their European partners, have chosen the path of negotiations. Not, as it is thought in Washington, out of appeasement or weakness, but because they believe that Iran aspires to escape from its economic and political isolation and is prepared to pay a high price to do so. Iran's industry is obsolete, and its economy is incapable of providing jobs for the 800,000 young people who enter the work force every year, forcing the best to leave the country.

Political ostracism has also prevented the regime from playing the role that it believes it is entitled to on the international stage. The fact that Iran agreed to suspend uranium enrichment during the negotiations indicates that it is interested in the European initiative.

But it has become increasingly clear that this interest will translate into an agreement only if the United States becomes involved in the process, directly or indirectly. The economic opening that Iran seeks requires, in effect, at least a partial lifting of the American embargo, which prevents Europe from delivering the equipment, notably the Airbus, and the advanced technologies that Iran wants. It is also obvious that Iran's application for membership in the World Trade Organization has no hope without Washington's support. What Europe can offer on its own is not on the same level as the concessions it demands of Iran.

The case for negotiating with the mullahs ; Bush in Europe I

Condoleezza Rice wished the Europeans the best of luck, which was a departure from the skepticism shown up until then by the Americans. But best wishes are not enough, and there is nothing to indicate that on Iran, the United States is disposed to go any further. The justifiable antagonism that the ayatollahs inspire with their disregard for human rights, discrimination against women or support of Hezbollah and Hamas pushes the United States toward "regime change" as the political priority. Thus the refusal to negotiate, and the temptation to seek immediate Security Council sanctions, and then to proceed, if necessary, to the destruction of Iran's nuclear installations.

Would that weaken the regime? Probably not. More likely, Iranian public opinion, which may be hostile to the religious authorities but remains intensively nationalistic, would rally around the regime and against the West. The Iranian opposition, led by Shirin Ebadi, whose courageous struggle for human rights won her a Nobel Peace Prize, has publicly warned Washington against the politics of force.

What's more, while it is incontestable that the regime in Tehran is unpopular, that does not mean it is fragile. The regime has a totally loyal praetorian guard of 150,000 men in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, and with immense oil resources, it can placate malcontents with lavish handouts which it does not hesitate to do.

That is why the only way out of this dilemma is for the United States to give the European-led negotiations every chance. If they succeed, they will eliminate the threat posed by the Iranian nuclear program while opening Iran to the world and obliging it to liberalize its economy, which is probably the best way in the medium term to weaken the religious regime.

If they fail, which is entirely possible, the Europeans will willingly rally around sanctions. And if Iran's nuclear sites are eventually destroyed, there will be less of a backlash, inside or outside Iran.

Jean Francois-Poncet, a member of the French Senate, is a former foreign minister of France.

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Religion out abroad, in at home

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A11

Length: 778 words

Byline: Trudy Rubin

Body

Every time I come back from the Middle East, I thank God I live in a country that separates church and state.

The Middle East - and the Afghanistan of the Taliban - offer frightening lessons about what can happen when that barrier between church and state is shattered.

Too bad those in Congress rushing to intervene in the tragic case of Terri Schiavo are so blind to the risk of injecting religion into government.

In this disorienting era of globalization, where few can escape bombardment by disturbing satellite and Internet images, many people turn to religion to regain their moorings. In the Mideast, secular political movements are largely discredited, and radical religious movements want to take control of states.

But in the Mideast, the dangers of injecting religion into politics are in full view, from the dictatorial rule of Iranian ayatollahs to the bloody campaigns of *Hamas* and al-Qaeda; from the threat that Iraq might become an Islamist state to the danger that fundamentalists will kill Arab and Jewish peacemakers, as happened to Anwar Sadat and Yitzhak Rabin.

The most ghoulish part of Congress's involvement in the Schiavo case is how little it has to do with her and how much it reflects a Republican drive to blur that barrier between church and state.

All of us can identify with the terrifying choices that confront Schiavo's family and husband. I watched members of my extended family confront a somewhat similar tragedy. But empathy with the family doesn't mean endorsement of congressional intervention; 70 percent of respondents in a recent poll said it was inappropriate for Congress to get involved.

Republican lawmakers - and the White House - have contravened just about every one of their Golden Rules to get involved in this case. They have junked their supposed respect for states' rights, their call for limited federal judicial activism, their alleged respect for the sanctity of marriage.

Religion out abroad, in at home

What's going on here? The answer lies in a leaked memo distributed among Senate Republicans. The memo called the Schiavo case "a great political issue" that could pay dividends with Christian conservatives, adding that "the pro-life base will be excited that the Senate is debating this important issue." This intervention was an attempt to please a core Republican constituency - the religious right.

There is a disturbing disconnect between this pandering and the current U.S. foreign policy. In Iraq, U.S. officials have spent two years trying to ensure that a new Iraqi government wouldn't jettison civil laws that affect families - marriage, divorce, child custody, and inheritance - and replace them with more restrictive Muslim religious laws.

These officials fear the majority victory of a Shiite political list in recent Iraqi elections will actually roll back **women's** rights. One of the reasons Iraqis have been unable to form a government in the weeks since the elections is that secular Kurds are trying to ensure that Shiites won't interject too much religion into their constitution.

Indeed, the main reason that previous U.S. governments, including the first Bush administration, were wary of pushing democracy in Arab countries was the fear that religious parties might triumph and impose their idea of God's law on their public.

We were lucky enough to have founding fathers who, although individually religious, understood the need to separate the spheres ruled by laws of God and of man. But in our current political climate, key religious political constituencies, feeling their political power, want to enshrine their values into law in areas ranging from abortion to conception to education, and maybe even foreign policy.

Some wealthy conservatives who fund Christian lobbying groups have views that sound not so different from Islamists in the Middle East. Examples: Christian philanthropist Howard Ahmanson Jr. says he seeks "the total integration of Biblical law into our lives," and the grant-giving Maclellan Foundation endorses "the infallibility of the Scripture."

The United States doesn't yet face the full challenge of fundamentalists who murder their opponents, although we've seen a hint of this in the murders of doctors who perform abortions - and in the threats faced by Florida Judge George W. Greer in the Schiavo case.

We have been blessed with a system that has protected us from the kind of zealotry that undermines the Middle East. Republicans in Congress should ponder those blessings. If they did, they might be less eager to punch holes in the barriers between church and state.

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com. Read her recent work at <http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin>.

Notes

Worldview

Graphic

CARTOON;
(MARK WEBER)

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Work in progress for a better year

Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

January 1, 2005 Saturday

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Length: 746 words

Body

PERSEVERANCE will deliver a better life for Gold Coasters and all Australians this year.

Hopefully it also will bring progress against terrorism throughout the world.

The Gold Coast already has set in train the beginnings of a bountiful 2005 through its theme park dreams,

its sporting exploits, its massive high-rise and suburban building program and the drive to invite more tourists to this region.

Considering that tourism is the biggest driver of our local economy, the Gold Coast can look forward to bumper sales over the next 12 months.

We have safety, stability and the eco-tourism equal of anywhere in the world in respect of rainforests and beaches.

This is the year when the 80-storey Q1 at Surfers Paradise will soar above anywhere else in Australia for apartment living.

People will want to be part of history when they take high-speed lifts to the observation deck at the top of the tower for the views. The 10-storey Sky Garden from level 60 upwards will showcase tropical Queensland's unique flora and fauna.

It may be that 2005 is the year in which other developers come along and propose other buildings taller than Q1. That is the way of the highly-competitive Gold Coast in the 21st century.

On the sporting front, it will be difficult to top the successes of last year, given the triumphs of Grant Hackett and the Breakers rugby union side.

But from a sporting-industry point of view, Magic Millions opens today, beginning the churn of money and racing in earnest for the next fortnight.

Tomorrow the Uncle Tobys Hardcourt tennis tournament starts at the Royal Pines Resort, starring the greats and up-and-coming champions of international women's tennis. Such is the status of the event that swimming superstar Ian Thorpe will attend on Tuesday for a lunch and photo session.

The Gold Coast also can look forward to more of the prosperity that came to the city in 2004.

The rising tide of real estate prices, starting in 2003 in Sydney and Melbourne, continues to wash through the Gold Coast well after excitement over massive capital gains in the southern capitals has waned. It seems investors will continue to make their rents and capital gains here for at least the next year.

Work in progress for a better year

How has this happened? Perhaps for the first time in its history, the Gold Coast has become self-confident.

The real estate and development market has been able to shrug off the habit of following southern markets because it is now large enough to be self-sustaining.

This has had the effect of creating jobs and industry, and therefore thousands of jobs for young people, from last year well into this year.

In national terms, Gold Coasters can look forward to the prospect of lower taxes this year, probably because bracket creep and GST are bringing in far more money than the Federal Government anticipated.

So it is no surprise that Treasurer Peter Costello said this month: "We are going to cut them (taxes) again on July 1, 2005," in accordance with election pledges of last year.

In terms of security, the Federal Government, thankfully, will push on with its policy of supporting the US and Britain against the terrorist regimes of Osama bin Laden around the world (especially in Indonesia) and with the grinding war to establish a democratic beachhead in Iraq.

Although the continuing bombing campaign by insurgents in Iraq makes the situation grim, the staging of Iraqi elections this month should show the Iraqis that long-term freedom is possible, indeed probable.

As if to back up this promise, another contingent of Australian soldiers left for Iraq on Wednesday as part of the next rotation of a security detachment. They were elements of the Brisbane-based 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, the Darwin-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the Sydney-based 1st Military Police Battalion.

On a broader scale, the treacherous actions of Islamic terrorists under the umbrella of al-Queda, Jemaah Islamiyah, **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and others in humanity's fringe groups could be in retreat this year due to the resolve of the US and other members of the Coalition of the Willing against state-funded and supported terrorism.

Almost as importantly, 2005 could bring solutions to the vexed problem of Palestinian liberty, made more likely with the death last year of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Could the headlines about suicide bombings and terrorist attacks around the world become yesterday's news?

We pray that this is so. We wish all our readers a happy and prosperous New Year.

Load-Date: January 2, 2005

The Arafat I knew

Sunday Times (London)

November 14, 2004, Sunday

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Section: Features; News Review 1

Length: 3138 words

Byline: Marie Colvin

Body

Marie Colvin recalls the strange medieval court of Yasser Arafat she observed during her years of reporting on the PLO, and a leader who became the symbol of a people but lacked the vision to lead them to statehood.

When I first met Yasser Arafat, the legend was larger than the reality. He was described both as a charismatic terrorist chieftain and an inspirational national leader. In reality he was a small, obsessive figure who appeared happiest behind a desk and seemed unlikely to be leader of anything, let alone one of the most fractious political movements on earth.

It took me years to figure out why this unprepossessing man was the undisputed father of the Palestinian nation.

I first met Arafat in 1987 when he was living in exile in a bougainvillea draped villa in Tunis. He had created a mini-world within a world. Most of the big cheeses of the Palestine Liberation Organisation lived nearby, and most slept all day while the Tunisians went about their business.

The key was to adopt PLO time: everything happened after dark, mostly at 3am, it seemed. I remember thinking that the key to Arafat's success was that he simply tired everyone out.

They were places of camaraderie, these houses of waiting for Arafat. I would sit up all night, sipping coffee, smoking endless cigarettes, listening to stories of Palestine and Beirut and the venting of frustration about Arafat. The complaints were tinged with respect and even fear. The apocryphal story everyone told was of a Japanese journalist who had waited so long for an interview with Arafat that he had enough time to learn Arabic.

Arafat had not always wielded such authority. Abu Iyad, his number three and the architect of the notorious Black September group, got so frustrated in one meeting that he threw a shoe at the Palestinian leader, a grave insult in the Arab world - "You are lower than my shoe" is the worst thing you can say without bringing in someone's mother.

He returned from this meeting (I was still waiting for my interview) to tell me ruefully about the early days in the 1960s when the underground Palestinian leaders had put Arafat up as their public face because he had so much energy but so little authority. They wanted to continue the revolution out of the glare of attention from either the press or intelligence agencies and they thought he would be a weak figurehead while they ran the show.

"And look where we are now!" Iyad sputtered in exasperation. "Arafat, Arafat, Arafat."

When I finally met him it was in a setting that he would obsessively replicate wherever he went, and that I would see for the next 15 years in different countries.

The Arafat I knew

He sat behind a desk in a scruffy room laden with symbols, rather like a medieval painting. Behind him was a mural of Jerusalem's golden dome of the Haram al-Sharif, the Muslims' third most holy place in the city he claimed as the Palestinian capital.

A television was in the corner, which in Tunis ran Tom and Jerry cartoons. Later, in Gaza, after he had returned from exile under the 1993 Oslo peace accord with Israel, it was tuned to CNN World.

On his desk, always, were a Palestinian flag and a 2ft-high pile of papers. He was in a uniform of his own creation, with obscure medals -the one he most liked explaining was the golden pin of a phoenix, whose mythical rise from the fire symbolised to him the Palestinian people.

And always the black and white keffiyeh (headscarf), pristine and pressed, pinned exactly over his right shoulder in the shape of the future state of Palestine.

The call to see him would always come after midnight. It would be brief: Abu Ammar, as he was known to all Palestinians, wants you. After the hours of waiting, there would then be a drive at terrifying speed through darkened streets.

Why? It became clear that he never planned ahead but when he gave an order he expected immediate obedience.

I later realised that this could sum up all of his dealings with everyone from the lowliest bodyguard to the American president. He could have towering rages.

Whatever house in whatever country would shake with his tirades, expletives in his Egyptian accent. One waited out the storm.

On that first visit I walked into his Tunis villa through a lounging crowd of smoking, uniformed men with machineguns and revolvers casually at their hips. His room was brightly lit. Behind the desk was a tiny man with big lips, a scraggly chin growth that was not quite a beard (he once told me exactly how many minutes he saved a year by shaving only every five days), bulging eyes behind oversize black-rimmed glasses and no obvious charisma.

I think his first words to me were, "And what do you want?" As if he didn't know.

It was like meeting a fussy hotel clerk in a provincial capital.

He was a difficult interview. I came to realise this was because at all times he was speaking to four constituencies - Palestinians in exile, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, the Arab world and finally a western audience.

Years later I found myself unexpectedly sympathising with Madeleine Albright, the American secretary of state, when I sat in on his end of a telephone conversation with her. She was trying to persuade him to stand down Palestinian demonstrations against a new Jewish settlement. He said he couldn't stop the violence until the Israeli bulldozers stopped.

Albright said: "Let's not get into a discussion of which came first, the chicken or the egg." To which Arafat's cryptic reply was: "But not to forget, in the end there is the hen and there is the egg." There was a silence on her side -boy, did I understand.

When he was not in a formal situation, a different, earthy, even funny person emerged. It was travelling in a plane with him to Washington, to Norway for the Nobel peace prize, to see Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in Libya, and in his convoy as he crossed into Gaza in 1994 as the returning leader, that I came to understand him better.

On the plane to Libya, he worked through a mass of papers, always with his green pen. Without a break of stride after landing, he got into the limousine to the hotel Gaddafi had assigned him. But when Gaddafi then did not see him for 12 hours, Arafat took it as an insult.

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He sent me in his convoy back to the airport. It was a feint. The call immediately came that the Libyan leader wanted to see him, so my driver drove at 100mph to join him at Gadaffi's headquarters.

Gadaffi, in his finest robes, greeted Arafat then turned and noticed me. "Mary," he asked (I knew him, too, but he has never been able to pronounce my name) "What are you doing here?" It was as if I had wandered in off the street.

"She's with me," Arafat said proudly, as if we were at a London film premiere. He then went on to lie outrageously about the state of my nose, which at the time was on the wrong side of my face. Arafat told Gadaffi the Israelis had broken it. The truth was that Palestinian demonstrators had thrown a rock through the window of my car when I was posing as a Jewish settler on a reporting assignment.

It was on this trip that I also discovered the secret of Arafat's unusual uniforms. I used to wonder where he got them and why they were always so well laundered -until I stayed with him in a VIP villa after flying in from Gaza.

This is what would happen: his bodyguards (all male, one of whom he raised from orphanhood) would go out shopping -they all knew Arafat's size. They would buy presents for their families and then they would stop by an army surplus shop.

There always was one, whether they were in an African capital or in Stockholm. There they would purchase a crisp, second-hand uniform and return with it to add to his ever-growing stock.

On the plane, they undressed him. There was no embarrassment. They took off his uniform, and he got into a track suit. Senior members of his leadership found this the best time to talk to him, the only time there were no interruptions. Last to come off was his keffiyeh. And yes, he was totally bald.

These once-young bodyguards, some now middle-aged, ironed his keffiyeh, kept his uniform clean and put him to bed. They slept outside his door.

I think it was this intimacy that sparked the Israeli propaganda that Arafat was homosexual. But intimacy is very different from sexuality, and Arafat was always ferociously heterosexual.

He loved saying to me, "I am married to Palestine." But there was always a woman.

There was the Palestinian woman with impeccable revolutionary credentials and the big hips he so liked. Then there was the Egyptian, who travelled with him and descended the presidential plane with inappropriate red high heels.

And then there was Suha. Everyone around him reacted to the emergence of Suha Tawil, the daughter of a Palestinian businessman, with the jealousy of lovers.

Their male world was disrupted: Arafat had actually publicly acknowledged a woman. Not only that: he married her, after a showdown with her mother.

I remember my first intimation that this French-coutured, buxom blonde might be more than a secretary and translator, which was how she first joined his circle.

We were on a plane, it was dark and he had taken off the Chelsea boots he always wore. She had taken off her court heels. In the dark, I saw that they were playing footsie as his bodyguards slept.

A few months later, Arafat crashed in a desert storm in Libya and suffered the head injury that led to brain surgery in Jordan and the shakes he suffered afterwards. Among the photographs found in his pocket was one that showed Arafat dancing with abandon, twirling his keffiyeh as he held Suha's hand.

She was disliked in his circle, though I always thought this was unfair. Most of the criticism was for things that any woman -raised as she had been in exile with her wealthy parents in bourgeois circles in Paris -thought normal. She

The Arafat I knew

had married a president, and she liked the red carpet. She wanted a decent house, not a home that was a doss house for his extended entourage.

To Arafat, womanly ways were a mystery. I remember when I drove into Gaza with him on his return from exile that Suha's first impulse was to find a hairdresser. She came back with hair that was, to put it kindly, a greeny orange rather than blonde. Arafat came into their bedroom and joked, "Women! They are always changing the colour of their hair. Every time you see them!" He had no idea that Suha was mortified by the appalling coiffure.

He was mystified by all the unguents and creams that filled their bathroom; even more so by the black lace lingerie that would be hanging in the shower to dry.

When we were flying to Oslo, where he and Shimon Peres would receive the Nobel peace prize, the pilot of his plane came on the intercom to say: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to be flying the president of Palestine ..." Arafat interrupted him, shouting from his back seat like a schoolboy at the back of the bus: "There are no ladies here!" and giggling to the accompaniment of guffaws from around the plane.

They could not have been more different. Suha wanted to live in the biggest house in Gaza, but Arafat would have none of it. He eventually agreed to rent a three-bedroom home: he thought even that a bit of an extravagance but probably necessary if one had a woman around.

He loved his baby daughter, Zahwa, named after his mother, but played with her as if she was an exotic marmoset, unrelated to his own species -much less of his blood.

One of his outstanding characteristics was his complete indifference to creature comforts. He lived a spartan life by choice: he wore the same thing every day, ate the same thing every day. He liked his honey, put hot tea on his cornflakes (how could he?) and always had a healthy lunch of chicken, fish and vegetables -to the dismay of his aides, who had to eat with him and got bored with the presidential fare.

If his home in Tunis was virtually a public thoroughfare, the changes after he moved back to Gaza took adjusting to. I remember late at night at the new presidential home/office there, standing around with his aides, smoking as one always did. I put a cigarette out on the floor, unthinking, as had always been the custom in all of his abodes.

A small, elderly man left his seat (there were always rooms of people waiting for Arafat, whatever the hour, wherever he was, and he always saw all of them) and said with dignity: "Please pick up your cigarette. This is the house of the president."

I was embarrassed. It was a new world, one he never really changed to fit in with.

Unlike Arafat and the other returning exiles, men in Gaza and the West Bank lived with their families, went to jobs in the daytime and cared about education and road maintenance.

The only time I saw Arafat nervous was the night before that return to Gaza. There had been protests by Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist group, which saw its power and influence being challenged by the return of the PLO. Arafat's photograph had been torn up on television. He was unsure of his welcome and thought he might be attacked by Hamas on his return. "I am ready to die," he said that night as he unwound his keffiyeh.

The homecoming was a huge event. Palestinians in Gaza had lived for years on the legends of the virile young PLO fighters in exile, and the crowds went wild when the buses carrying the returning heroes arrived. The cheers turned to gasps, however, when the doors opened and a motley crew of fat, pot-bellied, middle aged men stepped down from the buses. The fighters had grown old in their exile.

Appearances were deceptive. Shortly afterwards, Hamas did attack, attempting an assault on Arafat's house. But, on his orders, the pot-bellies easily fought off the fundamentalists, killing about a dozen.

The Arafat I knew

One of the greatest problems with Arafat was that he really was ready to die. That was when he was happiest. Most recently, when I saw him in his Ramallah headquarters on the West Bank, it was under Israeli shellfire, but he would repeat: "I am ready to be a martyr."

The prospect seemed to invigorate him. Months before, over lunch, he had seemed diminished, suddenly old and frail. There were non-sequiturs and long gaps in conversation. He would start to answer a question, then look into space for four minutes or so before continuing. Four minutes is a long time in a conversation, but the aides who always lunched with him kept quiet until he resumed speaking.

His skin had turned almost translucent, and he showed me his hands -always tiny and neat -and said: "I don't get enough sun. I need sun." I joked about Tunis, when his need for sun had led him to buy a sun lamp and, in a very Arafat way, to ignore the instructions for caution and leave his hands under the sun lamp for half an hour. They were burned and mottled for years after that. He didn't like my joke.

But during the Ramallah siege, he suddenly looked and acted 20 years younger. His shakes stopped. His voice strengthened. Sometimes, when I would come into his office, he would be marching around the conference table, arms swinging, eyes fixed on the carpet, wearing the heavy wool military jacket he wore in all seasons, at the same pace he had held when in Tunis he marched around the swimming pool in which he never swam.

It was his only exercise and he was impervious to the facile metaphor that marching in circles was how he was leading the Palestinian people.

In Ramallah the Israelis reduced his world to four rooms surrounded by a moonscape of rubble, which he could never leave without his old enemy Ariel Sharon trying to deport him. When I last saw him, in a cramped room in these Muqata headquarters, he was at his most relaxed. He leaned back in an oversized chair, sipped a cup of sweet milky tea, and offered a plate of Arabic pastries that had been dropped off with his guards by a well-wisher.

In this mad landscape, it was typical Arafat to talk about the mundane details of his confinement. When I asked him what had changed in his leadership, he said: "Much more paperwork. Nobody can travel to see me because of the Israeli siege of our cities. So they send a report, as you see."

He was reading through a by now 3ft pile of papers, initialling every one with his trademark green pen.

So, who was Yasser Arafat? I've thought about that question a lot in the past week as Suha got her revenge and banned everyone from his deathbed.

"Finally, I control my husband," was her message, but it was ill-judged.

I remember when I was on his tiny plane flying from Tunis to Washington in 1993 for the White House handshake with Yitzhak Rabin and Bill Clinton that sealed the Oslo accords and the return from exile. Arafat's guards put him to bed in the back seat. Then they came to ask me: "Marie, will we have to fight when we land?"

This question says everything about the Palestinians. As a western reporter, I thought the idea that they would land in America and find guns blazing absurd. But they believed it probable and had got on the plane ready to die for Arafat.

What few westerners realise is that the Palestinians are hated throughout the Arab world (and that absolutely nobody dresses like Arafat). He could smarm the Saudis and then blackmail them; he could escape Hafez al-Assad after the Syrian leader jailed him and sentenced him to death; and he kissed everyone far too much both Saddam Hussein and me. When he kissed me 17 times after my eye was injured, and even kissed my eye patch, his bodyguards intervened and said, "Enough, Abu Ammar."

The only time I ever got him really talking was when he reminisced about his childhood in British-occupied Jerusalem. (He was actually born in Cairo, but after his mother died he spent years in Jerusalem and later claimed he was born there.) He was beloved by the Palestinians, all flaws included, because he created their identity and

The Arafat I knew

nationality out of what had previously been simply a horde of unwanted refugees. Even though he dressed as no Palestinian would, they were recognised around the world by the symbol of this strange little man with big glasses.

The key to his success in winning the loyalty of the Palestinians lay in his absolute self-belief, boundless energy and inability to feel embarrassed. He had utter faith in himself as the personification of the nation he had conjured up; and he would go anywhere, do anything, say anything to further this cause. He also had no compunction about using violence both against **Hamas** and the Israelis.

He privately said he opposed suicide bombings but his failure to stop them was part of his greater failure. He had created the Palestinian nation but ultimately could not control the forces he unleashed.

Nor did he have the vision to turn his creation into a state. Those uniforms spoke volumes: he would not give up being a guerrilla leader to become the statesman the Palestinians so badly need.

Graphic

Profile; Yasser Arafat

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End of Document

Sharon the optimist

The International Herald Tribune

January 4, 2005 Tuesday

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Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Reached late Sunday night at his farm in Israel -- where Mediterranean breezes bring him the sounds of Palestinian rockets aimed at the nearby town of Sderot -- Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says, "I might not have a majority in the Knesset."

That was a shocker, coming toward the end of a long telephone talk. Didn't Sharon's Likud strike a deal last week with Labor's Shimon Peres, which -- along with a far-right party -- would give Sharon a solid governing majority?

"We agreed with the Labor Party," he said, "but have problems with an ultra-Orthodox party. They changed their mind under heavy pressure from radical rabbis of the settlers. And part of my own party is against joining with Labor. If I don't have a majority this week, then maybe we'll have to go to elections."

The New York Times

He views this with equanimity because his popular support in Israel is soaring; Danny Ayalon, Israel's ambassador to the United States, reports it to be more than 65 percent. Hopes among Israelis are on the rise after the announcement of Sharon's plan to unilaterally disengage from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank communities. This was followed by the death of the rejectionist Yasser Arafat, and by the likelihood that Palestinians will elect the anti-violence Mahmoud Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, next Sunday.

Would Sharon's possible need for an election to reaffirm his leadership paralyze his plan for pulling the 8,000 Israeli settlers out of Gaza, now being scheduled to begin in June?

"No. The left cannot do it, and much of the right -- my side -- is against it. An election now would be a major mistake for Israel, but even if it becomes necessary, I will go ahead with disengagement."

His threat to take the issue to the people may scare many politicians on the far right -- who would lose their seats -- to rally to Sharon's side. If not, he's ready to go to the people.

But disengagement or relocation, euphemisms for withdrawal, need no longer be a one-sided act: It may now be possible to use this plan as a way to open talks.

"We have a window of opportunity, after the death of Arafat and the re-election of President Bush, to break the stalemate of negotiation and replace it with a strategy of reconciliation."

Sharon the optimist

In the next breath, however, Sharon notes that "the Palestinians have 30,000 armed security people who still find it hard to fight terrorists. Not the slightest step has been taken so far."

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And do you expect to be prime minister one year from today?

"Why only one year?"

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E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: January 4, 2005

How the UN can help fight anti-Semitism

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

January 26, 2005 Wednesday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A17

Length: 757 words

Byline: Hillel C. Neuer, National Post

Dateline: GENEVA

Body

GENEVA - For the first time ever, the United Nations commemorated the Holocaust on Monday, in a special session marking 60 years since the liberation of the Nazi death camps. Secretary-General Kofi Annan admirably rallied wide support for convening the gathering. Yet at a time when anti-Semitism has reached its worst levels since 1945 -- a period symbolized by the videotaped beheading of journalist Daniel Pearl with his last words of "I am a Jew" -- the UN's response remains troubling.

Last June, the United Nations hosted a seminar on anti-Semitism. Apart from Annan, who delivered a strong address, those presenting were mostly Jewish experts, speaking to an audience primarily of Jewish leaders. The event had its merits, but providing a room in Manhattan for a group of Jews to talk amongst themselves is hardly the contribution one expects from the UN in confronting a global disease.

With a pulpit of unrivalled reach, the UN must take a leadership role in communicating the international community's resolve to fight hatred against Jews. This it must do not only by condemning anti-Semitism in relevant resolutions, but by considering a panoply of other available measures.

First, following the 2000 Stockholm Declaration, in which 45 nations committed to an annual commemoration of the Holocaust, the General Assembly should establish its own remembrance day. This would be a perpetual reminder of the evils of anti-Semitism, a bulwark against Holocaust deniers and a universal lesson against all forms of intolerance.

Second, the UN Commission on Human Rights should establish a Special Rapporteur on anti-Semitism, as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe has done with a Special Representative, and now the United States with a Special Envoy. Failing that, the commission should instruct the Special Rapporteur on racism to specifically examine anti-Semitism, as it has done with Islamophobia.

Finally, treaty bodies such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should pay greater attention to anti-Semitism, such as by holding a special thematic discussion similar to that held for the Roma.

These initiatives could make a difference. The truth, though, is that the UN cannot credibly fight anti-Semitism in the world, when, within its own walls, it actually fosters it.

How the UN can help fight anti-Semitism

By systematically singling out Israel for discriminatory treatment, the UN not only violates the equality guarantee of its own charter, but denies Jews their basic right to peoplehood. The medieval depiction of the Jew as poisoner of the well has become transposed into the Jewish state as, in the words of a senior adviser to Annan, "the great poison in the region."

Prejudice against Israel pervades the UN. Paradoxically, the Commission on Human Rights offers itself as a case study of this bigotry. At last year's session in March and April, I observed no fewer than seven instances of gross discrimination against the Jewish state.

First, approximately 25% of the debates were dedicated to attacking Israel. Second, out of the commission's 10 country-specific resolutions, five targeted Israel. Third, while one agenda item examined the human rights violations of all 191 states, an entirely separate item was devoted exclusively to scrutinizing Israel. Fourth, Israel was the only state denied full admission into any of the five regional groups. Every morning during the six-week session, while 190 countries met for vital consultations within their regional groups, the Israeli representative was -- literally -- left standing in the corridor.

Fifth, many of the commission's independent experts disproportionately censure Israel. If Palestinian men beat their wives, says Yakin Erturk, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, it's Israel's fault. Sixth, last year's session convened but one emergency sitting -- not for the million-plus victims of Darfur, who were virtually ignored, but to condemn Israel for killing Ahmed Yassin, head of the Hamas terrorist group, who was eulogized as a "spiritual leader." Seventh, side events sponsored by NGOs frequently cast Israel as the ultimate villain. When the International Commission of Jurists held a debate on Israel's security barrier in the West Bank, they failed to invite a single panelist to present Israel's position.

Kofi Annan has promised that "the fight against anti-Semitism must be our fight, and Jews everywhere must feel that the United Nations is their home, too." To accomplish that, the UN must recognize Monday's event as just the beginning.

Load-Date: January 26, 2005

ARIEL SHARON THE OPTIMIST

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 4, 2005 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2005 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 695 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Reached late Sunday night at his farm in Israel -- where Mediterranean breezes bring him the sounds of Palestinian rockets aimed at the nearby town of Sderot -- Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says, "I might not have a majority in the Knesset."

That was a shocker, coming toward the end of a long telephone talk. Didn't Sharon's Likud strike a deal last week with Labor's Shimon Peres, which -- along with a far-right party -- would give Sharon a solid governing majority?

"We agreed with the Labor Party," he said, "but have problems with an ultra-Orthodox party. They changed their mind under heavy pressure from radical rabbis of the settlers. And part of my own party is against joining with Labor. If I don't have a majority this week, then maybe we'll have to go to elections."

He views this with equanimity because his popular support in Israel is soaring; Danny Ayalon, Israel's ambassador to the United States, reports it to be more than 65 percent. Hopes among Israelis are on the rise after the announcement of Sharon's plan to unilaterally disengage from Gaza and four West Bank communities. This was followed by the death of the rejectionist Arafat, and by the likelihood that Palestinians will elect the anti-violence Mahmoud Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, next Sunday.

Would Sharon's possible need for an election to reaffirm his leadership paralyze his plan for pulling the 8,000 Israeli settlers out of Gaza, now being scheduled to begin in June?

"No. The left cannot do it, and much of the right -- my side -- is against it. An election now would be a major mistake for Israel, but even if it becomes necessary, I will go ahead with disengagement."

His threat to take the issue to the people may scare many politicians on the far right -- who would lose their seats -- to rally to Sharon's side. If not, he's ready to go to the people.

But disengagement or relocation, euphemisms for withdrawal, need no longer be a one-sided act: It may now be possible to use this plan as a way to open talks.

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Are you optimistic, Arik Sharon, about 2005?

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William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times (safire@nytimes.com).

Load-Date: January 5, 2005

Palestinians go to polls tomorrow

The Irish Times

January 8, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish Times

Section: World; Pg. 11

Length: 767 words

Byline: Michael Jansen, in Ramallah

Body

Palestine: Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem will tomorrow vote in their second national election. Palestinians over the age of 18 who do not have Israeli citizenship may vote.

Out of a total population of four million there are 1,757,756 eligible voters who will cast their ballots in 3,400 polling stations located in 11 electoral districts in the West Bank and Jerusalem and five in the Gaza Strip. Women constitute 46 per cent of registered voters. Seventy special polling stations have been opened in the West Bank to accommodate the 600,000 unregistered but eligible voters. Of the 120,000 potential voters in Jerusalem, only 5,367 will be permitted by Israel to vote in the city, and the rest must travel to a dozen voting centres outside its limits.
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Ballots were printed in Spain and 2,800 semi-transparent ballot boxes were imported from Denmark to ensure against fraud.

Counting will take place at polling stations.

More than 21,000 local observers and 800 foreign monitors will be present at the polling stations to ensure that the elections will be free and fair. The foreign observers will be on hand, in particular, in Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Hebron, to ensure that Palestinians will not be harmed by Israeli settlers during the voting. Among the foreigners taking part are the former US president, Mr Jimmy Carter, the former French premier, Mr Michel Rocard (who heads the European Union observers), the former Swedish prime minister, Mr Carl Bildt, two US senators, Mr Joseph Biden and Mr John Sununu, and top European diplomat, Mr Javier Solana. Thirty European parliamentarians from a dozen countries are acting as observers, including Mr Proinsias de Rossa of Ireland and former MEP Mr Niall Andrews. There are 64 other international delegations of monitors and a multitude of non-governmental organisations accredited by the Central Election Commission.

With the exception of a few incidents of attempted intimidation, the campaign has gone smoothly.

The main problem is that the election is taking place under occupation.

The Israelis have pledged to pull their troops back from Palestinian population centres for 72 hours before, during and after the election and have promised to facilitate Palestinian passage through checkpoints.

Observers will check to make certain they honour this promise.

Palestinians go to polls tomorrow

Campaigning began on December 25th and ended yesterday, 24 hours before polling. Although the front-runner, Mr Mahmud Abbas, is expected to win by a wide margin, three of his five serious rivals have contested the election vigorously.

The US film actor Richard Gere has appeared in a television advert, along with an Islamic cleric and a Greek Orthodox church official, to call upon Palestinians to vote.

THE CANDIDATES:

Mahmoud Abbas - Fatah

Polling 65 per cent: A deputy to Arafat, he became head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after the leader's death. US-favoured Abbas (69) opposes armed struggle, wants to revive talks with Israel and is unlikely to deviate from Arafat's stance.

Mustafa Barghouthi - Independent

Polling 22 per cent: A human rights activist and campaigner for non-violence who was ejected from the communist People's Party of Palestine in 2002. The 50-year-old doctor was involved in peace talks early in the 1990s but left in protest before interim accords with Israel in 1993.

Abdel-Halim al-Ashkar - Independent

Polling 2 per cent: US-based professor who was arrested last year and accused of funnelling money to **Hamas** Islamic militants. Ashkar (46) has been awaiting trial under house arrest.

Taiseer Khaled - DFLP

Polling 1.5 per cent: Founder member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He is also a member of the PLO's executive committee. Khaled (69) was detained by Israel for several months in 2003.

Sayyed Hussein Barakeh - Independent

Polling below 1 per cent: An Islamist academic who was deported to Lebanon by Israel in 1989, accused of being an Islamic Jihad leader. He returned in 1998. Barakeh (48) resigned from the youth and sport ministry to contest the election.

Bassam al-Salhi - PPP

Polling below 1 per cent: The communist People's Party of Palestine was the first group within the PLO to support the idea of a state alongside Israel. Salhi (44) favours civil resistance rather than armed struggle.

Abdel-Kareem Shbair - Independent

Polling below 1 per cent: A lawyer and academic (54) from the Gaza Strip who focuses on the right of return to homes in Israel for Palestinian refugees.

Source for polls: Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. Margin of error: 3 per cent

Load-Date: January 8, 2005

Sharon The Optimist

The New York Times

January 3, 2005 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 6; Editorial Desk; Pg. 15

Length: 709 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Dateline: WASHINGTON

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<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: January 3, 2005

After Arafat

The International Herald Tribune

November 11, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 738 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The only lifelong terrorist to win a Nobel Peace Prize lies comatose in Paris, with his well-heeled wife -- for years unwilling to share his privations in Ramallah -- screaming at Palestinian leaders on Al Jazeera television that "they're trying to bury [him] alive!" More likely, they may be trying to learn in what secret accounts he buried millions of dollars.

Israelis should remember Arafat's one "good deed": Four years ago, a soon-to-be ousted Israeli prime minister and a Nobel-hungry U.S. president made the Palestinian Authority an incredibly generous and dangerous offer: dividing Jerusalem, handing over almost all of the West Bank, and even partially establishing a "right of return" for some Palestinians who fled an Arab invasion of the new Jewish state a half-century ago.

Arafat's "good deed" was to reject this sweeping offer and to launch another wave of suicidal homicide. In a macabre diplomatic sense, his refusal to take "yes" for an answer was a lucky thing for Israel's image: If those huge concessions had later been presented to Israelis in a promised referendum, Jewish voters would surely have turned down the Clinton-brokered deal. Proof of that was in the avalanche that then ousted the desperate Ehud Barak and elected the determined Ariel Sharon.

The New York Times

In that case, world opprobrium would have been aimed at Israelis for their concern about defensible borders rather than at Arafat for revealing his goal of driving out the Jews.

That blame did not fall on Israel. Thanks to worldwide disgust at Arafat's all-or-nothing demand and his refusal to stop the killing of innocents on school buses, Sharon was able to freeze him out of civilized diplomacy. Plain prudence required the isolation of the Palestinian dedicated to the war process until new leadership emerged to show that the Arabs were ready to create a peaceful neighboring state.

President George W. Bush, especially after terrorism reached America on 9/11, saw the wisdom in Sharon's approach. Arafat, squelching all Palestinian leaders who wanted to disarm Hamas and other jihadists, abruptly ceased to be the most frequent foreign visitor to the White House. Bush did not object, as France and the UN bureaucracy did, to the security fence designed to save Israeli lives.

Sharon, with no Palestinian empowered to end the violence, then made his historic disengagement move, stunning fellow Jews who saw him as the defender of the Gaza settlers. He insisted the Palestinians take "yes" for an answer and began the painful business of withdrawal (a word he avoids).

After Arafat

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Translated into undiplomatic English, that means: Let's you, me, Vladimir Putin and Kofi Annan get together and tell Sharon to reoffer the old Barak-Clinton deal to whichever Palestinian will listen. Then the Muslim violence will stop all over the world. Step 1: appoint a big-name special envoy to deliver the ultimatum.

Just imagine: This suggests that if there had been no stiff-necked Israel, we would never have had the bombing of Pan Am 103 by Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi, no massacre of 10,000 Sunnis at Hama by Hafez al-Assad, no poison-gassing of 5,000 Kurds at Halabja by Saddam, no continued unpleasantness in Chechnya, or that incident in Lower Manhattan. Just lean on Israel and we'll solve "the most pressing political challenge in the world today."

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E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: November 11, 2004

AFTER ARAFAT, THE WAY MAY BE OPEN FOR REAL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

November 11, 2004 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

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Length: 729 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

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That blame did not fall on Israel. Thanks to worldwide disgust at Arafat's all-or-nothing demand and his refusal to stop the killing of innocents on school buses, Sharon was able to freeze him out of civilized diplomacy. Plain prudence required the isolation of the Palestinian dedicated to the war process until new leadership emerged to show that the Arabs were ready to create a peaceful neighboring state.

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Notes

William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times (safire@nytimes.com).

Load-Date: November 12, 2004

After Arafat, Hope

The New York Times

November 10, 2004 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Editorial Desk; Pg. 25

Length: 739 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

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Load-Date: November 10, 2004

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The spectacular rise of the female terrorist ;
Another failure of imagination?

The International Herald Tribune

September 6, 2004 Monday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 725 words

Byline: Alexis B. Delaney And Peter R. Neumann

Body

The recent wave of terrorist attacks in Russia has been remarkably brutal, aimed even at children. There was, however, another detail regularly picked up by commentators and analysts: the prominent role played by women.

When two commercial aircraft were brought down over Central Russia on Aug. 24, female terrorists carried the bombs. When a blast destroyed a Moscow railway station on Aug. 30, it was a woman who emerged as the main suspect. And in the hostage crisis in the province of North Ossetia, it was -- again -- women who were found among the kidnappers wearing suicide bomb belts.

International Herald Tribune

Networks like Al Qaeda have always used women to carry out various auxiliary tasks, but their systematic involvement as high-profile operatives emerged only in recent years. In 2002, when Chechen terrorists took 700 hostages in a Moscow theater, 18 of the kidnappers were women. In Israel, the first female suicide bombers appeared in the same year, and groups like Islamic Jihad and Hamas have since "liberalized" their recruitment policies to allow females to join their ranks. Indeed, it was only in January of this year that a British Airways flight from London had to be canceled because a female operative planned to blow up the plane over Washington.

All this amounts to a major shift in the operational modus operandi of Islamic terrorists. The events in Russia suggest that women are now the preferred tool with which to carry out "martyrdom operations." If sustained, this would be a truly remarkable development. After all, Islamic terrorists propagate a vision of society in which women are consistently portrayed as weak, inferior and sinful. Women, they believe, have no role to play in public life, never mind that of "heroic martyr." The question, therefore, is obvious: Why have Islamic extremists suddenly embraced the use of women as high-level operatives?

Symbolically, their participation sends a powerful message, blurring the distinction between perpetrator and victim. Even among progressive Westerners, the notion that women are the "weaker sex," and that their inclination is to create and protect life rather than destroy it, remains widespread. If women decide to violate all established norms about the sanctity of human life, they do so only as a last resort. The scholar Clara Beyler, who analyzed public reactions to suicide bombings, found that "female kamikazes" tended to be portrayed as "the symbols of utter despair ... rather than the cold-blooded murderers of civilians." If a woman was involved, the media focused on "what made her do it," not on the carnage that she had created. In other words, if the attacker was a woman, it was the bomber who became the victim, and whose grievances needed to be addressed.

The spectacular rise of the female terrorist ; Another failure of imagination?

The second reason for the spectacular rise of female operatives is practical. After the attacks of Sept. 11, the security measures introduced at airports, train stations and other public places were geared toward the perpetrators of the hijackings. As all the members of the group around Mohammed Atta were young, male and of Middle Eastern origin (as well as appearance), it was little surprise that this became the prototype at which law enforcement agencies around the world were looking most closely. Terror networks like Al Qaeda were quick to spot this vulnerability, and consequently set out to recruit operatives who did not fit the standard description. As Jessica Stern noted, the perception that women are less prone to violence, the Islamic dress code and the reluctance to carry out body searches on Muslim women made them the "perfect demographic."

The relevance of this development extends far beyond the current crisis in Russia. In fact, our astonishment at the use of female operatives by Islamic terrorists may be yet another "failure of imagination" with potentially catastrophic consequences. As early as 2002, Patricia Pearson warned: "Yes, it may be hard to imagine a woman flying into the twin towers. But we have to be careful about our presumptions. ... Our imagination failed us before Sept. 11, and we paid a steep price."

Alexis B. Delaney is a defense analyst based in Washington. Peter R. Neumann is research fellow in international terrorism at the Department of War Studies, King's College London.

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Load-Date: September 6, 2004

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Giving into Jihadi kidnappers will only beget more terrorism

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

September 2, 2004 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A11; David Warren

Length: 697 words

Byline: David Warren, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

It is a fixed principle of human nature, true in all cultures at all times and places, that if you reward bad behaviour, you will get more of it. This is not rocket science, and yet in the name of "compassion" or from several lesser desiderata, the fixed principle of those who are weak in heart and mind, is to go right ahead. "Liberals" I call them, but the reader may call them anything she pleases.

They are the people who can always find a reason to reward bad behaviour -- invariably at the price of punishing the opposed good behaviour. This in turn leads to transvaluations of good and bad, demanding further cartloads of "nuance."

Why am I moralizing? Because we have to start somewhere in considering the latest challenge presented in Iraq which, if it is not dealt with effectively and memorably, will soon be a problem far outside Iraq.

The current issue is the kidnappings, which are quickly becoming standard procedure among the Jihadis.

It is now arranged in a standard format. A suitable person or small group is apprehended, a video is made of them begging for their lives, this is shown gleefully and internationally by the Arab TV network Al Jazeera -- "the smiling media face of the Jihad" -- and then, depending on the whim of the kidnappers, the victims are either gorily murdered (for another video) or casually set free. Casually setting some captives free is part of the psychological game, intended to contribute to panic by enhancing the adversary's feeling of helplessness.

The Jihadis are adopting kidnapping because it is working for them better than other methods. For instance, car bombings are proving, in Iraq at least, much less effective, now that they are taken for granted. They are dealt with more and more like any kind of car "accident" -- just a price you pay for having roads.

At the moment of writing, the Jihadis have Paris in convulsions over two journalists they may behead -- Georges Malbrunot of Le Figaro and Christian Chesnot of Radio France Internationale. This is an act which they have presented for Western consumption as if it were a challenge to the recent French law banning Muslim women's headscarves (and other religious paraphernalia) from French public schoolyards -- a law which President Jacques Chirac could not now overturn except by extra-constitutional means.

At the same time, another cell has grabbed the attention of Katmandu by "executing" a dozen Nepali contract workers. From the final video, a feed of which Al Jazeera was happy to provide into Nepali homes, the Jihadis seem to have got bored after decapitating the first hostage and just shot the rest. They were then at pains, in an

Giving into Jihadi kidnappers will only beget more terrorism

accompanying message, to show solidarity with Nepal's own Maoist terrorists, which should help answer the oft rhetorically-asked question about whether terrorists could co-operate across the Sunni-Shia divide. (Outlaws and other outlaws have always found common interests: It is another one of those fixed rules. It's a snip when they have common enemies.)

Chirac's response -- after the surprised popular outpouring, "Why us? We're as anti-American as you are!" -- has been to send his foreign minister on a whirlwind tour of Arab capitals to get help pleading for the captives' release. He found that he could call upon the good offices of Yasser Arafat, ***Hamas*** and Moqtada al-Sadr, in addition to more conventional diplomatic contacts, to make this pitch. We will see if it works.

It might, because the Jihadis in question -- the same cell that beheaded the Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni last week, and which from the quality of its captives obviously has its own good media connections (just a small hint to investigators) -- will have been able to show the whole French state bowing and scraping before it for mercy. This will in turn enhance their fellow Jihadis' prestige across Europe.

And it might not: The Jihadis may butcher their latest victims as they did the last. Either way, it would appear that the French have had another opportunity to join the "coalition of the willing" against the international Jihad. But they have again chosen to encourage it, and promote kidnapping, rather than take sides with the Americans.

Graphic

Photo: Francois Mori, Associated Press; In front of Paris City Hall, CuSadia Djillali signs a petition book asking for the immediate release of the two French journalists taken hostage in Iraq, Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot.

Load-Date: September 2, 2004

France Pushes For Release Of Hostages

The New York Times

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 6; Foreign Desk; Pg. 9; THE REACH OF WAR: DIPLOMACY

Length: 742 words

Byline: By ELAINE SCIOLINO

Dateline: PARIS, Aug. 31

Body

The government on Tuesday stepped up diplomatic efforts to win the release of two French journalists taken hostage in Iraq as the deadline set by their kidnappers passed with no word of the hostages' fate.

But it continued to refuse to give in to the kidnappers' demand that it rescind a new law banning Islamic head scarves and other "conspicuous" religious symbols from public schools.

"France as a democracy has laws, values and traditions," President Jacques Chirac said at a news conference in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, where he was meeting President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and Chancellor Gerhard Schroder of Germany. "Under the given circumstances we are concentrating all our efforts on freeing the hostages, and we appeal for their immediate release."

Hopes for the release of the two journalists, Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot, seemed to dim Tuesday as a different militant Iraqi group announced that it had executed 12 Nepalese men kidnapped earlier this month.

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

The seizure of the two Frenchmen, who disappeared on Aug. 20, has stunned France. Their fate has gripped the country since Saturday night, when the kidnapping by the little-known Islamic Army of Iraq was announced on Al Jazeera television with the demand that the religious symbol law be rescinded within 48 hours.

On Monday, the kidnappers extended the deadline by 24 hours in a new video shown on Al Jazeera, in which the two hostages asked the French government to give in.

The kidnapping shattered the assumption here that France and its citizens enjoyed immunity from terrorism related to Iraq because of its staunch antiwar stance and its refusal to send any troops there, even to train soldiers and police officers.

The crisis is also a personal challenge to Mr. Chirac, who has spent much of his four decades in elective office cultivating relationships with Arab leaders and considers himself an expert on Arab politics.

France Pushes For Release Of Hostages

As the crisis deepened, Foreign Minister Michel Barnier continued his whirlwind mission in the Middle East, visiting Amman, Jordan, and Alexandria, Egypt, to explain the new French law and to win Arab and Muslim support for the hostages' release.

"The honor, the history of our country and of the French republic are to guarantee to all those who live in France the same protection, the same freedom of conscience and of worship," Mr. Barnier said in Amman on Tuesday.

The Islamic world, mobilized by France and its allies, spoke with one voice in demanding that the journalists be freed.

In Gaza, the Palestinian Islamic militant group **Hamas** said that the journalists were innocent victims who should be released and that because France was antiwar, it should not suffer. "France has been taking a positive stand in support of the Iraqi cause," Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman, said.

Even those opposed to the scarf ban condemned the kidnappers, insisting that the matter was a purely domestic French affair.

Muhammad Bahr al-Ulum, a leading Iraqi Shiite cleric, said, "The head scarf problem in France is no justification for the kidnapping of the French journalists."

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

The government of Iran, which requires **women** to hide their hair and which has criticized the French law, condemned the kidnappings. "Human values and Islamic principles do not condone such methods," Hamid Reza Asefi, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, was quoted by the official press agency IRNA as saying.

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

"We are all hostages," declared the Spanish newspaper El Pais, based in Madrid, where bombs exploded on commuter trains in March.

Amid the show of support, though, there was an undercurrent of hostility from commentators in the country most closely allied to the United States in Iraq.

"Good luck, Mr. Barnier," said a commentary on Tuesday in The Independent in London. It added, "France, in this moment of crisis, finds itself confronted with the limitations, and contradictions, of its efforts to develop an alternative (i.e. non-American) policy towards the Islamic world."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

Clash of civilisations? No, it's pure evil

The Straits Times (Singapore)

July 16, 2004 Friday

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Section: Commentary

Length: 732 words

Byline: Syed Farid Alatas

Body

DURING the last few years, we have heard much about the so-called clash of civilisations. Some people would have us believe that the fundamental conflict in the world today is between religions and civilisations.

For example, there are those who believe that many problems in the world are due to fundamental conflicts between Muslim and Western civilisations, or between Islam and Judaism or between Islam and Hinduism.

The real conflict, however, is between the values of evil that do not correspond to differences between religions or civilisation. The values, attitudes and actions that arise from evil minds are found among all religions and civilisations and it is this evil that is at the root of conflict.

Similarly, the values that we associate with the lofty ideals of the world's civilisations are found in all religions and are what religions have in common despite doctrinal and ritual differences.

But humanity does not only share a common good. There is also what we may call the common problem of evil.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the late leader of ***Hamas***, a Palestinian militant organisation, was said to be an advocate of suicide bombing and the killing of non-Muslim combatants in Israel.

Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, the alleged brains behind the suicide bombings and beheadings in Iraq, also harbours extremist views of his fellow Muslims, and regards the Shi'ite Muslims of Iraq as infidels who also contribute to sectarian conflict in that country.

The Islamic position, of course, is that suicide and the killing of innocent men, ***women*** and children are sins of the worst kind. Yet there are Muslims who support the views of Sheikh Yassin and Zarqawi, and who indeed glorify them.

They are unwilling to condemn suicide bombing as sinful murder, and unwilling to brand the perpetrators as terrorists - a label they use readily on the Israelis. Such people suffer from moral incompetence and impotence. But the evil behind such advocacy is transreligious - that is to say, it is an orientation that exists across religions.

For example, Rabbi Dov Lior, chairman of the Yesha Rabbinical Council (of Jewish settlers in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip), is reported to have said in a Halachic (Jewish law) ruling that the Israeli defence forces are allowed to hurt innocent civilians during warfare.

He went so far as to say that 'during warfare, killing non-Jewish civilians is permitted if it saves Jewish lives'.

Clash of civilisations? No, it's pure evil

The Christians also have their share of extremists. A leading Greek Orthodox priest in Jerusalem, Dr Attallah Hana, supports means used by Palestinians to achieve freedom from the Israeli regime, which include suicide bombing.

The clash, therefore, is not between religions, but between good and evil within and between different religious communities.

These extremist ideas cannot be fought via arguments and persuasion. Many extremists are familiar with the arguments against extremism but do not accept them.

The only way to fight extremism is by isolating extremists and their views. To achieve religious harmony, each of us has to play a role in isolating and marginalising extremism in our respective religious communities.

We can do that by educating and inspiring our children with the right values, by exposing them to the rich tradition of literature, poetry and biographical studies of great peoples and places.

As far as Islam is concerned, its spirit is founded on the notions of peace and harmony among religions.

The Ikhwan Al-Safa (The Brethren of Purity), a philosophical society that emerged in Basrah, Iraq during the 10th century, refers to the ideal person as one who is 'Persian by breeding, Arabian in faith, Hanafite (the school most open to modern ideas) in his Islam, Iraqi in culture, Hebrew in lore, Christian in manners, Damascene in piety, Greek in the sciences, Indian in contemplation, Sufi in intimations, regal in character, masterful in thought, and divine in insight'.

As is clear from this quote, being religious does not mean being closed to other religious traditions and not having respect and admiration for their achievements. It is precisely when we are steeped in our own tradition that we recognise the richness of others. It is that recognition that leads to the suppression of extremist orientations towards others.

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Load-Date: July 15, 2004

FURY AS RACE HATE CLERIC 'HONOURED'

The Evening Standard (London)

July 7, 2004

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Section: A; Pg. 7

Length: 709 words

Byline: PAUL WAUGH

Body

A ROW erupted today over a hardline Muslim cleric's invitation to a London conference.

Dr Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who supports Palestinian suicide bombers, is "guest of honour" at a debate organised by the Greater London Authority. He has already been The race is on: half a million people pack central London to see Formula One cars in action. Mayor Ken Livingstone today vowed to stage a Grand Prix on the capital's streets, declaring: "If Monaco can do it, we can" banned from the US on suspicion of terror links and is renowned for his anti-Semitic views.

Dr al-Qaradawi said this year that the beheading of American Nick Berg by Islamic militants in Iraq had to be seen "in the right context".

Ken Livingstone was under pressure to scrap plans to speak alongside the Egyptian-born sheikh after the Home Office pulled out of the conference. Home Office Minister Fiona McTaggart today revealed she had withdrawn her support after discovering full details of the cleric's extremist views on Jews and homosexuals.

Ms McTaggart said that "a perfectly-good cause has been hijacked" by Dr al-Qaradawi and his supporters. But there was confusion about the Government's response to the cleric's presence in Britain after a Foreign Office spokesman last night said Foreign Secretary Jack Straw had granted the cleric's visa application.

Originally, the Home Office claimed: "We don't jump to the conclusion that because someone's views are abhorrent they are automatically a security threat." A spokesman for Home Secretary David Blunkett said that Ms MacTaggart had decided to not to support the event because the presence of Dr al-Qaradawi had "changed the terms" on which her backing had been given.

"She is not prepared to support a conference where this man is described as a guest of honour," the spokesman said.

The minister sent a taped message of support to the organisers of the conference weeks ago before she knew of the cleric's involvement. She did not know he had been billed as a speaker and it had been a mistake to bill her as a speaker too, the spokesman said.

Shadow Home Secretary David Davis attacked the Mayor for giving Dr al-Qaradawi the "oxygen of publicity".

Mr Livingstone, who will introduce the speakers next Monday, has refused to back down over his attendance at the event, which was originally meant to support the right of Muslim girls to wear a hijab.

FURY AS RACE HATE CLERIC 'HONOURED'

Vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and Labour peer Lord Janner said: "I greatly hope that the Mayor will not attend this meeting. It is immoral, impolitic and unacceptable for the GLA to be associated with this man and his extremist connections and activities."

And he added: "Whilst I am glad that Fiona MacTaggart has decided not to attend the conference, she has made a serious mistake in sending a video message."

Dr al-Qaradawi has condemned the September 11 attacks and Bali bombing but has persistently praised Palestinian-suicide bombers as "martyrs".

He claims Israeli citizens are legitimate targets and has even encouraged women and children to become suicide bombers.

"The Israelis might have nuclear bombs but we have the children bomb and these human bombs must continue until liberation," he said.

The Egyptian-born cleric, now based in Qatar, has described Western civilisation as "wretched" and attacked homosexuality as a "disease that needs a cure".

He says women who are "disobedient" should be beaten. He is spiritual leader of Egyptian terror group the Muslim Brotherhood which is said to have links to Hamas.

THE SAYINGS OF YUSUF AL-QARADAWI . On the punishment of homosexuality by execution: "While such punishments may seem cruel, they have been suggested to maintain the purity of Islamic society and to keep it clean of perverted elements."

. Of Palestinian attempts to make peace with Israel: "They are treason."

. On wife-beating: It is acceptable with "the hand, but not with a stick".

The wife's face "should not be a target".

. He has condemned the Bali bombing and September 11 attacks, but praised the "martyrdom" of suicide bombings by children on behalf of Shahadah (faith).

. Of global brands like Pizza Hut, McDonald's and KFC: "They are part of a Jewish conspiracy." His website says: "Boycott America, from Pepsi cans to Boeing."

Load-Date: July 8, 2004

***With Israelis gone, ex-settlement burns;
Palestinians destroyed Netzarim's synagogue after Israel decided to let such
structures stand.***

Philadelphia Inquirer

September 12, 2005 Monday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 833 words

Byline: By Dion Nissenbaum and Michael Matza; Knight Ridder News Service

Dateline: NETZARIM, Gaza

Body

Hundreds of Palestinians stormed into this former Israeli settlement early today and set its major buildings on fire, only hours after Israeli forces officially ended their 38-year military rule over the Gaza Strip.

First to go was the settlement's former synagogue, whose interior was quickly torn apart by the crowd and whose roof was festooned with the banners of the Fatah and **Hamas** Palestinian organizations. Then the building was set on fire.

"I want to destroy everything here," said Mahmoud Malahi, who said he had lost a leg to an Israeli tank when he was 15. "It's a symbol of occupation. Destroying it is a symbol of Islam."

Yesterday, the ceremonial lowering of the Israeli flag just before sunset in the abandoned settlement of Neve Dekalim marked the last official act of Israel's military control of Gaza, a densely populated Mediterranean area about twice the size of Washington, D.C.

In the course of a month, Israeli police and soldiers forcibly removed thousands of recalcitrant settlers in Gaza, razed their houses in all 21 settlements, and dismantled the military infrastructure that protected the enclaves for decades.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pushed the plan as a way to better protect Israelis and preserve the country's hold over more-coveted settlements in the West Bank.

Today in Netzarim, Palestinian security forces watched the destruction but made no effort to intervene. Palestinians streamed into the former settlement, south of Gaza City, hours after Israeli forces left.

With Israelis gone, ex-settlement burns; Palestinians destroyed Netzarim's synagogue after Israel decided to let such structures stand.

Gunfire could be heard throughout the settlement as Palestinians fell upon the former synagogue, whose holy scriptures had been removed. The crowds also besieged other major buildings, and it appeared likely that all the buildings would be demolished.

Women celebrated, teens set off fireworks, and crowds chanted "God is great" in the former settlements.

Inside a synagogue in the former settlement of Neve Dekalim in southern Gaza, a member of armed group Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades was elated.

"When I got here, I felt this is my place," said Khamis, 21, who declined to give his last name. "I am not a stranger here."

On top of the synagogue were flags of Fatah and the Palestinian group Islamic Jihad.

"They should bulldoze the whole place, because if it stands, it could be an invitation" for the Israelis to return, Khamis said. "They will use any excuse."

On the lawn, Palestinian security forces put out mats for their morning payers. In the distance, fires could be seen throughout the former settlement. Children and adults moved throughout, savaging goods left by the settlers.

Kamal Moussa, 42, who traveled from the nearby town of Khan Yunis to Neve Dekalim, said he was at morning prayers with a group of Palestinians when they decided to enter the former settlement.

He said tearing down the synagogues was not an anti-religious act. "This is just stones, not a holy place," he said. "We respect the religious beliefs of the Jewish people, but this is a symbol of occupation."

Before the Israelis withdrew from Gaza, they marked all holy sites with plaques saying "holy place" in English and Arabic. Palestinian security forces hurriedly removed the plaques after the Israeli military withdrew.

Various Palestinian armed factions had planted flags in Neve Dekalim this morning, apparently seeking to claim credit for the Israeli withdrawal. But Moussa said the Palestinian people were responsible. "The credit belongs to everybody. Nobody can say that this is his day," he said.

Palestinian leaders boycotted a ceremonial handover of Gaza yesterday to protest Israel's continued control of Gaza's borders.

The unresolved dispute over when and how the 1.3 million Palestinians in Gaza can enter and leave the territory threatens to become the first major post-settlement-shutdown crisis, said Diana Buttu, a legal adviser with the Palestinian Authority.

The handover was also clouded when Israel's cabinet put an eleventh-hour halt to court-approved plans to demolish 26 synagogues in Gaza and asked Palestinian officials to respect and preserve the former houses of worship.

Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian minister who has been overseeing negotiations with Israel over the pullout, denounced the last-minute Israeli demand that the former synagogues be protected.

"This is a trap," he complained. "They want to create a crisis in the Palestinian Authority and create an excuse for extremists."

Israel had been expected to raze the synagogues, and the government fought for the right to do so all the way to the high court, which gave the military the green light last week.

However, Israeli officials faced emotional appeals from the religious community not to demolish the buildings, and the public pressure prompted the cabinet to vote 14-2 yesterday not to destroy the structures.

With Israelis gone, ex-settlement burns; Palestinians destroyed Netzarim's synagogue after Israel decided to let such structures stand.

Although synagogues are stripped of their religious sanctity once the Torah scrolls and other religious relics are removed, Jewish leaders worried that the demolition of the buildings could set a bad precedent.

Load-Date: September 12, 2005

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**Gaza expulsions move ahead quickly: Disgruntled settler shoots four
Palestinians**

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

August 18, 2005 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 714 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher and Jeff Heinrich, CanWest News Service

Dateline: GANEI TAL, Gaza

Body

More than 15,000 Israeli soldiers and police moved quickly through Gaza Strip settlements Wednesday, dragging out those few Jewish settlers who would not leave their homes willingly as part of the government's forced withdrawal from the tiny territory.

Security forces enjoyed lightning success in evacuating five Gush Katif bloc Gaza settlements, and expect to add the most troublesome, Neve Delakim, to the list of settler-free communities sometime today.

Yet there were sporadic acts of isolated violence in and near several Gaza settlements.

At one checkpoint just outside the strip, a West Bank settler woman suffered burns to 60 per cent of her body after setting herself on fire to protest against the evictions.

In Morag, one of the southernmost settlements, a **female** soldier was stabbed after an altercation with a resident who didn't want to leave his house. He was arrested and taken away.

In Neve Dekalim, the town that is Gaza's centre and the heart of the resistance, two injured soldiers were taken to hospital; so was a foreign journalist who was hurt when a door collapsed on him during one of the house evacuations.

In the West Bank settlement of Shiloh, a Jewish settler, upset over what Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has called his Gaza disengagement plan, killed four Palestinians whom he regularly drove to work.

A similar attack less than two weeks ago on a bus by a Jewish soldier who was absent without leave from the army resulted in the deaths of four Israeli Arabs.

Sharon described Wednesday's murders as an act of "Jewish terror . . . aimed against innocent Palestinians, out of twisted thinking, aimed at stopping the disengagement."

From its Gaza headquarters, **Hamas**, which is regarded as a terrorist organization by Canada and some other western countries, quickly announced its intention to avenge these deaths. It hinted it may wait until after Israeli

Gaza expulsions move ahead quickly: Disgruntled settler shoots four Palestinians

forces complete the expulsion of about 9,000 settlers and as many as 5,000 of their supporters from 21 Gaza villages and four remote West Bank settlements.

That may take far less time than had been expected. Senior officials overseeing the historic pullout said the hugely controversial process has gone so well on its first day that it was likely all settlers would be gone from Gaza by Monday or Tuesday.

In the devout farming settlement of Ganei Tal, the entire Orthodox community of about 500 was on hand to scream defiance at about 1,000 unarmed police and troops tasked with carrying out the Gaza evictions Wednesday.

But despite the heartfelt sorrow and dread that so many felt at having to give up land they believe was given to Jews by God, virtually everyone in Ganei Tal was on the road out of Gaza by dusk, carting furnishings and dug up trees behind them, after a last communal prayer in the village's synagogue.

It was a similar scene in six other Gaza settlements Wednesday. As surveillance blimps circled overhead, 17-member evacuation teams encouraged settlers to leave voluntarily or risk being cried out bodily.

Meanwhile, out in the streets, protesters attempted to provoke soldiers and policemen.

"Are you Jews?" they shouted in Hebrew and sometimes in English. "Here come the heroes of Israel," and "You are no different than the Nazis."

"It was harder to deal with it when it was real than it was in training," said an air force captain who praised his two evacuation teams in Ganei Tal for remaining focused on their duties.

"I think that there are two elements at work here. They yell that they don't want to go and we try to understand where this comes from. But I think they understand deep down inside that to do this is good for the country."

Despite Wednesday's initial successes, which followed months of dire speculation about potential problems, a tough slog lies ahead if the Israeli government is to meet its accelerated pullout deadline.

Neve Dekalim, only two kilometres from Ganei Tal, was much quieter Wednesday than Tuesday, when young outsiders opposed to withdrawal set fires and harassed security forces. The settlement remained tense, however, as security forces methodically worked their way through precise lists of the families to be expelled, with conflicting reports on whether hundreds of radical protesters would leave a synagogue where they had taken refuge.

Graphic

Photo: David Guttenfelder, Associated Press; An Israeli soldier carries a boy from his home to a bus Wednesday as his family is evicted from the settlement of Neve Dekalim in the Gaza Strip.;

Photo: Oded Balilty, Associated Press; Jewish settlers lean out of windows to shout at troops Wednesday after being loaded onto buses at Neve Dekalim in the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: August 18, 2005

FIVE PER CENT..OR THE COMMUTER GETS IT!

The Sun
June 25, 2004

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Section: OPINION

Length: 732 words

Byline: Richard Littlejohn

Body

TWO items from this week's news bulletins. Item One: Rail militants threaten transport chaos.

Item Two: Al-Qaeda militants behead prisoner.

Spot the difference.

The first referred to plans by the RMT to call strikes on the railways and the London Underground next week.

We're told the vote was swung by "militant" members of the union's executive.

The second is about the cold-blooded slaughter in Saudi Arabia of an innocent South Korean contractor by a gang of desperados.

Those responsible were described by the BBC as al-Qaeda "militants".

Now I can think of a number of ways of describing al-Qaeda.

Terrorists, fanatics, murderers, barbarians, gangsters, all spring to mind.

But "militants"?

I don't think so.

Over the years, as an industrial correspondent, I must have written the word "militant" hundreds, if not thousands, of times.

I've come across militant train drivers, militant car workers, militant miners.

I've seen some picket line

violence in my time: Bottles thrown, police horses punched.

FIVE PER CENT..OR THE COMMUTER GETS IT!

But to the best of my knowledge, even at the bitterest height of the miners' strike, I can't remember Arthur Scargill actually beheading anyone.

Bob Crow, the left-wing leader of the RMT, is everyone's favourite bogeyman these days.

He's routinely described as a "militant". But in fairness to Bob, I've never heard him advocate decapitation as a legitimate way of pursuing a grievance.

I can't ever recall any trades union "militant" threatening to fly an airliner into a tower block unless their demands are met.

Unless I missed something, the Longbridge shop stewards committee never sent anyone strapped with Semtex to blow up a Birmingham Corporation bus packed with passengers because the management wouldn't give them an extra five minutes on their tea breaks.

Yet they, too, were described as "militants".

So perhaps the BBC - and, for that matter, Sky News - can explain why they think

"militant" is the appropriate expression to describe a fanatical terrorist organisation hell-bent on the slaughter of innocent

civilians and the downfall of Western civilisation.

How is it they can see no

difference between an Islamist maniac chopping off the head of a helicopter engineer and an RMT official calling for a work-to-rule over a dispute about pension contributions?

The broadcasters are the main offenders, the BBC in particular.

In TV land there's no right and wrong, only moral equivalence. Actually it's not even about equivalence, it's usually about presenting terrorists in the best possible light.

I recently saw the BBC describe coalition soldiers in Iraq as "gunmen". Yet Hamas homicide bombers are called "activists".

Palestinian murderers act out of "desperation". When Israel acts in self defence it is always "perpetuating the cycle of violence".

In one breath they'll talk about a "radical" new Tory plan to introduce education vouchers. In the next breath they'll describe the people responsible for blowing up a cafe full of civilians in Tel Aviv as Palestinian "radicals".

What has a Tory think-tank seeking new ways to extend choice in schooling got in common with a terrorist organisation which

routinely murders innocent men, women and children?

But then the BBC has got plenty of previous. During the ideological struggles in the Soviet Union, hardline Communists were always described as "conservatives".

Were they trying to tar the Tories with guilt by association? If only sub-consciously, yep.

The problem with too many broadcast executives is that they are so convinced of their own moral and intellectual superiority that in their efforts to be "non-judgmental" and "impartial" they consistently present a warped

version of the world to their viewers.

FIVE PER CENT..OR THE COMMUTER GETS IT!

The BBC is currently spending Pounds 50million retraining journalists in the wake of criticism levelled in the Hutton Report.

Maybe as a basis for negotiation they should produce a new dictionary which begins: A is for al-Qaeda, a terrorist organisation which killed 3,000 people on 9/11 and hundreds more in Bali, Istanbul, Madrid and elsewhere - not a harmless bunch of cuddly idealists no different to the works committee at Acton bus garage.

Or would that be a bit "radical"?

It was also revealed yesterday that the BBC is planning a 24-hour Arab language news channel to compete with Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, which have been accused of anti-Western bias.

How will anyone tell the difference?

Load-Date: June 26, 2004

End of Document

THE HUMAN COST OF A FAKE LABEL; They're must-have accessories for thousands of fashionistas. But as this dispatch reveals, fashion fakes are made in child sweatshops to fund gang bosses and even terrorists

Daily Mail (London)

March 14, 2005 Monday

2ND Edition

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Section: Pg. 37

Length: 1718 words

Byline: ANDREA THOMPSON

Body

FRIDAY morning and Portobello Road, home to the most fashionable street market in Britain, is buzzing with fashion editors, celebrity stylists and young professionals.

It is here that style icons Kate Moss and Sienna Miller can be found rooting through eclectic stalls, brimming with bargain bags, clothes and jewellery.

But among the trendy bohemian clothes stalls that have been the staple of this famous market since the Seventies, a new phenomenon has appeared.

Chic fashionistas gather in doorways eagerly clawing at makeshift display rails of Burberry and Chanel creations; but despite their shiny gold logos and welltailored exteriors, these are not bona fide designer handbags; they are all fake.

Whereas such purchases were once the preserve of brash teenagers in velour tracksuits, it has now become acceptable for women of all ages and from all social backgrounds to buy knockoff designer goods.

And while once you had to journey to Bangkok or Dubai to purchase highquality fakes, a combination of a higher demand for designer goods and the fact that trafficking in fakes is still considered a low-risk criminal activity compared with, for example, smuggling cocaine, means that it's a massively growing criminal activity. A recent poll by the UK Anti-Counterfeiting Group revealed that a third of women saw 'no harm' in purchasing counterfeit items if the price and quality were right.

And as one top magazine fashion editor reveals: 'There's no shame in carrying a fake, the trick is having the style to carry it off.' After all, Victoria Beckham famously admitted to carrying a fake Louis Vuitton handbag despite being able to afford the entire collection.

The view in the fashion world seems to be, why pay £1,000 or join a three-month waiting list for the season's hottest accessory when you can own an almost identical one for a tenth of the price?

THE HUMAN COST OF A FAKE LABEL They're must-have accessories for thousands of fashionistas. But as this dispatch reveals, fashion fakes are made in child sweats....

But how many of these women would be comfortable with their beloved Hermes Birkin look-alike if they knew the truth behind its manufacture? An investigation into the lucrative business of fakes has revealed a disturbing tale that spans four continents and involves some of the world's most dangerous and sought-after criminals.

'If women were aware that the profits from counterfeit bags sold at their local market stall are used to fund highly organised international terrorist networks - groups from the IRA to Hamas and even Al Qaeda - they would surely think twice before buying them,' says Ruth Orchard, director of the Anti-Counterfeit Group.

This organisation works with local police and intelligence services across 33 countries and represents the interests of more than 200 designer companies including Louis Vuitton and Burberry. 'What people don't realise is that the world of counterfeiting is masterminded by highly sophisticated criminals.

'Laundered profits from the sale of fakes have been traced to bank accounts funding Middle Eastern groups including Hizbollah, Hamas and Al Qaeda.

'It is now widely agreed that the bombing of the World Trade Centre in 1993 was funded partly by the sale of counterfeit designer textiles from an illegal outlet in New York's Chinatown.

There is also strong evidence that the proceeds of counterfeiting have been used to fund IRA activities.' So serious is the threat to global security, that a conference was held just two weeks ago among representatives from across Europe to discuss the problem. Global counterfeiting of fashion items, together with other luxury items, is now estimated to be worth £350billion a year - more than 7 per cent of overall global trade.

While the Government is desperately clamping down on these fakes - there has been a tenfold increase in the number of counterfeit goods seized entering the EU over the past five years - the influx is out of control.

It cost the UK economy alone nearly £11billion last year - of which the unpaid VAT alone would have built several new schools and hospitals.

But the seedy story of counterfeit trading doesn't stop here. There is an equally disturbing side to the production of counterfeit goods which involves a world of forced child labour.

'Consumers in the UK who think they are getting a bargain designer bag are actually exploiting children under 16 who are paid less than £9 a week for punishingly long shifts,' says Nicholas Becqueling of Human Rights Watch in China.

SEVENTY per cent of counterfeit items seized worldwide last year came from factories in China, where young children are preferred because their nimble, small fingers are deemed more suitable for the intricate stitching on small handbags that make the copies look so convincing.

Based in Beijing, Becqueling is fighting to close the hundreds of sweatshops which have sprung up in Guangdong, an industrial centre near Hong Kong, to cope with the massive demand for the most popular brands such as Fendi, Prada and Gucci.

Most shocking is the evidence that many of the fakes come from the same production line as the genuine designer articles.

Some factories have a 'day shift' devoted to the production of genuine designer goods, which will end up in London's most exclusive Bond Street stores, followed by an illegal 'night shift' staffed by an entirely new batch of illegal workers and children who produce cheap replicas to be sold in markets across the globe.

Organisations such as Human Rights Watch face an uphill struggle against a corrupt government that made data on child labour a national secret in 2001.

Government officials regularly accept bribes from factory bosses to turn a blind eye to child exploitation.

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It is deemed so dangerous to raid a suspect factory, due to its criminal connections, that the army has to be put on standby to help.

A recent report in the local Press followed the raid of a local factory where children had been locked in for several days to finish work on urgent batches of bags due for export to Europe and America.

The real tragedy of this case is that the huge profits of their labour are passed into what Becqueling describes as 'a parallel economy' benefiting organised criminals rather the local community.

'The problem has spiralled out of control in the past three years,' says Dave Appleton, a Trading Standards officer who specialises in anti-counterfeit work in Liverpool.

His work involves targeting the bottom end - the traders on the street - as well as investigating the complex but highly organised networks of importers who are making millions from the trade each year and live in the most affluent parts of Liverpool.

'We make arrests every day. These vary from tiny inner-city flats to huge expensive houses on the outskirts of the city. The demand for fake handbags never dries up.

'Six months ago, every girl wanted Christian Dior bags, now they want Gucci, next month it will be Louis Vuitton again.

As long as demand continues, the traders will continue.

'We have jailed one local man four times, but it's no deterrent. Once released, he moves to a new market and starts trading again because it is so lucrative.' Criminals who run counterfeit networks have also developed sophisticated techniques to avoid detection such as assembling fashion items in stages.

The bag may be made in China, then shipped to another factory in Eastern Europe to have the signature Gucci or Christian Dior fittings attached to avoid detection, before being smuggled in small batches into the UK.

Counterfeiters have become so sophisticated that they can now make replica holograms and codes that can be read in ultraviolet light making them appear in every way - even to people in the fashion industry - as originals.

The industrial centre of Leicester, home to hundreds of factories, is now known as a hotbed of counterfeit activity for the North.

Here, many factories employ illegal immigrants in sweatshops to make final additions to handbags.

The traders that can be seen hawking the latest Birkin or Mulberry fake in the street markets will often be illegal immigrants who are using the profits to pay back wealthy ring leaders for their passage into the UK.

While local police forces across Europe and America and international intelligence officers are grappling to deal with the huge scale of the problem, the designers themselves, devastated by the damage such fakes are doing to their brands, have taken the law into their own hands.

Louis Vuitton, arguably the most imitated brand worldwide, has 40 fulltime lawyers and spent more than £16million last year investigating counterfeit cases.

Burberry has seen its reputation take a serious knock in the UK since the association of its signature check with 'Chav' culture (epitomised by the plaid baseball cap).

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In France a recent poster campaign warned tourists that even being spotted with a counterfeit handbag could land you with a fine of £216,000 and a prison sentence of up to three years. Anti-counterfeit groups in the UK are lobbying for a similar policy here.

But whether these measures will stop women across the country buying fake handbags from their local market remains to be seen. This week, on the website www.bestreplica.co.uk, a range of fake fashion items could be viewed and ordered for delivery in seven days.

According to one regular customer, who works as a stylist in the fashion industry, her packages, complete with a Chinese postmark, always arrive on time. When I inform her of the sordid story behind her bag she is shocked and vows not to buy one again.

But in the fickle world of fashion, where women swear they would never wear fur, but happily go back on their word within a year, it remains to be seen whether we will use our consumer power to boycott the counterfeiters out of business for good.

Load-Date: September 10, 2008

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THE HUMAN COST OF A FAKE LABEL

DAILY MAIL (London)

March 14, 2005

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Section: ED_2ND_04; Pg. 37

Length: 1732 words

Byline: ANDREA THOMPSON

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End of Document

Gunrunners sneak weapons into Gaza at will

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

September 15, 2005 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A4; NEWS

Length: 786 words

Dateline: RAFAH, GAZA STRIP

Body

Palestinian gunrunners smuggled hundreds of assault rifles and pistols into Gaza across the wide-open border with Egypt, dealers and border officials told the Associated Press yesterday. The influx confirmed Israeli fears about giving up border control and could further destabilize already chaotic Gaza.

The smuggling came as Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas tried to impose order following the Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza earlier in the week. Militant groups scoffed at a new demand by the Palestinian Authority yesterday that they disband after parliament elections in January, and said they would not surrender their weapons. Associated Press

Israel voiced sharp concern about the continued chaos along the Egypt-Gaza border in the wake of its pullout, sending a message to the U.S., Egypt and the Palestinians. "We will not put up with this," Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said, adding he hopes Egypt will take control soon.

Egypt had assured Israel that it would prevent weapons smuggling once its troops take over from Israeli soldiers along the Gaza frontier.

Egypt and the Palestinian Authority pledged they would seal the border after thousands had crossed unhindered in both directions since Monday. Around 8 p.m. last night, about two hours after the initial deadline for closing the border, an Egyptian officer bellowed into a bullhorn telling Palestinians to stop entering Egypt and prepare to return to Gaza. Police guarded a barbed wire fence on the Egyptian side of the border, blocking hundreds of people on either side of the border as well as inside a buffer area in between.

Earlier in the day, Egypt had confiscated 38 firearms and three rocket-propelled grenades in a tunnel under the border, an Egyptian official said. On the Palestinian side, guards said they also seized some 270 kilograms of marijuana.

Three arms dealers interviewed separately by the Associated Press said their "mules" have bought large quantities of assault rifles, pistols and bullets in Egypt, mainly from Bedouin tribesmen, since the Israeli withdrawal was completed Monday. Prices in Egypt are far lower than in Gaza, where during Israeli rule smugglers dug tunnels under the border to bring in weapons. Israeli troops often caught the smugglers, and the risk drove up prices.

Since Monday, black market prices for weapons in Gaza have dropped sharply, the dealers said. The price of an AK-47 assault rifle fell from \$2,000 US to about \$1,300, while the bullets for the weapon are now being sold for less than \$1, when previously they cost up to \$4.

Gunrunners sneak weapons into Gaza at will

Egyptian-made pistols that were recently sold in Gaza for \$1,400 can now be bought for as little as \$180, while an Italian pistol costs \$400, down from a previous high of \$3,500, said an arms dealer who identified himself only as Khader, for fear of arrest.

Another dealer, who was interviewed in a car just outside the Rafah cemetery, said hundreds of AK-47s had been smuggled from Egypt since Monday. He said he has already sold his loot to militant groups, but declined to say how many pieces his runners brought back.

The dealer, a balding man with a two-day stubble, said he went to Egypt to meet his business partners, with whom he had dealt on the phone during the past five years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. "They cooked us a nice meal in the hills . . . and took us on a tour of the beach," he said.

Khader, interviewed by phone, said his runners came back mainly with pistols and bullets, rather than the heavier assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. "My people brought me lots of things, including pistols and gold," he said.

A third dealer, who gave his name as Hafez, said competitors reported having \$1 million worth of loot confiscated, including grenade launchers. "That's why everyone was focusing on small pieces," he said.

Hafez said many ordinary Palestinians are interested in buying pistols because of the uncertainty of living under Palestinian rule. "It's time for personal protection," he said.

Assault rifles and pistols could intensify violence among rival Palestinian groups, but would not pose a direct threat to Israel, which has sealed Gaza with a complex of border barriers. In Israel, a senior legislator, Yuval Steinitz from the ruling Likud party, said he is worried rockets could reach Gaza. During fighting, Palestinians have fired hundreds of home-made rockets at Israeli border towns.

"When people cross from side to side, terrorists cross, and weapons pass too," Steinitz said. "That's what worries us. And this could have been avoided."

Meanwhile, a rally to celebrate Israel's pullout ended in chaos when a **Hamas** activist grabbed a microphone from a rap singer, and police firing in the air escorted the singer away.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Palestinian **women** freely carry goods bought in Egypt across the barrier between Egypt and the Rafah Refugee Camp, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday. The once heavily guarded border has been wide open since the Israelis left, with thousands of people crossing in both directions.

Load-Date: September 15, 2005

WORLD IN FOCUS:

The Sunday Star-Times (Auckland, New Zealand)

August 14, 2005

Copyright 2005 Fairfax New Zealand

Section: NEWS; INTERNATIONAL;

Length: 794 words

Body

Gaza

Israel begins pullout

Gaza city: Tens of thousands of Palestinians crowded into Gaza City's small fishing harbour yesterday to celebrate the impending Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, waving flags and hearing promises from their leader, Mahmoud Abbas, that the West Bank and Jerusalem will be next. The government-organised rally was part of an attempt by Abbas to seek credit for the pullout, and defuse claims by political rival Hamas that its attacks have driven Israel out. Abbas, surrounded by security guards, spoke briefly to the crowd. "From here, from this place, our nation and our masses are walking toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," he said. Israel says it wants to complete the withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank by September 4.

Sri Lanka

Govt minister shot dead

Colombo: Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar has died after being shot near his Colombo home, the government said yesterday. Police blamed the attack on Tamil Tiger rebels. A state of emergency has been declared.

united kingdomBooze worse than terrorlondon: A top British police officer yesterday said binge drinking was a bigger challenge than terrorism. Clive Wolfendale, deputy chief constable of North Wales Police, called for booze prices to be tripled to combat alcohol-related crime. He said: "We have got the threat from terrorism and extremists, but in terms of day-to-day policing, (binge drinking) is the biggest challenge.

United States

Reality TV show sued

Los Angeles: Five orphaned siblings who moved into a new dream home on the American hit television show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition are suing the ABC network, the company that built the house and the couple who took them in after their parents died. The children, aged 15 to 22, claim that after the show built a new nine-bedroom mansion for them to live in, their new surrogate parents Phil and Loki Leomiti engaged in "an orchestrated campaign" to drive them away by insulting them and treating them poorly.

WORLD IN FOCUS:

Destination Mars

Cape Canaveral: A spacecraft designed to gather more Mars data than all previous missions combined blasted off yesterday into a golden morning sky on its way to the Red Planet. The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter lifted off on an Atlas V rocket for the seven-month journey, which began three days after space shuttle Discovery completed its mission. "So far, an absolutely terrific week for space exploration," said a Nasa spokesman.

Bush talks tough on Iran

Jerusalem: US President George W Bush refused to rule out the use of force against Iran over the Islamic republic's resumption of nuclear activities, in an interview with Israeli television aired yesterday. When asked if the use of force was an alternative to faltering diplomatic efforts, Bush said: "All options are on the table ... The use of force is the last option for any president. You know we have used force in the recent past to secure our country."

Google backs down

San Francisco: In an effort to answer publishers' complaints, Google Inc yesterday said it has suspended its high-profile effort to scan copyrighted books from libraries into its searchable index. The internet giant--which sees the program as part of its grand mission to organise the world's information--said it would wait till November before resuming the work to give publishers time to say which titles they did not want copied. Google plans to keep adding books that aren't copyrighted and those submitted by publishers for inclusion.

Planes add weight

Chicago: Americans have put on so much weight that airlines have removed phones, magazines and even lifevests from aircraft to compensate. Last week, the Federal Aviation Administration revised guidelines used by airlines to calculate how much weight they have on board to take account of the fact that Americans are getting fatter. The FAA has added 8% to a male and 18% to a female traveller in an attempt to ensure that the centre of gravity, takeoff speed and fuel needs for planes can be more accurately estimated. Assumptions about weight were last made 10 years ago.

Canada

Blokes cancel wedding

Ottawa: Two longtime friends, neither gay, who announced plans to get married to take advantage of Canada's tax rules say they have called off their nuptials. Bryan Pinn, 65, and Bill Dalrymple, 56, are both divorced. Pinn has two adult children. "It was a moment of whimsy that spun out of all control," Pinn said. "We pissed off the entire lunatic fringe." Yesterday they said that they had decided to put out the "brush fire" they had started and call the whole thing off.

CAPTION:

An Israeli soldier near Palm Beach hotel in the Gaza Strip, soon to be returned to Palestinian controlPhoto: Getty

Load-Date: August 18, 2005

Najaf stand-off tests Shia leadership SALAMA AL-KHUFAJI:

Financial Times (London, England)

May 5, 2004 Wednesday

London Edition 1

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Section: MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA; Pg. 10

Length: 706 words

Byline: By JAMES DRUMMOND

Dateline: BAGHDAD

Body

Salama al-Khufaji does not shake hands - at least with men. This is not unusual for a religious Shia woman in Iraq but it is slightly unexpected from a member of the US-appointed Governing Council in Baghdad.

Ms Khufaji, a dentist and Islamic teacher from Baghdad, is one of only three women on the 25-strong council. She was appointed last year after her predecessor was gunned down by assailants in Baghdad.

She is best known in Iraq today for the support she received from rogue cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, whose forces have been fighting US troops in the Shia holy city of Najaf.

"Salama al-Khufaji's shoe alone is worth more than the entire council", a follower of Mr Sadr said.

Ms Khufaji laughs but says that when she publicly called for a non-violent resolution to the stand-off between the US-led coalition and Mr Sadr, now entering its second month, her intention was to prevent bloodshed.

In doing so, she exhibited an increasingly rare sympathy for Mr Sadr's followers in the Jaysh al-Mahdi, his militia. "These people who are doing these things are our people. We have to accept them," she says.

Many Iraqis, Shias included, view the Jaysh al-Mahdi - mainly poor young men from Baghdad - as having assumed a convenient religious mantle under Mr Sadr's leadership.

"When I see them I see the kind of people who robbed this country after the invasion," says one council member.

The confrontation is testing the religious Shia leadership in the Governing Council and outside it. The Shia bloc's priority is to remain unified until elections early next year when their majority status in Iraq may propel them to real power - a power many believe has been denied them since an uprising in the 1920s.

The US is relying on the influence of senior clerics such as Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the most influential Shia spiritual leader, or marja'ia, in Iraq, and tribal leaders to rein in Mr Sadr and his followers. US generals have said that Mr Sadr must be killed or captured and, if captured, made to answer to Iraqi justice.

US troops have clashed with the Jaysh al-Mahdi outside Najaf. Five people were killed on Monday in one such incident - but they have not entered the town.

Najaf stand-off tests Shia leadership SALAMA AL-KHUFAJI:

Sitting alongside Ms Khufaji is Fatih Kashf al-Ghita, her spiritual adviser and a member of one of Najaf's most famous religious families. His surname means "uncovering what is covered". Both he and Ms Khufaji are supporters of Mr Sistani.

When asked how angry the townspeople of Najaf are at the presence of the Jaysh al-Mahdi, Ms Khufaji says only that they are "afraid". Mr Kashf al-Ghita intervenes and admits the Najafis are "upset".

There have also been reports that the US-led coalition is reaching out to Mr Sadr's spiritual mentor, Ayatollah Kazem al-Haeri, a senior Iraqi cleric based in the Iranian city of Qom, to rein in his pupil.

"He (Mr Sadr) has split with Kazem al-Haeri. He has no marja'ia now after he said two weeks ago 'Now I am the long hand of Hamas and Hizbollah'", says Mr Kashf al-Ghita.

Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Hassan Nasrallah, Lebanese Shia leaders who masterminded the retreat of the Israelis from south Lebanon, have also become involved in Iraqi politics.

A fatwa or religious ruling by Mr Fadlallah hangs in the Baghdad headquarters of the Dawa party, a leading Shia religious party.

Mr Haeri favours the Iranian interpretation of the doctrine - a direct role for spiritual leaders in politics. Mr Sistani, on the other hand, while not eschewing a role for clergy entirely, prefers a more quietist interpretation.

But Mr Haeri has in the past claimed the right of vilayet al-faqih - that he should be the supreme spiritual leader of Iraq's majority Shia community, in competition with Mr Sistani.

Mr Kashf al-Ghita is adamant.

"There is no place for (Mr Haeri), especially in this crisis.

"He is still dressed with an Iranian abbaya (cloak)," says Mr Kashf al-Ghita.

Ms Khufaji sits quietly through this. What does the future hold for her? Would she be prepared to serve in a consultative council to run alongside an appointed council of ministers?

She says that she is trying to serve the people of Iraq and that she would be quite content to return to her teaching jobs when the Governing Council is dissolved at the end of June.

Load-Date: May 4, 2004

Israeli teen soldier murders four Arabs in attack: 'A bloodthirsty terrorist': Sharon

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

August 5, 2005 Friday

All but Toronto Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 765 words

Byline: Yuval Afriat, Reuters, with files from news services

Dateline: SHFARAM, Israel

Body

SHFARAM, Israel - A soldier from a Jewish settlement on the West Bank shot dead four people on a bus in an Israeli Arab town yesterday in what Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called an attack by a "bloodthirsty terrorist" before the Gaza pullout.

The teenage attacker, who was wearing Israeli army uniform and the skullcap of a religious Jew, was beaten to death by residents of the northern Galilee town of Shfaram, who stormed the bus and smashed the windows.

Security agencies had warned that Jewish militants against the evacuation of Gaza settlements, which is due to start in two weeks, could attack Palestinians in a bid to wreck a pullout they see as abandoning a biblical birthright.

Hamas threatened reprisals for the shooting, the deadliest by a Jewish radical since 29 Palestinians were killed in 1994.

Mr. Sharon called it "a sinful act by a bloodthirsty terrorist."

"This terror incident is a deliberate attempt to harm the relations between the citizens of Israel. Terror between civilians is the most dangerous thing for the future of Israel and its democratic stability," his office said in a statement.

The army named the gunman as Eden Nathan Zaada, 19, and said he had "deserted and was of a problematic background." Other reports called him Eden Tzuberi.

Police said the teen had been living at Tapuach, home to some of the most extreme settlers.

Tapuach is dominated by followers of the U.S.-born Rabbi Meir Kahane, who believed in expelling Arabs from Israel. Mr. Kahane was murdered in New York in 1990.

Zaada's father, Yitzhak, told the Israeli news Web site Ynet his son had left his home in Rishon Letzion, near Tel Aviv, for the West Bank settlement after failing to report back to his military duty two months ago. He was a staunch opponent of Israel's planned Gaza pullout and left a note at his base that condemned the plan, the Web site said.

Israeli teen soldier murders four Arabs in attack: 'A bloodthirsty terrorist': Sharon

Witnesses described how the teen boarded the bus and got into an altercation with the driver before opening fire. While Palestinians are forbidden to carry firearms in Israel, Jewish Israelis are allowed to bear arms.

The police later said the dead -- all Israeli Arabs -- included the driver and two **female** passengers. Twelve people were also wounded as the gunman sprayed a magazine of bullets at passengers.

In the chaotic aftermath, there were reports the bus was surrounded by a mob throwing stones and bottles and trying to get at the shooter.

Police tried to intervene but failed, and the gunman was eventually killed by the crowd. Five policemen were injured.

The government has accused some ultranationalists of trying to incite violence before implementation of the plan to remove 9,000 settlers from Gaza and a corner of the West Bank, the first time Israel will uproot settlements from land Palestinians want for a state.

Mainstream settler leaders, who have vowed peaceful resistance, condemned the attack.

"Such incidents cannot be part of the democratic struggle in Israel," said Benzi Lieberman, chairman of the Yesha settler council, from a demonstration outside the Gaza Strip where thousands have gathered to protest against the pullout.

Forces were called to the north to try to prevent further violence. Some of those who headed toward Shfaram had been stationed outside Gaza to try to prevent marchers from infiltrating settlements to disrupt the pullout.

In the worst attack by a settler on Arabs, in 1994, Baruch Goldstein killed 29 Muslim worshippers in the West Bank city of Hebron. He hoped to derail interim peace accords with the Palestinians.

Mr. Sharon says the Gaza withdrawal plan aims at "disengaging" from conflict with the Palestinians. Opponents say it gives up a biblical claim to the land captured in the 1967 war and rewards terrorists who staged attacks in Israel and the territories over the past five years.

Polls show most Israelis back Mr. Sharon's plan.

Palestinians welcome the pullout, touted by the United States as a possible step to peacemaking, but fear it is a ruse for Israel to strengthen its hold on West Bank settlements, where plans for new building were revealed yesterday.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the shooting was a dangerous development and hoped it would not affect the pullout.

A council representing Israeli Arabs called for a general strike today in the Arab sector throughout Israel and said a mass demonstration would be held in Nazareth, the Jerusalem Post reported on its Web site.

"We are afraid that this is an organized act of discrimination and racism," said Azmi Bishara, an Israeli Arab member of parliament.

Arabs make up about 20% of Israel's population.

Graphic

Black & White

Israeli teen soldier murders four Arabs in attack: 'A bloodthirsty terrorist': Sharon

Photo: Yedioth Ahronot, AFP, Getty Images; A crowd storms a bus in the village of Shfaram, where a teenaged Israeli soldier was beaten to death after killing four Israeli Arabs.

Load-Date: August 5, 2005

End of Document

Gaza protests wilt in face of huge security operation: Sharon has upper hand

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

July 19, 2005 Tuesday

Calgary Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. A13

Length: 713 words

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

Dateline: NETIVOT, Israel

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gaza protests wilt in face of huge security operation: Sharon has upper hand

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Roberto Schmidt, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images; A column of Israeli tanks lines up on a road near the Palestinian city of Khan Yunis yesterday. About 40,000 soldiers and 4,000 police officers were deployed.

Load-Date: July 19, 2005

Just Vision aims for Mideast peace: 'Peace workers' jobs are not sexy and don't sell papers,' says the 26-year-old founder of a grassroots group devoted to resolving conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. A documentary and Web site are in the works

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 26, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A8

Length: 657 words

Byline: MARY FOWLES

Body

An orthodox rabbi whose teenage son was killed by **Hamas** starts a group where Israeli and Palestinian families grieve together.

A Palestinian priest takes hundreds of Jewish and Arab Israelis to Auschwitz so they can visit the former site of the Holocaust death camp together.

An Israeli and Palestinian duo launch an Arabic-Hebrew radio station devoted to peace.

Few people hear of such stories, Montreal-born Ronit Avni says.
Freelance

That's why she founded Just Vision, an organization that aims to highlight grassroots peace work in the Middle East.

"Peace workers' jobs are not sexy and don't sell papers," the 26-year-old said. "And yet we have to give a place to those who are using peaceful channels to resolve this conflict."

She launched Just Vision last year after receiving the 2002-2004 Joshua Venture Fellowship for young Jewish social entrepreneurs.

Currently, Just Vision is producing a 90-minute documentary that follows eight Israelis and Palestinians for eight months. The subjects represent a wide spectrum of political and religious stripes, all "working to build a base for tolerance and co-existence among their respective populations," Avni said.

It will be completed by January 2005 and aims to broadcast to local populations through Israeli and Arab satellite television, like Al-Jazeera, as well as North American media.

Just Vision is launching an online resource site - at www.justvision.org - which will profile 180 people working for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

"We have had no trouble finding subjects," Avni said. "There are civilians saying either we continue to be victims or we take matters into our own hands through lawful and pragmatic ways and create a base for peace."

Just Vision aims for Mideast peace: 'Peace workers' jobs are not sexy and don't sell papers,' says the 26-year-old founder of a grassroots group devoted to reso....

Avni has a history of working to advance human rights. While doing her undergraduate degree in political science at Vassar College, she received a Burnam Fellowship to intern at B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, and volunteered for the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel.

After graduating with honours, she worked for three years as the Program Associate at WITNESS, a New York-based organization founded by musician Peter Gabriel that uses video technology to document and expose human-rights abuses around the globe.

During that time, she co-produced short videos and Web resources with nongovernmental partners in Senegal, Burkina Faso, the United States, Israel, Afghanistan and Brazil. She also trained non-governmental groups to produce videos as educational tools and to document human-rights abuses that could be used as evidence before courts and tribunals.

She left her job at WITNESS to launch Just Vision, headquartered in New York City, where she now lives.

"I felt that I wanted to go back to a place close to home, where I have linguistic and cultural familiarity," said Avni, who speaks English, Hebrew and is learning Arabic. She holds Canadian, Israeli and American citizenship. Her father was born in Palestine in 1946, two years before the creation of Israel.

Just Vision's project manager, Joline Makhoul, 23, is an Arab Christian who was born and raised in Jerusalem. She is also considered the first **female** Palestinian to earn a pilot's licence.

"Just Vision's cause is close to my own motive, which is to embody nonviolence," she said from her home in Bethany, where Israel maintains security control while the Palestinian government is in charge of civil affairs.

"It's crucial that the whole spectrum of voices is heard," Avni said. "Subjects range from religiously observant to secular, are Christian, Muslim and Jewish, range from right-wing to left-wing and those who ascribe to no definition."

"Just Vision is not prescribing policy - that's not our place," she added. "We want to raise awareness about the fact that there are a lot of people working for peace. There are thousands of people doing this work."

Graphic

Photo: COURTESY OF RONIT AVNI; Montreal-born Ronit Avni interviews Shimon Malka, the co-director of All for Peace Radio, the first joint Israeli-Palestinian radio station devoted to peace. "We have to give a place to those who are using peaceful channels to resolve this conflict," Avni said, explaining the reason why she founded Just Vision last year after receiving a fellowship.

Load-Date: April 26, 2004

Services held amid tight security

The Toronto Star
April 10, 2004 Saturday
Ontario Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A06

Length: 633 words

Byline: Victor L. Simpson, Associated Press

Highlight: Thousands attend Rome celebrations despite terror risk Largest turnout of pilgrims in Jerusalem since 2000

Body

Amid exceptional security, Pope John Paul II presided over a candle-lit Good Friday evening service at Rome's ancient Colosseum where thousands of pilgrims braved cold and rain.

Police imposed intense security around Rome, including banning small aircraft over the city, for fear of a possible terror attack. Even nuns who came to worship had their bags and clothes checked.

Thousands converged on the Colosseum for the traditional Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) service to commemorate Jesus Christ's crucifixion.

Earlier in the day, the pontiff heard the confessions of five men and six women of various nationalities at St. Peter's Basilica.

The fragile Pope, 83, was brought from his Vatican apartments to St Peter's in the wheeled throne he has been using in recent months.

He also presided over a late afternoon service, the "Passion of the Lord" mass, which commemorates the passion and death of Christ.

Last night, many faithful stood under umbrellas in pouring rain for hours to get a good view of the procession.

The Pope sat on a white throne on the Palatine hill overlooking the arena and a huge cross lit with candles.

A Franciscan monk from the Holy Land and a handful of priests and lay people from around the globe took turns bearing the cross.

In remembrance of the March 11 Madrid train bombs, which killed 191 people, one of those chosen to bear the cross during the service was a young woman from Spain's capital.

Today the pontiff will preside over an Easter vigil mass; tomorrow he celebrates Easter mass in St. Peter's Square and delivers his Easter message. Italy, which has been on high alert since the Madrid attacks, further stepped up security at the start of Easter celebrations five days ago.

Services held amid tight security

Police are guarding hundreds of sites, including Via della Conciliazione, the broad avenue leading to St. Peter's Square. It has been closed to overnight traffic during the Easter period.

Last week, Italian media reported that intelligence agencies had warned the Vatican that the Pope, who was shot in 1981, might be the target of an attack during the Easter period.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, pilgrims from every strain of Christianity crowded the streets of the Old City, retracing Jesus' path to crucifixion.

Groups from Russia, Poland, Greece, the Philippines and Ethiopia followed the stations of the cross along the cobblestone Via Dolorosa, or Way of Sorrows, the route tradition says Christ took from his trial to his burial.

This year, Easter Week is marked at the same time by both Orthodox and Western Christians, who generally follow different calendars.

Police and local shopkeepers said turnout was larger than any since the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in September, 2000, despite threats by the militant Islamic group **Hamas** to exact revenge for Israel's March 22 assassination of its founder. The threats have led to heightened security around holy sites.

Some of the faithful in Jerusalem wore crowns of thorns and carried crosses through the Old City.

But in the Philippines, devotees in the farming town of San Pedro Cutud were nailed to wooden crosses in a re-enactment of the crucifixion. Some said they were nervous about doing it after watching bloody scenes in Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ*.

The Lenten ritual, opposed by religious leaders in the Philippines, attracts droves of foreign and local tourists each year to San Pedro Cutud, about 70 kilometres north of the capital, Manila.

In Belfast, Northern Ireland, the British government announced it is planning an intensive three-day summit in London designed to break the deadlock in the peace process.

Yesterday was the sixth anniversary of the troubled Good Friday peace accord.

In Toronto, hundreds attended processions in Little Italy and in the Pape and Danforth area.

With files from Reuters

Graphic

TANNIS TOOHEY TORONTO STARALESSANDRO BIANCHI reuters Rome: Pope John Paul prays yesterday during mass at St. Peter's Basilica. Tannis Toohey toronto star Toronto: A man portraying Christ carries a cross in Little Italy while a priest from St. Irene Chrysovalantou leads a procession in the Pape and Danforth area. ALESSANDRO BIANCHI reuters Rome: Pope John Paul prays yesterday during mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

Load-Date: April 10, 2004

The case for fighting terror

University Wire

March 29, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Daily Texan via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 718 words

Byline: By Chad Hanak, Daily Texan; **SOURCE:** U. Texas-Austin

Dateline: AUSTIN, Texas

Body

The president's critics have ratcheted up their rhetoric in recent months and are now trying to portray Bush as an ineffective leader when it comes to combating terrorism.

The war in Iraq is a distraction from the War on Terror. Bush just wanted to finish what his daddy couldn't. Bush lied about Iraq's weapons programs. We're less safe now than we were before the war. The litany of grievances goes on and on.

Given the recent terrorist attacks in Spain, and Israel's assassination of the leader of the terrorist organization **Hamas**, it appears there's now plenty of evidence from which to make a judgment on the matter.

The deadly attacks on Spain's rail system seem to lend support to those who claim that Bush and his accomplices have made the world a more dangerous place. Spain, after all, was an ally of the United States during its "unilateral" invasion of Iraq. However, much less press has been given to the foiled terrorist attacks and threats in France. The disproportionate coverage is somewhat understandable, given that the Spain attacks killed nearly 200 people, but the terror threat in France is illuminating nonetheless.

According to ABC News, "a bomb was found Wednesday half-buried on a train track near the town of Troyes, some 100 miles southeast of Paris, triggering a massive inspection of France's rail network." Additionally, a group calling itself "The Servants of Allah, the Powerful and Wise One" has sent two major French daily newspapers a letter threatening terrorist attacks because France has outlawed the Islamic veil in its schools. In the letter, the group threatens "to plunge France into terror and remorse."

If one believes that Bush's method of dealing with terrorism is making the world a more dangerous place, this news must be hard to comprehend. After all, France was an outspoken critic of the Iraq war, yet they may be less safe than we are.

The answer is not hard to see, if one is not blinded by hatred of Bush. Extremists use terrorism because it works. If Spain pulls out of the coalition in Iraq, terrorism has worked. If we had tucked tail and run from the Middle East after Sept. 11, terrorism would have worked. If Israel is vilified in the international community for killing the head of a malicious terrorist organization, while that same organization kills many more innocent Israeli **women** and children, then terrorism has worked. Extremists are now using terrorism in France because they have seen it work so often before. Appeasing terrorists is no way to make the world a safer place.

The case for fighting terror

How then can we effectively reduce terrorism? Well it's fairly obvious that we must not give into terrorists' demands. Furthermore, since they will probably continue attacks until they get what they want, as in the case of Israel, we must go after them. We did this by routing them from their safe haven in Afghanistan, but a longer-term solution is needed to insure that they don't just find another base of operation. We must attempt to change the conditions that allow the ideology of terrorism to prosper.

This is why we invaded Iraq. Bringing democracy and freedom to Iraq, a country where the Sunni leaders had been dictatorially imposing their culture on Shiites, Kurds, Christians and Jews, is an integral part of the war on terror. When people have freedom and liberty, they are less likely to engage in terrorism to get what they want. The realization of their dreams no longer depends on striking fear into repressive rulers.

Bush mentioned this several times in the buildup to the war. There was a need for this type of change, and we had ample justification for ousting Saddam (more so than other repressive Middle Eastern leaders). The weapons of mass destruction, Saddam's invasion of neighboring countries, and human rights violations were all justifications for overthrowing Saddam. However, the driving idea behind the war was that eliminating the conditions that breed terrorism, though it might contribute to short term dangers, will make the world a safer place in the long run.

Those who verbally attack the Iraq war for political purposes are effectively placing themselves in opposition to the above philosophy. History will tell whether they are right or wrong. Perhaps the events in France have already given us a clue.

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Load-Date: March 29, 2004

Veritas?

New York Sun (Archive)

September 30, 2004 Thursday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 11

Length: 2845 words

Byline: Irwin J. Mansdorf

Body

In a report titled "The Effect of
the Israeli Occupation on Education
from 28/9/2000-6/5/2004," conducted
by the Palestinian
Ministry of Education and published

by the Palestinian nongovernmental organization Miftah, makes a series of largely misleading and/or unsubstantiated claims relative to Israeli responsibility for the state of affairs in the Palestinian educational system.

Citing "human, physical, and psychological" consequences for Palestinian society, an indictment is made of "Israeli aggressive policy" as the sole cause of these effects since September 28, 2000. Another ostensibly more professional and peer-reviewed report published by a group of Canadian and Palestinian researchers claimed that "Israeli settlement encroachment" was responsible for mental health problems in Palestinian children.

A partnership project between Harvard Medical School and the Gaza Community Mental Health Center focuses on the effects of violence on the mental health and functioning of Palestinian children. In an abstract of the proposed collaborative work between the two institutions, the Palestinian researcher, Dr. Eyal El-Sarraj, is described as a "highly respected community psychiatrist." The report goes on to note the effects of "political" and "military" violence that Gaza children have been exposed to.

Bias Disguised as Research

What all these reports have in common is an attempt to politicize clinical findings related to the mental health, education, and overall wellbeing of Palestinian children. What is also common to these reports is the use of half-truths, omissions, and distortions to paint a one-sided and biased picture of alleged Israeli abuses in the face of what is often portrayed as legitimate Palestinian resistance and general goodwill.

Take, for example, the case of Dr. El-Sarraj, who, despite Harvard's claim, has made inflammatory, bigoted, and inciteful remarks regarding Jews and Israelis. In an interview in Tikkun, he repeatedly demanded a formal Israeli apology for behavior toward the Palestinians, rebuffing any suggestion that Palestinians needed to reciprocate.

Veritas?

He also said: "I've asked myself: 'Are they evil by nature, these Jews? Or are they stupid, born mentally subnormal? Why are they doing this?' It's unbelievable. And I found after long, long thinking about it that they are not born evil. And they are not stupid. They are psycho-pathologically disturbed." This is from a man described by Harvard as an advocate for the "peaceful resolution of the long-standing conflict" who heads a center that Harvard considers worthy of collaboration and funding.

P.A. Responsible for Palestinian Education Since 1994

Although Israeli administration of the Palestinian educational system spanned from 1967 until 1994, when the Palestinian Authority assumed responsibility, the official Palestinian report noted above chose September 28, 2000, as the start date for assessing its effects. The implication is that Prime Minister Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount that day led to the outbreak of Palestinian violence.

In reality, at least two other unprovoked violent incidents by Palestinians preceded Mr. Sharon's visit. The attribution of the Sharon visit as initiating the violence is challenged even by Palestinian officials such as Imad Falouji, who said that the violence "had been planned since Chairman Arafat's return from Camp David, when he turned the tables in the face of the former U.S. president and rejected the American conditions."

Just as the evidence shows that the outbreak of Palestinian violence was intentional and planned, so does the evidence show that Palestinian malfeasance, rather than Israeli policy, is primarily responsible for the suffering of Palestinian children and the state of affairs in its educational system.

Until the Palestinian Authority takeover of the system in 1994, access to educational opportunities for Palestinian children had actually improved when Israel took over responsibility from Egypt and Jordan in 1967. According to one 1994 report: "the number of educational facilities as well as student numbers have grown significantly. In 1967-68 West Bank schools numbered just over 800. Currently, over 1,300 schools exist. In Gaza the number of schools has increased from 166 in 1967 to approximately 340 today. The expansion of educational services has been especially notable on the post-secondary level of community colleges and universities."

Palestinian Takeover of School System

Spawns Violence

A psychology of violence lies behind much of the experience of Palestinian children. Attributing this to Israeli policies, however, is misleading. Many reports tend to highlight claims that Israeli aggression, sieges, incursions, and military occupation have affected students and teachers. Citing alleged suffering and humiliation by students at "military checkpoints between cities and villages," the Palestinian Ministry of Education report, as well as other reports, fails to note the context for the checkpoints and the documented instances of Palestinian terror organizations utilizing students to carry out terror attacks.

According to Israel Defense Force data, since the beginning of the violence in 2000, 29 suicide attacks were carried out by youth under the age of 18. Since May 2001, 22 shootings attacks and attacks using explosive devices were carried out by youth under the age of 18. Since the beginning of 2001, more than 40 youth under the age of 18 were involved in attempted suicide bombings that were thwarted (three during 2004). A number of these attempts or attacks were high profile cases, covered by the international press.

In claiming psychological damage to Palestinian schoolchildren, some research attributes this morbidity exclusively to Israeli actions without addressing the active incitement to and glorification of violence that fosters an atmosphere of adoration and reinforcement for Palestinian youth who participate in violent activities.

However, documented reports have shown in detail how Palestinian children are systematically indoctrinated in school, at home, and through the official press, to serve as human shields, terrorists, decoys, and participants in violent demonstrations. Other reports describe cases where they have been injured or killed as a result of Palestinian fire. Professional research, including the studies cited here that indict Israel, often fail to note that

Veritas?

Palestinian children are routinely exposed to messages promoting "martyrdom." Human rights lawyer Justus Weiner describes one such television program:

Television broadcasts frequently include what in many Western countries would be deemed "hate speech." On July 2, 1998, in derogation of its commitments to combat incitement under the interim peace agreements, a Palestinian television children's show called "The Children's Club," similar in its basic structure to "Sesame Street," aired an episode in which young boys with raised arms chanted: "We are ready with our guns; revolution until victory; revolution until victory." On the same show, an 8-year-old boy announced to the audience, a group of children, "I come here to say that we will throw them to the quiet sea. Occupiers, your day is near, then we will settle our account. We will settle our claims with stones and bullets." Also on the Children's Club program, on February 8, 1998, a girl who could not have been more than 10 years old declared that she wanted to "turn into a suicide warrior" in Jerusalem.

P.A. Fails to Use Curriculum Consistent with Peace

Much of the background for the phenomenon of the violence of Palestinian youth must be laid at the feet of the Palestinian Authority, which failed to introduce a curriculum consistent with teaching peace when it could. The Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace, a nonprofit American group, has documented in several studies the use of abusive terminology, denial of Israel's legitimacy, a lack of promotion of peace, and discussions of war, jihad, and martyrdom common in Palestinian textbooks throughout the educational system.

Terror Activities in Palestinian Educational Institutions

In presenting figures on "human losses," the Palestinian Ministry of Education report includes a category that specifies "martyrs," a term that Palestinian society routinely applies to perpetrators of terror attacks against Israel. In an extensive analysis entitled "The Martyrdom and Suicide Culture in Palestinian Universities," the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies presents a detailed report on the recruitment and use of university students for terror attacks. Reviewing numerous examples of terrorist activity supported in a number of Palestinian educational institutions, the Center's report describes one event at An-Najah University in Nablus: "One example of the extent of the incitement that the students at the university are exposed to is an exhibition that was opened after the suicide bomb attack in the Sbarro Restaurant in Jerusalem. The Hamas exhibition showed a model of the restaurant after the attack. Inside the model, dummies and limbs of fatalities were dispersed to represent the casualties. The exhibition was organized by a member of the student council, which is identified with Hamas. While the exhibition was taking place, posters depicting the September 11 terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center were put on the university's walls." The P.A. report also describes the damage to infrastructure caused by "Israeli occupation." The report claims that "498 schools were disrupted and closed because of curfews, sieges, and district closures." Yet in a table showing the disruption in schools in April 2004, the total number of disrupted days averaged only 0.7%, an insignificant figure. In providing data on damage caused to school buildings, the report fails to account for any damage caused by Palestinian fire. The failure to admit any Palestinian-caused damage not only lacks credibility from a logical perspective, but also runs contrary to press reports that have in fact documented instances of Palestinian fire directed at or landing near schools.

Palestinian schools have also been used as shelters for terrorists engaged in attacking Israeli positions. "There have been several occurrences of infiltration of armed Palestinians into Unrwa [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] facilities in the Gaza Strip, such as Unrwa-operated school facilities or housing projects, from which gunmen carried out shootings against the Israeli Defense Forces posted in the area."

David Raab quotes Andreas Reinicke, the German liaison to the Palestinian Authority, warning that "armed Palestinians" using a Beit Jala school for their activities would inevitably lead to the school being turned into an "armed battleground." Jerome Marcus, a former U.S. State Department attorney, has described "bomb factories Israel found throughout the West Bank...located in...schools and other civilian sites."

In describing Israeli actions that "stole hard disks and floppy disks containing lots of information," the P.A. report again fails to account for material related to incitement, violence, and terror that was present in the schools. Palestinian schools have served as centers for the perpetuation and glorification of terrorists and terror activities

Veritas?

against Israelis. Another report by the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies documents how schools under the Palestinian Authority serve as centers of incitement to violent terrorism.

The findings detail how photographs of terrorists, along with reading material from terror organizations, are displayed and distributed throughout the Palestinian school system. Photographs of schools in Kalkilya, Nablus, Ramallah, and other sites illustrate how these pictures are prominently displayed, along with captions describing the "martyrs" as "heroes." One such example is a photograph of Saleh Sawi, responsible for the death of 22 Israelis in a 1994 suicide attack, who was hailed as the "hero of the Dizengoff action."

Despite being described as victims of violence, Palestinian children have often been the perpetrators. In the Canadian-Palestinian study, unsubstantiated "anecdotal evidence" and "personal observation" along with a citation by well-known anti-American and anti-Israel political activist Noam Chomsky are brought to support the notion that the presence and "encroachment" of Jewish settlements is responsible for the poor mental health of the Palestinian children in the study.

Stating that Palestinian children feared these Jewish communities, they fail to cite a single documented case where Jewish residents near these Bethlehem-area villages were involved in violence against any children. The authors note a "significant military presence" and expansion of "infrastructure," while ignoring the documented history and experience of hundreds of Israelis who were regularly stoned by children from a Palestinian school on a frequently traveled road in the same area. As noted in a UPI report: "A high fence that once protected Israeli motorists from Arab stoning there is gone. The Israelis built a new road, farther to the west."

Although academic and research reports have generally failed to address the exposure of Palestinian children to Palestinian-generated and planned violence, recent press reports have reported on the phenomenon. In a report on Sky News, correspondent Emma Hurd visited a Gaza camp for children where "the only lesson taught is how to kill Israelis." With children as young as 10, Ms. Hurd described how the camp prepared them for the "ways of war," including carrying out ambushes, using assault rifles, and mock killings of Israelis.

The results of the Palestinian indoctrination of children are felt even in families where parents support peaceful coexistence with Israelis. James Bennet describes a Palestinian father who spoke of peace and a two-state solution, but whose children, when asked about being friends with or interacting with Israelis their own age, responded by saying "I want only to stab [them]" or "It's impossible."

The Funding of Violence

Several reports on Palestinian children and the educational system discuss the considerable financial losses caused by damage to buildings, furniture, and equipment. However, in a report discussing World Bank funding of Palestinian universities, Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch discussed the practice of Palestinian universities serving as centers for the glorification of terror, saying, "The World Bank will be building the university infrastructures that will be used by student terrorist organizations to form the backbone of suicide terrorism in coming years."

In fact, members of Congress, recognizing the misuse of international funds by the Palestinian Authority, had called for American intervention to ensure that Unesco and the World Bank stop funding the publication of anti-peace textbooks that promote the incitement to terror and violence that Marcus and others have documented. Rep. Eric Cantor, a Republican from Va., spoke specifically of Unrwa's involvement in supporting schools that promote anti-peace messages among Palestinians and demanded that America end funding for Unrwa activities of this type.

Arnold Roth described in detail in Wall Street Journal-Europe how the European Union and other funding sources have in fact contributed to teaching Palestinian schoolchildren messages of violence, jihad, and terror.

At An-Najah, Al-Azhar, at Gaza, and other Palestinian universities, students publicly encourage terrorist activity. Several terrorists, including two women students planning suicide attacks in Tel Aviv, hailed from An-Najah. That university's Hamas and Islamic Jihad student cells sponsored activities that have included public demonstrations supporting Osama bin Laden.

Veritas?

Hebron University has actively been involved in terror activity, with one chemistry class used to teach students how to make explosives that were later used in terror attacks. At Al-Quds University, an obituary was published praising a ***female*** suicide bomber. Bir Zeit University opened the 2003-4 academic year with a memorial ceremony to two students who carried out suicide terror attacks in Jerusalem.

In a report on Unrwa schools in the Palestinian Authority, extensive documentation was presented on the use of material that glorified violence against Israelis, effectively turning schools into an "incubator for incitement and hate against Israel."

Conclusion

Reports on the status of Palestinian children's mental health and the nature of the Palestinian educational system purport to present data that implicates Israel as responsible for a lamentable state of affairs. In reality, responsibility for the current state of affairs lies with the Palestinian Authority and with Palestinian terror organizations, both of whom promoted, funded, endorsed, and encouraged a culture of violence, hatred, incitement, and terror using children and students as its foot soldiers.

Load-Date: September 30, 2004

End of Document

Sharon finds a puzzling place with his stance on Gaza

Canberra Times (Australia)

February 18, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: A;

Length: 806 words

Body

SINCE Ariel Sharon's accession to the post of Prime Minister of Israel, political commentators have been hotly debating whether the conservative leader will end up "doing a de Gaulle". French leader Charles de Gaulle was another right-of-centre former general who assumed his nation's highest office in the midst of a seemingly insoluble military crisis - the French-Algerian War. During the French elections of 1958, de Gaulle successfully campaigned for the presidency on the slogan "Vive l'Algerie Francaise!" Yet, upon assuming office, the new head of state shocked the world by severing the ties that bound France to its North African possession, and promoting Algerian independence. Sharon's recent declaration of his intention to dismantle most Israeli settlements in Gaza might indicate that those who argued in favour of the de Gaulle scenario were right. But, it remains to be seen whether such a unilateral withdrawal will enhance Israel's security, or detract from it. On an operational level, Sharon's plan to uproot 17 of 21 Gaza settlements will make the life of the Israel Defence Forces much simpler. Thousands of Israeli soldiers would no longer be required to guard vulnerable Jewish communities situated in the midst of a large and hostile Palestinian population. But, any tactical advantage gained by a redeployment of Israel's troop strength could be more than offset by the strategic disadvantage incurred by the fillip any such retrograde Israeli action would provide to Palestinian terrorist groups. This is arguably what happened in 2000 when Israel summarily withdrew its forces from a buffer zone it had created along its frontier with Lebanon.

Established in 1985 to protect Israel's northern-border communities from terrorist attack, this narrow band of territory became a theatre of war between the IDF and Hezbollah Islamic fighters.

While the conflict in the "security strip" was a classic low-intensity combat scenario, it nonetheless was quite deadly. Throughout the late 1990s, about one Israeli soldier, on average, was being killed a month in Lebanon. From a purely military perspective, such a casualty rate was inconsequential. With its dedication to realistic live-fire exercises, the IDF lost more men each year to training accidents than were lost to combat operations in Lebanon. Yet, this incessant progression of casualties provided plentiful political ammunition to a growing public campaign in favour of a complete IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. The locus of this advocacy effort centred on the "Four Mothers Movement", a group of middle-aged women who demanded the removal of "our sons" from the buffer zone. In May 2000, then Prime Minister Ehud Barak ordered the IDF to abandon the security strip, thus fulfilling a campaign promise from the previous year's election. But, less than four months after Israel's pullback from Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza erupted in a wave of violence and terrorism that continues to this day. Some analysts directly connect those two events. Writing a year after the pullback from Lebanon, Brigadier General (retired) Shlomo Brom of Tel Aviv University said, "It appears that the withdrawal from Southern Lebanon had a great influence on the Palestinians."

Sharon finds a puzzling place with his stance on Gaza

It reinforced the perception among them that Israel is vulnerable to terrorism and guerrilla warfare, and that the staying power of the Israeli public has been damaged."So, Israel finds itself in a very difficult position. With an economy deeply mired in recession and with a population demoralised by suicide bombings, many Israelis find the prospect of disengagement from Gaza to be an extremely appealing concept. Moreover, some analysts would note that Sharon is facing the prospect of criminal indictment on corruption charges, and is in dire need of political pick-me-up. The supporters of withdrawal from Gaza argue that the removal of settlements, and the resulting redeployment of IDF forces, will greatly enhance Israel's defensive posture.

Yet, the \$64,000 question is whether the Palestinians will interpret a unilateral pullback as a sign of Israeli weakness. If this becomes the prevailing perception in the West Bank and Gaza, then Israel's withdrawal could bring, not quiet, but rather violence of redoubled intensity. One leading Israeli peace activist recently tried to differentiate between the Lebanese withdrawal of 2000 and the current Sharon proposal for a pullback from Gaza. "I think there's a basic difference because Lebanon was an adventure," said Hebrew University Political Science Professor Shlomo Avineri. Yet, with a charter that declares its dedication to Israel's annihilation, it remains to be seen whether a Palestinian terrorist group such as **Hamas** will accept any such a distinction.

Ted Lapkin is senior policy analyst for the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council.

Load-Date: February 17, 2004

End of Document

America is rolling back global terror

The International Herald Tribune

January 13, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 752 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is America's pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shia and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defense: the practical impact of U.S. action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in antidemocratic hands.

The New York Times

1. In Libya, Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi took one look at America's Army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible UN inspectors and -- in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion -- promises civilized behavior. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of U.S. military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

2. In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, female-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under America's NATO security umbrella and with some UN guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

3. In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry -- and exporter of Hezbollah and Hamas terrorism -- the dictator Bashar Assad is nervously seeking to re-open negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

4. On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria -- on top of the overthrow of the despot

who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers -- further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasser Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an antiterrorist leader who can deliver statehood. 5. In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on

America is rolling back global terror

the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees that Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. Secretary of State Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That panicky crackdown in Tehran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighboring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

6. In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses to everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But the United States did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; America is helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

7. In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate that the world faced a real threat. But the United States has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defenses in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. America's new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

The columnist Jim Hoagland cautions that it is too early to proclaim that nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to America's decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case that what the United States has been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right. * E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: January 13, 2004

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Gaza dreams of life after the Israelis: Fate of abandoned settler homes undecided as Palestinians plan tourist paradise

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

May 3, 2005

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 14

Length: 807 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Khan Yunis

Body

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

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

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

First, however, there is the problem of what the settlers leave behind.

The Gush Katif Jewish settlements consume about 1,600 hectares (4,000 acres) of the Gaza Strip between Khan Yunis and the sea, penning Palestinians behind the army watchtowers. But the estimated 8,000 settlers in Gaza must leave this summer or be removed by force as part of Ariel Sharon's unilateral "disengagement plan".

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

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

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

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

Gaza dreams of life after the Israelis: Fate of abandoned settler homes undecided as Palestinians plan tourist paradise

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

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

Jewish settlers account for less than 1% of the population of the Gaza Strip but control about 20% of its land. While Gush Katif residents live in middle-class homes with lawns, parks and ready access to the beach, Palestinians are crowded into Khan Yunis where roads, sewerage and homes are often in a deplorable state.

The Palestinian Authority fears that desperate families from Khan Yunis and neighbouring Rafah may move in to the empty homes and it will be hard to get them out again. Some Palestinians fear that some of their political leaders will grab the settler properties for themselves.

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

Besides the housing, hundreds of acres of highly profitable greenhouses the Palestinians will inherit also pose a problem. The settlers produce cut flowers and fruit and vegetables, mostly sold in Europe in contracts with supermarkets.

The US plans a £50m aid programme to help run the greenhouses, but the Palestinians, from bitter experience, know they will still be hostage to Israeli control of the Gaza border.

Palestinians who already produce cut flowers say that to export them they are forced to use an Israeli cartel that pays less than market value.

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

guardian.co.uk/palestinians

Load-Date: May 3, 2005

Study the Koran?

New York Sun (Archive)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 720 words

Byline: DANIEL PIPES

Body

'Anyone concerned with what's happening in our world ought to spend some time reading the Koran.' Andy Rooney, the famed CBS commentator, gave this advice shortly after 9/11, as did plenty of others.

His suggestion makes intuitive sense, given that the terrorists themselves say they are acting on the basis of the holy scripture of Islam. Accused 9/11 ringleader Mohammed Atta had a Koran in the suitcase he had checked for his flight. His five-page document of advice for fellow hijackers instructed them to pray, ask God for guidance, and "continue to recite the Koran." Osama bin Laden often quotes the Koran to motivate and convince followers.

Witnesses report that at least one of the suicide bombers who tried to assassinate Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, last month was reading the Koran before blowing himself up. Hamas suicide videotapes routinely feature the Koran.

And lots of non-Muslims in fact have been reading the Koran. In the weeks after September 11, the book's largest publisher in America reported that sales had quintupled; it had to airlift copies from Great Britain to meet the demand. American bookstores reported selling more Korans than Bibles.

All this, incidentally, was music to Islamist ears. Hossam Gabri of the Islamic Society of Boston, a group tied to a terrorism funder, considers non-Muslims trying to understand the Koran "a very good development."

But reading the Koran is precisely the wrong way to go about understanding "what's happening in our world." That's because the Koran is:

* Profound. One cannot pick it up and understand its meaning when nearly every sentence is the subject of annotations, commentaries, glosses, and superglosses. Such a document requires intensive study of its context, development, and rival interpretations. The U.S. Constitution offers a good analogy: its Second Amendment consists of a just 27 words ("A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed") but it is the subject of numerous book-length studies. No one coming fresh to this sentence has any idea of its implications.

* Complex and contradictory. Contradictions in the text have been studied and reconciled over the centuries through extensive scholarly study. Some verses have been abrogated and replaced by others with contrary meanings. For example, verse 9:5 commands Muslims not to slay pagans until the sacred months have passed and verse 9:36 tells Muslims to fight pagans during those same months. The casual reader has no idea which of these is operational. (In fact, the latter is.)

Study the Koran?

* Static: An unchanging holy scripture cannot account for change over time. If the Koran causes terrorism, then how does one explain the 1960s, when militant Islamic violence barely existed? The Koran was the same text then as now. More broadly, over a period of 14 centuries, Muslims have been inspired by the Koran to act in ways aggressive and passive, pious and not, tolerant and not. Logic demands that one look elsewhere than an immutable text to account for such shifts.

* Partial: Holy books have vast importance but do not create the immediate context of action. Reading the Bible in isolation gives limited insight into the range of Jewish and Christian experiences over the millennia; likewise, Muslims have read the Koran differently over time. The admonishment for ***female*** modesty meant one thing to Egyptian feminists in the 1920s and another to their descendants today. Then, head coverings represented oppression and exclusion from public life. Today, in the words of a British newspaper headline, "Veiled is beautiful." Then, the head-covering signaled a woman not being a full human being; now, in the words of an editor at a fashion magazine, the head-covering "tells you, you're a woman. You have to be treated as an independent mind." Reading the Koran in isolation misses this unpredictable evolution. In brief, the Koran is not a history book.

A history book, however, is a history book. Instead of the Koran, I urge anyone wanting to study militant Islam and the violence it inspires to understand such phenomena as the Wahhabi movement, the Khomeini revolution, and Al Qaeda. Muslim history, not Islamic theology, explains how we got here and hints at what might come next.

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

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'SPINNING INTO CONTROL';
U.S.-LED MILITARY ACTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS IN SEVERAL
COUNTRIES

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 13, 2004 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 732 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is our pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shiites and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defense: the practical impact of U.S. action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in antidemocratic hands.

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2. In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, ***female***-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under our NATO security umbrella and with some U.N. guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

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'SPINNING INTO CONTROL'; U.S. -LED MILITARY ACTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES

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Notes

William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times (safire@nytimes.com).

Load-Date: January 15, 2004

End of Document

Panelists Claim New Republic Cut Their Anti-Saudi Remarks

The Forward
January 9, 2004

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Section: News; Pg. 3

Length: 723 words

Byline: Eric Marx

Body

Participants in a panel discussion sponsored by The New Republic and Saudi Arabia are claiming that their most hard-hitting criticisms of the kingdom were edited out of a transcript that appeared in the magazine.

Billed as an opportunity to talk about Islam and its contemporary relationship with the West, the November 13 panel discussion was the second in a series of discussions organized by the Saudi government and the magazine, known for its support of Israel and criticisms of Arab regimes. Panelists Jonathan Schanzer of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and Jay Tolson, a senior writer at U.S. News & World Report, told the Forward that they were surprised by the extent to which many of their criticisms of the Saudis were cut from a partial transcript of the event that ran as a four-page advertising supplement in the magazine's December 15 issue.

"The major points were covered, but I think that they were able to gloss over some of the things that made the Saudis look bad," Schanzer said.

New Republic editor Peter Beinart denied that the Saudis had any role in editing the supplement and pointed out that a Web address containing a copy of the full transcript was listed in the advertisement.

"All the panels are edited because you can't possibly put up the whole transcript," Beinart said. "They're never edited for ideological content whatsoever. Only for space."

The flap comes after initial news of the lecture series drew criticism in some circles. Some detractors focused on The New Republic's decision to disinvite Stephen Schwartz, a leading critic of the Saudi government, from an October 2 panel discussion. Others objected to a respected American journal agreeing to co-sponsor a lecture series with a government accused by some critics of financing radical Islam and in some cases terrorism.

The third forum was scheduled for December 9 but did not take place. Beinart denied that it had been canceled, saying the event would be rescheduled for a later date.

Participants in the November 13 forum discussed the roots of the Wahhabi strand of Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia, the teachings of the Koran, America's support of authoritarian regimes and the Saudis' role in promoting Islam as a political mobilizing force.

During the event, Samer Shehata, a professor at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University, and author Natana J. De Long-Bas attempted to distinguish the Saudi royal family from the more extremist proponents of Wahhabist ideology.

Panelists Claim New Republic Cut Their Anti- Saudi Remarks

Schanzer and Tolson, however, were critical of the Saudi government's role in financing extremism. Schanzer pointed to the government's continued support for the dissemination of Dar es Salaam Korans, which are published in Saudi Arabia and condemn Jews and Christians as nonbelievers, and then turned his sites on three American-based charities with Saudi connections that he accused of helping to fund terrorist attacks.

In the published transcript of the recent event, Schanzer's accusation about Saudi funding for Hamas remained, but not his other criticisms regarding Saudi-linked charities. Similarly, Tolson's description of Saudi Arabia as a society that denies women equal rights but enlists them to run between one-third to one-fourth of the small businesses in cities such as Jeddah and Riyadh was cut out of the transcript.

Beinart insisted that only space considerations were at work in the editing process. But such financial arrangements between publications and advertisers are bound to raise questions of editorial independence, said Aly Colon, a professor of ethics at the Poynter School for Professional Journalism.

For the past two years, The New Republic has held monthly public policy discussions in conjunction with business sponsors such as United Parcel Service, the Nuclear Energy Institute and the American Gas Association.

Through September The New Republic reportedly had suffered a 14.1% drop in advertising pages over the prior year. The magazine, according to the Mediaweek Monitor, an industry trade publication, entered into a mid-six-figure deal with the Saudi government in exchange for running 12 ad pages and four panel discussions.

As a result of such a deal, The New Republic runs a risk of having people question its overall credibility, Colon said. Readers often "know you by the company you keep."

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

End of Document

'Pothole theory' may get a test in Mideast politics

The Philadelphia Inquirer

APRIL 17, 2005 Sunday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: CURRENTS; Pg. C01

Length: 799 words

Byline: Trudy Rubin

Body

Here is one of the most fascinating debates going on among Middle Eastern intellectuals: Should Islamist parties be included in the democratic process?

Oddly, this debate has been provoked by the Iraq war, whose alleged aim was to undercut radical Islamists. Now that President Bush's Mideast focus has shifted to democracy promotion, he confronts an irony: The strongest political forces in many Arab states are religious.

Should they be let into the political game?

Thirteen years ago, when violent Algerian Islamists almost took power by the ballot, many Mideast moderates and U.S. officials recoiled at the notion. "One man, one vote, one time" was the slogan of Algerian radicals who wanted to use elections to achieve an Islamic state. Washington backed the Algerian military's cancellation of the election.

Today, that thinking seems to be shifting. According to Beirut Daily Star editor Rami Khouri, participants at a recent U.S.-Islamic World Forum in Doha, Qatar, did not debate whether Islamist groups should participate in elections, "but how they can do so in a manner that is acceptable to all concerned."

More intriguing, the Bush administration also is revising its thinking on the political role of Islamists. It labels Hezbollah in Lebanon and **Hamas** in the Palestinian territories as terrorist organizations. Yet both deliver social services to their publics and are likely to do well in coming elections.

President Bush suggested that if Hezbollah laid down its arms, it could be accepted as a political organization.

"Maybe some will run for office and say, 'Vote for me, I look forward to blowing up America,' " Bush said. "But I don't think so. I think people who generally run for office say, 'Vote for me, I'm looking forward to fixing your potholes.' "

Let's call this the pothole theory of Mideastern politics - get the Islamists into the game and they will learn to play by democratic rules, lay down arms, and focus on pleasing their voters. Is it safe to apply the pothole theory to the region as a rule of thumb?

'Pothole theory' may get a test in Mideast politics

One compelling test is going on right now in Iraq.

U.S. officials were surprised to find that the strongest social and political forces in Iraq were religious. In January elections, a list endorsed by the leading Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani was the winner. The list included the two major Shiite Muslim political parties, al-Da'awa and SCIRI (Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq). Both had at one time called for a state governed by religious law.

The man who is set to become Iraq's prime minister, Ibrahim Jaafari, the leader of al-Da'awa, insisted in a January interview that his list had no desire to create an Islamic government like that in Iran. "Not all Iraqis are Shia and not all Shia are Islamists and not all Islamists believe in velayet e faqih," or rule of the supreme cleric, he said. "Our society doesn't want this."

But - beyond mere words - there are concrete factors in Iraq that help ensure that religious parties will play by democratic rules:

Iraq's religious parties are not jihadi parties that pursue armed struggle against impure Muslim regimes or the West. They want to play a role in Iraq's national system, not to reconstruct an Islamic empire.

SCIRI and al-Da'awa have signed on to a set of democratic precepts agreed to by all political parties. U.S. and Iraqi lawyers drew up the transitional administrative law that will govern Iraq until Iraqis themselves hammer out a new constitution. Religious parties aren't strong enough to dictate all of the constitution's terms.

Should some religious politicians still dream of theocracy, Iraq has enforcers to keep them in line until democratic norms take hold. In the background, U.S. influence is still potent - although Americans can't control the process or stay forever. In the foreground is Ayatollah Sistani, a visionary who understands the need for consensus among all Iraqis.

"You will see the moderating influence of Sistani on the constitution," says Zuhair Humadi, secretary general of the Iraqi cabinet.

Iraq has other political parties and organizations that can offset religious parties - notably the secular Kurdish parties. If religious groups push too hard to roll back women's rights, these parties will push back.

Some of these factors are unique to Iraq and can't be copied elsewhere. None guarantee that Iraq won't experience secular-religious tensions. But they offset the danger that religious parties will use democracy to install a theocracy.

The lesson from Iraq is that religious parties must be bound up within a political structure that keeps them democratic. Otherwise, the pothole theory could lead to a wreck.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or trubin@phillynews.com. Read her recent work at <http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin>.

Notes

Worldview

Load-Date: September 12, 2005

'Spinning Into Control'

The New York Times

January 12, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 5; Editorial Desk; Pg. 19

Length: 730 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE; E-mail: , safire@nytimes.com

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is our pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shia and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defense: the practical impact of American action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in antidemocratic hands.

1. In Libya, Colonel Qaddafi took one look at our army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible U.N. inspectors and -- in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion -- promises civilized behavior. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of our military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

2. In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, ***female***-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under our NATO security umbrella and with some U.N. guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

3. In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry -- and exporter of Hezbollah and ***Hamas*** terrorism -- Dictator Bashar al-Assad is nervously seeking to re-open negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

4. On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria -- on top of the overthrow of the despot who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers -- further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasir Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an antiterrorist leader who can deliver statehood.

'Spinning Into Control'

5. In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees that Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That panicky crackdown in Teheran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighboring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

6. In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses to everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But we did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; we are helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

7. In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate that the world faced a real threat. But the U.S. has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defenses in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. Our new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

The columnist Jim Hoagland cautions that it is too early to proclaim that nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to our decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case that what we have been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

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WRITING WOMEN INTO A CORNER DEMANDING

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 20, 2005 Sunday

TWO STAR EDITION

Copyright 2005 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 772 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Last week I had planned to write a column about Sinn Fein, the political front organization for the Irish Republican Army, whose leaders have recently been linked to acts of murder and grand larceny. I chose the subject because I wrote often about the IRA while living in Britain in the 1990s, because I've worked as a reporter in Belfast, because it's timely -- it was the week of St. Patrick's Day -- and because there might be lessons in the story for Hamas and Hezbollah, terrorist groups that may or may not be able to make the transition to democratic politics as well.

These thoughts arose, in other words, out of work I've done as a journalist and columnist for nearly 20 years. But last week I discovered that I am not just an ordinary journalist or an ordinary columnist. No. I am a token.

That, at any rate, is what I conclude from the bumper crop of articles, columns and blogs that have pointed to the dearth of women on op-ed pages. Several have pointed out that I am, at the moment, The Washington Post's only regular female columnist. This was not the case when I moved here, just over two years ago. At that time both Mary McGrory, a fixture for several decades, and Marjorie Williams, a witty and accomplished journalist, were writing regularly as well. By tragic coincidence, both died in the past year.

Possibly because I see so many excellent women around me at the newspaper, possibly because so many of the Post's best-known journalists are women, possibly because I've never thought of myself as a "female journalist" in any case, I hadn't felt especially lonely. But now that I know -- according to widely cited statistics, which I cannot verify -- that only 10.4 percent of articles on my newspaper's op-ed page in the first two months of this year were written by women, 16.9 percent of the New York Times' op-ed articles were by women and 19.5 percent of the Los Angeles Times' op-eds were by women, lonely is how I feel. Or perhaps the right phrase is "self-conscious and vaguely embarrassed."

This conversation was sparked, as media junkies will know, by a bizarre attack launched on Michael Kinsley, now the editorial and opinion editor of the Los Angeles Times, by Susan Estrich, a self-styled feminist. In a ranting, raving series of e-mails last month, all of which were leaked, naturally, Estrich accused Kinsley of failing to print enough articles by women, most notably herself, and of resorting instead to the use of articles by men, as well as by women who don't count as women because they don't write with "women's voices."

Here I declare an interest: Michael Kinsley hired me to write an op-ed column when he was the editor of the online magazine Slate. As for Estrich, I don't know much about her at all, except that she's just launched a conversation that is seriously bad for female columnists and writers.

WRITING WOMEN INTO A CORNER DEMANDING

None of the ones I know -- and, yes, I conducted an informal survey -- want to think of themselves as beans to be counted, or as "**female** journalists" with a special obligation to write about "**women**'s issues." Most of them got where they are by having clear views, knowing their subjects, writing well and learning to ignore the ad hominem attacks that go with the job. But now, thanks to Estrich, every woman who gets her article accepted will have to wonder whether it was her knowledge of Irish politics, her willingness to court controversy or just her gender that won the editor over.

This is a storm in the media teacup, but it has echoes in universities, corporations and beyond.

I am told, for example, that there is pressure at Harvard Law School, and at other law schools, to ensure that at least half the students chosen for the law review are **women**. Quite frankly, it's hard to think of anything that would do more damage to aspiring **female** lawyers. Neither they nor their prospective employers will ever know whether they got there as part of a quota or on their own merits. There's nothing wrong with a general conversation about how **women** can be helped to succeed in law school or taught not to fear having strong opinions. But trust me, in none of these contexts do you want to start calculating percentages.

In the paragraph I have remaining (this, girls, is truly the hardest thing about newspaper columns: making the idea fit the space) I'm not going to discuss the thorny question of whether some affirmative action policies do some good, of whether newspapers matter anymore anyway, or even return to the subject of Sinn Fein. Those are complex, gender-neutral issues, and I've now used up my allotted weekly slot on a "**women**'s issue" instead. Happy, Susan Estrich?

Notes

Anne Applebaum is a Washington Post columnist (applebaumanne@yahoo.com).

Load-Date: March 22, 2005

End of Document

Wolfowitz is not a mistake but a chance: ADAM POSEN:

Financial Times (London, England)

March 18, 2005 Friday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2005 The Financial Times Limited

Section: COMMENT; Pg. 21

Length: 806 words

Byline: By ADAM POSEN

Body

Many observers are treating George W. Bush's nomination of Paul Wolfowitz, the US deputy secretary of defence, as World Bank president as a strange departure for both men. Instead, this should be seen for what it is: pursuit of neoconservative foreign policy goals by additional means. The aim is still to make the world safer for the US by confronting and transforming troublesome states on their home turf. Unlike the military misadventure in Iraq, however, such an effort through the bank stands a chance of working - and could do the developing world some good.

There is a consistent world view underlying Mr Wolfowitz's prior efforts - that domestic change abroad can be attained through aggressive intervention and strong proclamation of American desires. As already displayed in Washington's recent shift in aid criteria, the Bush administration's approach to development means that US-set conditions will determine whether to reward or target any given country's regimes, and will be actively applied. In terms of poverty alleviation, however, concern among foreign policy realists - that such unilateral behaviour will simply create more enemies, instability or big-power rivalries - though valid in the military sphere, does not apply here.

As with US national security policy, a primary focus will be the Middle East. Economic integration of the region will be a major initiative of any longer-term western policy. The purchase of peaceable behaviour from the Palestinians, although on the shopping list, is a minor aspect. America's main interests include: doling out economic rewards to regional states that make peace (the US-Jordan free-trade agreement, for example); the deeper integration of Israel with its neighbours; the gainful employment of restive young Islamic men; and, ultimately, the stabilisation of pro-western regimes through expansion of the middle classes.

The World Bank is perhaps the only institution from which Mr Wolfowitz could pursue these foreign policy goals. It can provide experts to advise, financing for infrastructure and technical assistance to create cadres of trained locals with stakes in maintaining the system (easier than training police in Iraq, if similar in the spirit of using local proxies). The bank has staff on the ground in the region and the "intelligence" network (in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund) to monitor developments. It can also only be seen as positive for the Bush administration to recognise that economic development has to be integrated into overall US foreign policy.

Yes, making Middle East economic integration a priority would mean overtly using the bank for US foreign policy goals, not for its own mission. And yes, that would reverse the recent trend to give more of a voice to developing countries in the bank's decision-making and within the target economies to give civil society more input into the

Wolfowitz is not a mistake but a chance: ADAM POSEN:

design of programmes. No one should have illusions on those grounds. Unlike the appointment of John Bolton as US ambassador to the United Nations, however, the point of placing Mr Wolfowitz at the bank is to make use of the institution in question, not to make the institution useless.

Realistically, going along with such an appointment and its likely initial Middle Eastern emphasis is perhaps the one way at present to get the US government fully committed to alleviating global poverty - and make the US public supportive of the requisite expenditures. Concerted appeals by leaders from Europe and pro-western emerging markets could encourage a radical increase in the bank's provision of global public goods, if properly couched. And, unlike in Iraq, most bank shareholders can agree with the US on the relevant principles.

Bank support for healthcare and the education of women could and should be cast as a way to cut extremist groups such as Hamas out of the social service business and thus diminish their support. Provision of vaccines, mosquito nets and the like on a regional or universal basis is not only a way to improve health, but a means of side-stepping unsavoury and inefficient regimes, to the benefit of the bank's image. The Bush administration, to its credit, has already supported swapping loans for grants to the poorest countries and increasing spending on Aids programmes in Africa.

Cheap comparisons to Robert McNamara's move from a US defence role to the bank aside, the Wolfowitz nomination has the potential to take us back to the early 1960s in two positive ways: first, the US would perhaps be substituting economic largesse for military action in at least some of its security pursuits; and second, the US would view economic development as a foreign policy problem and priority. Anyone for a "war on poverty"?

The writer is a senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics in Washington DC

Load-Date: March 17, 2005

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Peace . . . from poisoned minds?

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

February 14, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: COMMENTARY; Pg. 18

Length: 822 words

Byline: PIERS AKERMAN

Body

ONCE again Israeli and Palestinian leaders have verbally agreed to a ceasefire but there seems little hope of long-term peace while the Palestinian Authority continues to indoctrinate its children with hate.

The cessation of hostilities is all for the best but who will save the young Palestinians from the evil cult of anti-Semitism they are force-fed by the authorities?

Mahmoud Abbas may well declare an end to violence against Israelis and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon may declare an end to Israeli military operations, yet while the Palestinian Authority uses its control of the airwaves and the education system to feed lies to future generations there is scant reason to believe the Palestinians are approaching the process with clean hands or even much honesty.

The Palestinian Authority has made it clear it is not going to actively crack down on militant groups but it might show some commitment to peace by ending its disgraceful indoctrination program.

Itamar Marcus, an international authority on Middle East media, says even Palestinian pre-schoolers are instructed to hate Jews and resolve conflict with violence by the authority's official television network. The indoctrination takes place in programs featuring puppets, songs and dances aimed at the youngest children.

Marcus, director of the respected Palestinian Media Watch organisation, said in Sydney last week the level of anti-Semitic instruction directed at young Palestinians had reached horrific levels. "The justification for aggression is no longer territorial ambition, it has become an existential anti-Semitic conflict with the elimination of the Jews the sole goal," he said.

The authority's promotion of genocide, he said, was conducted in three stages, the first of which collectively labelled Jews as defective in nature and character and inherent evil enemies of God with murderous traditions. In the second phase, the audience was instructed that Jews were the cause of all wars and a danger not only to Muslims but all humanity. Third, instructions were given to fight and kill Jews for Allah and humanity.

"The propaganda is so focused on violence as the only way forward that it almost precludes any peaceful solution -- that's why it's so dangerous," said Marcus.

Examples he gave included a video of a 21-year-old terrorist Reem Riyashi reciting "It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on heaven's doors with the skulls of Zionists". The "knock on heaven's doors" phrase has been used in mosques and by other militants, indicating its absorption into Palestinian culture.

Peace . . . from poisoned minds?

Similarly, calls by Palestinian academics, religious leaders and community figures for Muslims to kill all Jews are repeatedly broadcast by the authority.

The practice of teaching children to hate is spread throughout the system. Not only are pre-schoolers targeted with poisonous messages by glove puppets advocating the use of AK-47s but there are hate-filled musical programs aimed at older children and sporting events, such as soccer contests, are named after suicide bombers.

Girls' summer camps are named after **female** suicide bombers and young girls are taught to admire dead terrorists and suicide as shahadas -- martyrs -- through programs that teach death as a suicide bomber is not really death but merely a passport to paradise.

"A death-worship society is being created for Palestinian kids," said Marcus. "To teach a population that you get to heaven through the murder of a Jew is a terrible message to preach."

There are clear parallels between the Palestinian Authority's preaching of genocide as a systematic public policy and the ideology Adolf Hitler outlined in his blueprint for the Nazi reich Mein Kampf.

Marcus says the death of Yasser Arafat, the father of modern Middle East terrorism, has not changed the outlook for peace in the region.

"No one on the Palestinian side is saying that you do not achieve peace through violence," he said. "All that [controversial Sydney Peace Prize winner] Hanan Ashrawi and others are saying is that military action must be judged by its political results. No one has said that suicide terrorism is wrong, only that it is damaging now."

Both Fatah and **Hamas**, the major terrorist organisations, are merely saying the current period of negotiation provides a space for "the fighters to rest" -- the same message relayed to the militants during each period of earlier peace talks, which doesn't bode well for the future.

In the US, Marcus has had bipartisan support for his campaign to end indoctrination of children with anti-Semitic, genocidal messages.

Senator Hillary Clinton has described the authority's programming as an "horrific abuse of children". "How can you think about building a better future if you indoctrinate your children to a culture of death?" she said.

That is a question Australian supporters of the Palestinian cause might well ask themselves.

Load-Date: February 13, 2005

Jury Selection at Sheik's Trial Tests Passions

The New York Times
January 27, 2005 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 767 words

Byline: By WILLIAM GLABERSON

Body

More than three years after the Sept. 11 attack, jury selection in the case of a Yemeni sheik accused of financing terrorism showed how wrenching it can be for New Yorkers to be asked to sit in judgment of people charged with aiding Al Qaeda.

"I would hope I would be able to reach an impartial verdict," said one woman interviewed by the judge in Federal District Court in Brooklyn. "However, the event was so horrific that I don't know, I don't know."

For both sides, jury selection, which took more than two weeks and was completed yesterday, was a journey through a minefield of New Yorkers' attitudes that could shape a verdict in a case that has drawn international attention. Opening statements are scheduled for this morning.

A pool of 270 potential jurors filled out questionnaires on Jan. 10 that asked if they could render an impartial verdict "notwithstanding the events of Sept. 11." According to a defense analysis, 90 of the 270 people, one-third, said they would not be able to judge the case fairly.

Sometimes, their apprehensions were close to the surface. One woman remembered being in Lower Manhattan on the day of the attack and wondering if she would ever see her children again.

Before the judge, Sterling Johnson Jr., had asked whether she could be fair, she teared up. "I still have a lot of leftover feeling about it, as you can see," she said.

The sheik, Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad, 56, and his aide, Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed, 31, are charged with conspiracy and with providing financial support for Al Qaeda and Hamas.

The jury selected yesterday included a former Navy medic whose brother is a police officer and a medical worker who said she was often suspicious of the views of Attorney General John Ashcroft.

After some sparring among the lawyers over prosecution claims that the defense was using its challenges to try unfairly to exclude white men, the final jury panel of 12 included 5 blacks, 6 whites and an Asian man. Seven are men; five are women.

Because of security concerns, the jurors are to be escorted to and from the courthouse by federal marshals. Their names and addresses have been kept secret.

Jury Selection at Sheik's Trial Tests Passions

William H. Goodman, one of Sheik Moayad's lawyers, said outside court that he believed the jury could be fair. But, he added, the selection process had highlighted concerns about fairness because of what he called the background of fear that affects so many New Yorkers. The jury was drawn from residents of Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Long Island.

As much as he was concerned about what people said during jury selection, Mr. Goodman said he was also concerned about what they might not have said. He said he worried "about people's unconscious biases that never get fully aired" in a proceeding like the one against the sheik and Mr. Zayed.

On occasion in recent days in federal court in Brooklyn, some people were quite frank about their view that the sheik and Mr. Zayed would probably be proved guilty.

One man with a light gray mustache who said his daughter's soccer coach was killed at the World Trade Center in the 2001 attack, was asked by the judge if he had any preconceptions about what the verdict should be. "To be honest," he said, "my first opinion was leaning toward being guilty, maybe by association."

In a pattern repeated many times, Judge Johnson then asked if the man could put aside any such views in the service of fairness. The man with the mustache said he thought he could be fair. He made the first cut, when jurors can be dismissed "for cause," like obvious bias.

He was asked to return yesterday for the final selection, when lawyers exercised challenges for which they were not required to give any reason. Yesterday, the man with the mustache was excused after sitting for a time in the second seat in the jury box.

Some people were insistent in recent days that it would be hard for them to overcome their suspicions of the defendants. One man said Muslims use their mosques to hide weapons. Another said the news media had made it clear that Muslim charities were a conduit for financing terrorism.

"They're willing to die for their cause," said a woman identified only by her juror number, 141.

Another potential juror said, "It seems like there's going to be a lot of evidence that would show their guilt."

Of the 270 potential jurors, 247 answered a question that asked if there was "anything about the nature of this case that causes you to believe you should not serve as a juror." According to the defense, 28 percent of them answered "yes."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: January 27, 2005

Tiger tales

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

January 21, 2005 Friday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A17

Length: 810 words

Byline: National Post

Body

Earlier this week, we criticized the federal government's indefensible reluctance to place the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) -- better known as the Tamil Tigers -- on its list of prohibited terrorist groups. As we noted, the group has cast Sri Lanka into a lengthy civil war that has killed 60,000 people, many by suicide bombings and other terrorist attacks. Since much of the Tigers' funding comes from Tamils living in Canada, the move to outlaw the LTTE would be more than mere symbolism: It would save lives.

So when federal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler met with this editorial board on Wednesday, the topic was at the top of our agenda. Our meeting began in promising fashion: Mr. Cotler spoke in high-flown terms about a "principled" approach to fighting terrorism, explaining the importance of "stat[ing] clearly, unequivocally that terrorism constitutes an assault on the security of a democracy and on the fundamental rights of its inhabitants."

Unfortunately, this commitment to principle seemed to evaporate when the discussion turned to the Tigers.

First, Mr. Cotler tried to carve out an exception to his "principled" strategy for fighting terror -- which he described as "a more contextualized approach."

"There has begun between the parties a peace process in which statements have been made by the Sri Lankan government almost suspending their judgment regarding the whole question of whether the Tamil organizations ... qualify for terrorism purposes," the Justice Minister explained. For Canada to render any definitive judgment about the Tigers, he concluded, would be wrong.

That is a strange argument for a veteran law professor to make. Any law student knows that a contract is void if a party enters into it under duress. Why should we accord legitimacy to the Tigers merely because their campaign of slaughter has forced the government of Sri Lanka to enter into negotiations?

Mr. Cotler went on to make an even stranger argument: that it may be too early to tell whether the Tigers actually qualify as a terrorist group. "You don't want to go ahead and engage in any kind of determination of an entity as being a terrorist entity unless you've got clear and unequivocal evidence," he said. But the Tigers' brutal campaign has been going on for more than two decades. Those who have lost family in the group's pre-dawn raids on Sri Lankan villages, in which Tigers slaughtered innocent women and children, might be intrigued to learn of this evidentiary shortfall.

Tiger tales

In trying to explain the government's reluctance to outlaw the Tigers without explicitly stating the obvious -- that it results from political pressures imposed by Tamil-Canadian constituencies in Canada's urban ridings -- Mr. Cotler dug himself an even deeper hole. On one hand, he claimed: "I'm not saying that because the preponderance of Sri Lankans in Canada happen to be Tamil, therefore we're not paying sufficient attention to [Sri Lanka's] Sinhalese [majority]." But in another breath, he candidly acknowledged: "The Sri Lankans who are living in Canada are ... Tamils, for the most part, I'd say about 80%. And you know, Toronto I think has the largest number of Tamils in the Tamil diaspora than anywhere else outside of Sri Lanka, so we've got to be very careful just in terms of our own relationships."

As far as we can decipher, Mr. Cotler's point is that political considerations are never on the government's mind when such important decisions are being made -- except when they are.

The low point came when Mr. Cotler tried to suggest that outlawing the Tigers might somehow represent a racist smear on all Tamils. In a statement of the obvious, he opined: "You've got to be very careful in terms of criminalization because you don't want to engage in any kind of stereotypical indictment of a community as a whole." But, of course, no one is proposing to persecute Tamil-Canadians. Indeed, it is largely for their benefit that Tiger fundraising should be outlawed, since it would help end the extortionate tactics used by the Tigers' Canadian bagmen to raise funds.

We have no illusions about what is happening. Mr. Cotler has a long-standing record of opposing terrorism in all its forms. We are sure that, if it were up to him, the Tigers would be placed alongside **Hamas** and Hezbollah on the government's list of prohibited groups. But the Justice Minister has been forced to accommodate the crass reality of electoral politics -- in particular, the Liberals' need to pander to ethnic constituencies, even when the values espoused by their most militant leaders clash head-on with hallowed Canadian "principles."

Mr. Cotler must do all in his power to convince his colleagues that this is one instance in which there are bigger issues at play than a few ethnic votes. If they don't agree, perhaps he should rethink whether this is a Cabinet he belongs in.

Load-Date: January 21, 2005

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The new totalitarians

University Wire

January 18, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 The Georgia State University Signal via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 809 words

Byline: By Vickor Spooner, The Georgia State University Signal; **SOURCE:** Georgia State U.

Dateline: ATLANTA

Body

Radical Islam has pledged to take away absolutely all of your freedoms, and, given that fact, there is really nothing else that you need to understand about it. Like Nazism and Communism before it, it is a matter of life-and-death that radical Islam be uprooted and destroyed. Militant Islamists believe that their religion is superior to all others, and they have vowed to their god to do whatever it takes to ensure that America, and the entire world, are subjugated beneath the boot of imperialist Islamic tyranny. As they view it, their worldwide movement is a war of attrition to be waged for decades to come.

Only one group of American citizens alive today truly knows what it is like to be deprived of freedom in their own native land: older African-Americans remember being forced to endure the institutionalized dhimmitude and terror of the Jim Crow South. Go ask them if they wish to return to something likely a thousand times worse. Ask American women if they prefer being tented inside burkas, refused all opportunity at education and career, married off to men they do not even know, and lorded over by their male relatives. Poll all homosexuals to determine if they do not mind being brutally, publicly murdered for their "crimes." Ask yourselves if you wish to be deprived of every single liberty that you now enjoy. Does all of this sound exaggerated? Is there no way such a thing could happen?

Consider just how new and novel our notions of liberal democracy really are. Are you aware that, until recently, all of human history had amounted to one big, armed struggle for the freedoms we now take absolutely for granted? Have you forgotten that Marxism still enslaves billions of innocent people, and that its death toll now stands near 100 million? Do you remember the tens-of-millions so efficiently slaughtered by Nazism? How about the 20,000 unarmed civilians murdered in less than forty-eight hours by the Syrians, or the more than 300,000 skulls found in just one of Iraq's many mass graves? Consider the hundreds of Kurdish children snatched from their mothers' arms at gunpoint, only to be returned with throats slashed and eyes gouged out, each tiny corpse toe-tagged with a bill due for pending burial expenses.

Like Communism and Nazism, radical Islam is a totalitarian creed, and totalitarianism is the exact opposite of what America is all about. Totalitarianism dictates who your leader will be, how you can worship, where you can live and work and travel, how much you can earn, what you can say and think and read, what you are allowed to eat and wear, and whether you are even entitled to live to see another day.

Totalitarianism reserves the right to confiscate your property, enslave you for forced labor, imprison and rape and murder your family, coerce you with torture, hijack your mind with state-sanctioned lies, convict you of fabricated crimes, and completely erase all evidence that you ever existed.

The new totalitarians

Need proof? Ask anyone who survived Hitler's Germany, Pol Pot's Cambodia, Saddam's Iraq, Mao's China, Tito's Yugoslavia, Castro's Cuba, Amin's Uganda, Khomeini's Iran, and Stalin's Soviet Union. Ask those who are still suffering from hate crimes perpetrated by the Taliban, al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Hizb'Allah, Hizb ut-Tarir, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hamas, the PLO, Kavkas, and the seemingly endless list of salafyist/jihadist groups located around the world.

The frightful crisis of "Eurabia" is evidence that Islamic crusaders are actually making progress. Many nations within Europe now have sizable Muslim populations, and radical imams have been imported by rogue organizations to deliberately incite the beginnings of European Islamic revolution. Many feel that a radical Islamist takeover of most of Europe is already a forgone conclusion. They cite net-loss European birthrates, skyrocketing Muslim reproduction and immigration, the total failure to assimilate Muslim newcomers, radicalization of European mosques, and, of course, the shameful dearth of moral courage and self-importance necessary for preservation of Europe and its non-Muslim heritage.

To reiterate, demographic changes, radicalization, political correctness, and post-imperialist guilt collectively promise that it is only a matter of time, perhaps just a few decades, before much of European culture and liberalism are annihilated. (Already politically compromised from within, Belgium and Holland are predicted to be the first to succumb.)

In short, radical Islam gives you three choices, America: conversion, dhimmitude, or death. Of course, you also have the inalienable right to fight back.

(Editor's Note: dhimmitude is the Islamic system of governing populations conquered by jihad wars, encompassing all of the demographic, ethnic and religious aspects of the political system.)

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Load-Date: January 18, 2005

*Homecoming a heartache;
Those who fled Fallujah are returning to a town ravaged by fighting.*

The Philadelphia Inquirer
JANUARY 10, 2005 Monday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer
Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 760 words

Byline: Tom Lasserter INQUIRER FOREIGN STAFF

Dateline: FALLUJAH, Iraq

Body

Mustafa Kareem climbed off the bus into a crowd of women in ankle-length black robes who were clutching bottles of water and stacks of blankets. The midday sun beat down, and their faces were weary.

They had returned to Fallujah last week wondering whether their houses were still standing and how they might start their lives again.

Kareem - 21, clean-shaven and handsome, with carefully slicked-back hair and dirt on his jeans - wondered the same as he proclaimed his humble mission.

"I want to bring my sister toys," he said. "She just keeps crying for them."

As Iraqi and American politicians talk about the promise of democracy and national elections scheduled for the end of this month, only a fraction of Fallujah's 300,000 residents have returned home. Many are coming from the cold, filthy camps they fled to before a U.S. offensive in November.

After months of air strikes, the November fighting in the insurgent-held city was marked by heavy barrages of artillery, tank fire and house-to-house battles. Bradley Fighting Vehicles rammed front gates and fired grenades through walls. Hundreds if not thousands of homes were left in shambles.

So far, about 40,000 people, or less than 20 percent of the city's population, have begun coming back, according to Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, the senior U.S. ground commander in Iraq. The Iraqi interim government on Saturday put the figure at 60,000 and said it expected the rest to return by Friday.

Like Kareem, most returnees are sent by family members who themselves cannot yet bear to see their ravaged town. The Islamic extremists who intimidated them into obedience are now replaced by gruff U.S. soldiers who take their fingerprints and scan their eyes.

Homecoming a heartache; Those who fled Fallujah are returning to a town ravaged by fighting.

"The insurgents are destined to failure, and freedom will prevail," Metz said. "For example, in recent operations in Fallujah we denied the insurgents, terrorists, a safe haven."

Others contend that in their attempt to quash the insurgency, U.S. troops may have only strengthened its ranks, creating a generation of Iraqis so inflamed by the assault that they take up arms.

"In the coming days, there will be suicide attacks on that town. They will use the same methods as the [Palestinian] **Hamas** movement," said Salman al-Jumaili, a Baghdad University professor, insurgency expert and Fallujah native.

Nadhim Jassour, a professor of international relations at Baghdad University, agreed.

"The Americans were mistaken in their calculations. . . . They must understand that revenge is an Arab characteristic," Jassour said.

Outside the city, hundreds of Fallujah citizens stood in a long passage created by bales of concertina wire. At the end of the line, a U.S. soldier sat at a table with an interpreter and asked people for name and marital status, then took all 10 fingerprints. They also were told to look into a box, which scanned their retinas.

"It is just like POW camps that we've seen in movies," said Ma'an Kamil, who stood waiting with his 9-year-old son, Suhaib.

Kareem had waited out the fighting in a two-room apartment in the countryside with seven family members. Last Monday, his father sent the college student - he was studying to be a math teacher before his school was closed because of the fighting between insurgents and U.S. soldiers - to check on their home.

A neighbor told Kareem's family that their house had been spared from the bombing, but he feared the neighbor was being kind.

After being scanned, printed and interviewed, Kareem walked from one road to the next, looking in awe at mounds of rubble where buildings used to stand. He motioned up ahead: "The next street to the right is our house."

A minute later, he stopped. His dark eyes traced the ground in front of him. All that stood of his house was a bedroom. All around it, the walls of the kitchen, living room and other bedrooms were gone, blasted to bits and chunks of concrete. He took a few steps forward and was standing on what had been the roof he slept under.

His lips trembled.

"No," he said. "Why?" Then he fell silent.

Eventually he began picking through the debris. There was a doll with blond hair, in a pink dress, with one leg missing and one of its eyelids shut.

"Here it is," he said, tears on his face. "This is what I've come for."

He sat down in a garden in front of the house, brushing soot off the doll's plastic face.

Kareem mumbled obscenities to himself.

A few minutes passed. He stood up.

"I don't know what I'm going to tell them," he said.

He began to walk back to the bus, still holding the doll.

Contact reporter Tom Lasseter at tlasseter@krwashington.com.

Homecoming a heartache; Those who fled Fallujah are returning to a town ravaged by fighting.

Load-Date: September 6, 2005

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**Jailed leader closes in on mainstream candidate in Palestinian elections:
Two polls predict a tight race in next month's potentially divisive vote to
replace Yasser Arafat**

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

December 7, 2004 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 782 words

Byline: Mohammed Daraghmeh, Associated Press

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

RAMALLAH, West Bank -- Opinion polls published Monday showed that jailed Palestinian uprising leader Marwan Barghouti poses a threat to mainstream candidate Mahmoud Abbas in the Jan. 9 presidential election to replace Yasser Arafat.

However, Barghouti's associates say he might yet withdraw in exchange for reform promises from Abbas.

The polls are the first since Barghouti threw the election scene into turmoil by entering the race just before the filing deadline. Barghouti is serving five life terms in an Israeli prison for his role in deadly shooting attacks of Israelis.

Abbas, 69, a pragmatist who has spoken out against violence and enjoys the tacit support of the international community, is the candidate of the ruling Fatah movement.

Two of the polls published Monday predicted a tight race between Abbas and Barghouti, while a third gave Abbas the advantage.

In a poll by the West Bank's Bir Zeit University, 35 per cent of respondents said they supported Barghouti, compared to 34 per cent for Abbas. Another poll by the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research, headed by independent pollster Khalil Shikaki, said Abbas had 40 per cent support, compared with 38 per cent for Barghouti. The results of both polls fell within the margin of error of three percentage points.

Only one poll, by the Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion run by pollster Nabil Kukali, gave Abbas a comfortable lead of 40 per cent, compared to 22 per cent for Barghouti. That poll had a margin of error of three percentage points.

Barghouti, 45, the West Bank leader of Fatah, was captured in Ramallah in 2002 and is the highest Palestinian official in Israeli custody. Because Abbas was already the official Fatah candidate, Barghouti was forced to run as an independent.

Jailed leader closes in on mainstream candidate in Palestinian elections: Two polls predict a tight race in next month's potentially divisive vote to replace Ya....

Barghouti's candidacy raised stiff opposition from mainstream Fatah officials and some younger leaders, charging the fiery, charismatic candidate would split the party and cause internal conflict.

On Monday, Fatah threatened to strip Barghouti of his membership if he continues his bid for the Palestinian presidency.

Farouk Kaddoumi, who succeeded the late Yasser Arafat as Fatah chief, said the party would ban any member who did not abide by the decisions of its central committee, according to a statement from Kaddoumi's office in Tunis, Tunisia, where he is based.

"Any Fatah member who deliberately sets himself apart from decisions of its central committee is considered to have resigned his membership ... regardless of rank," the statement said.

However, at the office of the "Free Marwan Barghouti" drive in Ramallah on Monday, backers were turning their operation into a temporary presidential campaign headquarters.

For now, activist Saed Nimr is the campaign manager, but a permanent director is to be named this week, indicating Barghouti is in the race to stay.

Nimr said the fact that Barghouti is in prison would not stop him from serving as president. "He will appoint a strong prime minister and a strong vice-president," Nimr said. "They will be visiting him from week to week to get instructions."

However, Palestinian officials say that according to the Palestinian constitution, Barghouti cannot serve as president from prison, because one of the president's legal obligations is to attend sessions of the Palestinian parliament.

Palestinian cabinet minister Kadoura Fares, who is close to Barghouti, raised the possibility Barghouti might withdraw in exchange for promises by Abbas to give a greater say to young Fatah activists.

"A month is a long time," Fares said. "If Barghouti withdraws his candidacy and lets Abu Mazen [Abbas] win, it shows that Abu Mazen needs to forge an alliance with the younger generation."

Another Barghouti backer, Ahmed Ghneim, said it's conceivable his candidate might drop out.

"This is being discussed, but Marwan said he insists that he wants to continue," he said, "but there is a lot of talk going on about this issue, we are discussing the issue. And nothing is out of the question."

The Bir Zeit poll indicated support for Barghouti is particularly strong among women, youths, villagers, the poor and the less educated. Abbas scored higher among men, the middle-class, the elderly, the educated and city residents.

Abbas is more popular in Gaza, while Barghouti scored higher in the West Bank.

All three polls were conducted after last Wednesday's deadline for announcing candidacies. In all, there are 10 contenders for Palestinian Authority president. Shikaki said his poll showed in general that Fatah has gained in popularity at the expense of the militant Islamic Hamas, which is boycotting the election. Shikaki said part of the rise is a sympathy vote after Arafat's death.

Load-Date: December 7, 2004

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmingly drawn from the ranks of men in their teens or 20s. But often it seems that radical ideology is not the end in itself, but an outlet for a violent predisposition that changes aimless, identity-less losers into 'agents of destiny,' Don Butler reports.

Ottawa Citizen

April 3, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: Saturday Observer; Pg. B1; Feature

Length: 2451 words

Byline: Don Butler

Body

It may take months before the courts determine whether Mohammad Momin Khawaja, the Ottawa software developer charged this week with terrorist activity, has done anything wrong. But guilty or innocent, the 24-year-old fits the terrorist profile in one irreducible respect: he is a young male.

Whether they act in the name of al-Qaeda, the Irish Republican Army or Peru's Sendero Luminoso, those who embrace terrorism are overwhelmingly drawn from the ranks of men in their teens or 20s.

Some have only known poverty and strife, like the suicide bombers recruited from refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza by **Hamas** and the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, and thus may feel they have nothing to lose. But others are educated and live seemingly comfortable lives in Europe or North America, making their embrace of terrorism unfathomable to Western minds.

The Ottawa Citizen

Case in point: 22-year-old Mohammed Mansour Jabarah, who pleaded guilty in U.S. court earlier this year to conspiring to kill Americans and attack American property, grew up in St. Catharines, Ont.

Five of the so-called "Lackawanna Six," a group of young men of Yemeni descent who have pleaded guilty to supporting al-Qaeda, were born and raised in the United States.

The eight men arrested in Britain this week for plotting a huge bomb attack there were all British-born citizens of Pakistani descent. Most are between 17 and 22.

Obviously, there is more going on here than just the rage of the oppressed and dispossessed. What induces young males to pick up rocket-launchers and plant bombs in the name of a cause?

There are many answers to that question, ranging from demographics and the allure of tribalism to the influence of male authority figures and the often-turbulent psychology of males as they come of age.

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

Certainly, part of the explanation lies in misplaced idealism -- the embrace of a cause that resonates with their still-developing sense of what is just and unjust.

But youthful idealism crosses gender lines -- young women feel just as passionately about perceived injustice. Why aren't they on the terror frontlines, shoulder-to-shoulder with their male comrades?

In fact, occasionally they are. Left-wing terror organizations in the 1970s -- such as the Baader-Meinhof group, the Red Brigades and Action Direct -- all had prominent female members. And women have become the delivery vehicles of choice for Tamil Tiger suicide bombs.

Mostly, though, terrorism is a man's game, with the prime demographic being males between 18 and 24, says terrorism expert Brian Jenkins, a senior advisor to the president of the Rand Corporation, a non-profit U.S. policy think-tank.

Older males are involved in planning or financing terror, notes University of Pennsylvania professor Stephen Gale, but they are no longer limber -- or perhaps reckless -- enough to undertake front-line operations. Those are assigned to young men eager to prove their commitment and dedication.

This should come as no great surprise, Mr. Jenkins says. "Young males are young males," he observes, his redundancy suggesting the point is self-evident. Or as Mr. Gale, who specializes in terrorism issues, puts it: "Your hormones are raging, your passions are crying out to be fulfilled."

"Young males are inherently warriors," argues Mr. Jenkins. "Not to make invidious comparisons, but whether we're talking about jihadists, the military or street gangs, it's all roughly the same age group."

Wesley Wark, a University of Toronto history professor and terrorism specialist, notes that most adolescent males go through a phase where rebellion and even fantasies of violence have appeal.

"It shouldn't surprise us that there might be a connection between the universal phenomenon of teenage rebelliousness and a sudden receptivity to the very violent and very simplified and conspiratorial message of jihad," he says.

Anthropologist Lionel Tiger, writing in The Guardian a month after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S., said figuring out what to do with young males is one of the most difficult tasks for any social system.

"These are inevitably the most impressionable, energetic, socially exigent and politically inept members of any group. The terrorism of (Osama) bin Laden harnesses the chaos of young men, uniting the energies of political ardour and sex in a turbulent fuel."

Being accepted into a terrorist organization confers a type of prestige, in the same way that membership in a street gang does for some youths. And in the case of al-Qaeda, Mr. Tiger writes, "it confers unquestionable, if radical, Islamic credentials, and associates them with the tides of history sketched for them in their training."

Most terrorists are not lonely psychopaths, he says, "but demented special forces wearing anonymity like a uniform. For many, nothing in the rest of their often-sorry existences can compare with the authoritative drama of what they hope to do."

The danger of the enterprise actually enhances their excitement, Mr. Tiger says, and "feeds their sense of worthwhile enterprise. Their comrades provide them an emotional haven and a clear focus for the turbulent energies at the intersection of youth and despair."

John Thompson, of the Toronto-based MacKenzie Institute, says many young men are drawn to terrorism because they want to change their self-identity and self-image.

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

"Often you want to rework yourself into something more exciting than you actually are. You want to be the big hero of history, the agent of destiny."

The allure of this sort of reinvention is powerful, he says, especially to a young man. And terrorism offers a sort of criminal shortcut to attaining it.

Young males are in the process of defining themselves, Mr. Jenkins notes. "They are often seeking affiliations that will provide them with status, self-esteem and the opportunity to participate in adventure."

"For many, belonging to the terrorist group may be the first time they truly belonged, the first time they felt truly significant, the first time they felt that what they did counted," Jerrold Post, an American professor of psychiatry, political psychology and international affairs, writes in the 1990 book *Origins of Terror*.

For some young men -- particularly those who feel inadequate or alienated -- membership in a terrorist group connects them with like-minded people who reassure them that others, not themselves, are to blame for their problems.

In *White Boys to Terrorist Men*, Randy Blazak of Portland State University found this dynamic operating within Nazi skinhead groups.

"Nazi skinheads can serve as 'big brothers' or 'friends in need' to frustrated boys whose fathers have been laid off or who have been harassed by minority peers," he writes.

"Like the members of cults, skinheads provide a sympathetic ear, a critical explanation of the problem, and an action program that appears to (somewhat) resolve the problem."

The violent solution these groups offer will appeal to anomic young men because of its simplistic reality, writes Mr. Blazak.

"Wars are won. Evil conspirators are banished. The mythical past of unchallenged, straight, white male hegemony is restored. For a generation weaned on video games and violent media, the world of Aryan terrorists can be intoxicating."

This is not so very different from the vision that Islamist terrorist groups conjure up for their young male adherents.

"One thing we don't understand about the jihadist message," says Mr. Wark, "is just how familiar, in a way, it is as a conspiracy theory -- and, therefore, how inevitably attractive it is to certain kinds of

people who are looking for very simplified messages of what's wrong with the world."

The need of insecure young men to prove their masculinity plays into this as well. Mohammed Atta, the leader of the Sept. 11 terrorists, grew up a shy and polite mama's boy. "He was so gentle," his father has been quoted as saying, "I used to tell him, 'Toughen up, boy!'"

Terrorist groups emphasize manly virtues, such as courage, prowess and sacrifice, that resonate with young men unsure of their own masculinity.

"It's the antidote to humiliation, to a lack of self-esteem," says Brian Jenkins. "That has great, great power."

What unites terrorists like Mohammed Atta, Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and

fanatics like Adolf Hitler, says Michael Kimmel, a sociology professor at the State University of New York, is their sense of masculine entitlement and thwarted ambitions.

"They accepted cultural definitions of masculinity, and needed someone to blame when they felt that they failed to measure up," Mr. Kimmel argues in a 2002 article on gender, class and terrorism in *The Chronicle Review*.

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

In the article, he looks at the characteristics of American white supremacists -- mostly young, lower-middle-class men educated through high school and often beyond. Buffeted by global political and economic forces, they face a spiral of downward mobility and economic uncertainty.

Their villains are women, immigrants, minorities, homosexuals -- and above all, the "international Jewish conspiracy," Mr. Kimmel writes.

"American white supremacists thus offer American men the restoration of their masculinity -- a manhood in which individual white men control the fruits of their own labour and are not subject to emasculation by Jewish-owned finance capital or a black and feminist-controlled welfare state."

If the state and the economy emasculate them, he adds, "then only 'real' men can rescue America from a feminized, multicultural and androgynous melting pot.

"Sound familiar?" Mr. Kimmel asks. "For the most part, the terrorists of Sept. 11 come from the same class, and recite the same complaints, as American white supremacists."

Psychological motives like these have more to do with why young men turn to terrorism than ideological beliefs, argues John Thompson.

"It's never the ideology," he says. "What you have is people often shopping for an ideology. It argues that there's already a predisposition to behave this way."

Some of these same factors are at play when young Muslim men in the West turn to terrorism. Thwarted in their career ambitions by

latent discrimination and sickened by the excesses of their adopted societies, they soak up the fundamentalist message preached by Islam's most militant adherents as an antidote to their frustration and disillusionment.

"As they tried to enter Western society," says Stephen Gale, "they found it was no better and in many ways much worse, because they were never truly accepted anyway. They were always carrying the baggage of culture.

"They said, 'Look, as long as I'm carrying the baggage, I might as well use its strength.' "

Some young Western Muslims, such as Mr. Jabarah and the Canadian sons of Ahmed Said Khadr, an al-Qaeda operative killed by Pakistani troops last year, fell under the influence of a patriarch with jihadist views.

"This would fit another pattern among more traditional Muslim families of very strong patriarchy," says Mr. Wark. "Perhaps there is something to the experience of an immigrant family with a very strong family figure, with very strong authority never being questioned, and that father figure dispensing a very activist political ideology."

In Britain, where a national debate is raging over why some young British Muslims are attracted to terrorism, that authority figure may be a radical cleric preaching jihad to receptive and impressionable young men.

Even Western popular culture, denounced by jihadists as fatally corrupt, is being used to win youthful adherents in Britain.

A rap video called Dirty Kuffar -- Arabic for non-believer -- has been posted on a British website run by Islamic extremist Mohammed al-Massari.

Full of violent images, its lyrics denounce Tony Blair and George W. Bush as "dirty Kuffars," praise Hamas and Hezbollah, and include this couplet: "OBL (bin Laden) pulled me like a shiny star/Like the way we destroyed them two towers ha-ha."

According to news reports, the video has been a hot seller to young men in British mosques and is in heavy demand overseas.

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

This hints at another powerful force that attracts terrorist recruits -- tribalism. Terrorism, says Mr. Gale, "is always tribal in a very broad sense." For insecure young males, the allure of belonging to a tribe, particularly one with a warrior tradition, is overwhelming.

Patrick Dixon, one of Europe's leading futurists, describes tribalism as the most powerful force on Earth, one that feeds terrorism's voracious appetite for acolytes.

"Tribalism is intimately connected with terrorism," he writes on his website, Globalchange.com. "When one mass of people identify only with themselves and their values, and see others as lesser beings, then the ground is set for permanent conflict."

In the case of al-Qaeda, says Mr. Gale, Osama bin Laden's great achievement has been to convince regional jihadist groups to work together. "He was able to broaden the tribe to cover all of Islam."

This is a particularly ominous development, if you believe demographic research that sees a link between violence and societies with large populations of young males.

Christian Mesquida and Neil Wiener, two research psychologists at York University, have found that young males are more likely to engage in violent behaviour when the ratio of men between 15 and 29 rises to a high level -- between 70 and 80 young men for every 100 men older than 30.

At such levels, too many young men are seeking mates, jobs and recognition, creating unrest and instability, particularly in nations with weak or corrupt governments.

Based on changing male age demographics, the authors predicted in 1997 that Northern Ireland would become more peaceful -- a prediction that has since been borne out.

But applying the same analysis to Islamic nations provides no such comfort. According to an article by Donald Collins on the Pop!ulation Coalition website, in 2001 there were 110 young men for every 100 men over 30 in Iraq. In Syria, the ratio was 106, and it was 90 in Iran and Afghanistan.

(By contrast, in Canada there are only about 28 young men for every 100 over 30, perhaps accounting for our relative placidity.)

And the developing world's demographic profile won't improve any time soon, warns Paul Ehrlich, president of the Stanford Center for Conservation Biology.

"Huge numbers of boys now under 15, many in Muslim nations acquiring a hatred for the United States, will soon enter their high-crime years," he wrote in the Stanford Report in 2002.

All of which suggests that the world will have to deal with murderous young men bent on terror for the foreseeable future.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Lefteris Pitarakis, The Associated Press; Palestinian youth Hussam Abdo stares at journalists as Israeli soldiers present him to the media at a West Bank checkpoint in March. Israel says Hussam approached the crowded checkpoint wearing a bomb vest in an effort to kill soldiers.; Colour Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, above, Abdulaziz Alomari, Waleed M. Alshehri, Wail M. Alshehri and Mohamed Atta.; Colour Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, Abdulaziz Alomari, above, Waleed M. Alshehri, Wail M. Alshehri and Mohamed Atta.;

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

Colour Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, Abdulaziz Alomari, Waleed M. Alshehri, above, Wail M. Alshehri and Mohamed Atta.; Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, Abdulaziz Alomari, Waleed M. Alshehri, Wail M. Alshehri, above, and Mohamed Atta.; Colour Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, Abdulaziz Alomari, Waleed M. Alshehri, Wail M. Alshehri and Mohamed Atta, above.; Photo: Jim Argo, The Daily Oklahoman; The Associated Press; The 1995 Oklahoma City bombing killed 168 people, including 19 children. Psychologists say it is not surprising young men are the most susceptible to extreme acts of violence.; Photo: Jim Bourg, Reuters; Experts suggest Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh was motivated by feelings of not measuring up to society's standards of masculinity.; Photo: Mohammed al-Ghoul, a 22-year-old member of the Islamic militant group **Hamas**, was identified as the bomber in a 2002 attack on a Jerusalem city bus in which 19 passengers were killed and at least 55 wounded.

Load-Date: April 3, 2004

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**Blast kills two officers in Jerusalem;
At least 17 people were injured. The bomber, 19,
had been intercepted as she tried to board a bus.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 23, 2004 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 792 words

Byline: Michael Matza INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A frequently attacked bus stop and popular hitchhiking post on Jerusalem's northern edge was the target of another deadly suicide attack yesterday when a Palestinian woman detonated a bomb she carried in a backpack near a group of pedestrians awaiting rides.

The afternoon explosion at French Hill killed two border police officers, who had intercepted the bomber at the stop, and wounded at least 17 people, two of them critically, police said.

Jerusalem has been on a heightened state of alert for the last two days, and that quick action by the officers prevented what would have been a larger tragedy had the woman been permitted to board a bus.

"The operation of border police officers today in Jerusalem . . . prevented a very big attack," Jerusalem Police Chief Ilan Franco said at the scene.

Witnesses said the 19-year-old woman, draped in a Muslim head scarf, was stopped by the officers when she approached the small sheet-metal shack where they check identity papers - about 50 yards from the junction's main bus shelter.

Words were exchanged. The officers refused to let her pass. "She threw her head back. There was an explosion. Her body burst into flames," one witness, Debbie Segal, told Israeli Army Radio.

"It was a grave attack, something which obliges us to continue fighting terrorism as we have in the past," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told Israel's Channel 1 TV.

The blast came three weeks after two ***Hamas*** suicide bombers killed 16 people on two buses in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba in what the group said was revenge for Israel's killing of its leaders in Gaza.

Blast kills two officers in Jerusalem; At least 17 people were injured. The bomber, 19, had been intercepted as she tried to board a bus.

Yesterday's attack was the first suicide bombing in Jerusalem since Feb. 22, when a bomber killed eight people on a city bus.

The French Hill junction, where three highways come together near a tall stone retaining wall, has been the scene of four suicide bombings, multiple shootings, sporadic stabbings, and at least one incident in which a Palestinian motorist ran down Israeli pedestrians, police spokesman Gil Kleiman said.

Yesterday's explosion occurred just feet from two plaques embedded in the wall commemorating victims of previous attacks since the start of the Palestinian uprising in September 2000.

Israel two years ago beefed up security at the site, after a bus bombing there that killed six and wounded 50. It installed fences, temporary barricades, and a military pillbox atop the wall. The checkpoint staffed by the border police was a more recent addition.

"It was put here to prevent such bombers from walking in among the passengers," Kleiman said. "We have a high success rate curtailing terror.

"Unfortunately, it's never 100 percent."

Palestinian sources identified the bomber as Zeinab Ali Issa Abu Salem, from a family of 10 children in the Askar refugee camp near Nablus.

Her father, Ali Abu Salem, 48, collapsed and his wife, Sahar, wailed at the news of their daughter's attack.

"Why? Why is this happening to us?" Sahar asked.

Israeli media said she was the eighth **female** suicide bomber to strike Israel in four years of seesawing violence.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, an armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack, calling it vengeance for Israel's recent killing of several of its members in the West Bank. Israeli forces killed five Palestinian gunmen and an 11-year-old girl last week in a raid in the city of Nablus.

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat denounced yesterday's violence. "We condemn this attack and any attack that targets civilians, whether Palestinians or Israelis," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the Palestinian Authority to "take all necessary measures to put an end to terror and bring to justice the organizers of such heinous crimes."

Israeli sources identified the border officers as Mamoya Tahio, 20, of Rekhovot, in central Israel, and Menachem Komeni, 19, from Moshav Aminadav outside Jerusalem.

Standing amid the charred debris as city work crews swept up, Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupoliansky said the incident underscored Israel's urgent need to complete the security barrier it is building across the West Bank.

Sharon, meanwhile, dropped a plan to evacuate 21 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip simultaneously at the beginning of next year, reverting to an earlier formula - a staged pullout in the summer of 2005.

He said evacuation of the settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank would take about 12 weeks to complete. That fits into his original unilateral-disengagement plan, which includes a three-stage withdrawal.

In August, Sharon said he favored an accelerated schedule, emptying all the settlements simultaneously early next year.

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at 215-854-2405 or foreign@phillynews.com.

Blast kills two officers in Jerusalem; At least 17 people were injured. The bomber, 19, had been intercepted as she tried to board a bus.

Load-Date: August 31, 2005

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In Focus

The Gazette (Montreal)
October 14, 2004 Thursday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 779 words

Byline: The Gazette

Body

Allawi warns Al Fallujah

Background: Last year, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan was marked by a surge in attacks in Iraq. To prevent a repeat, U.S. troops have stepped up offensive operations in Sunni Muslim strongholds to the north and west of Baghdad.

New: Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi warns residents of insurgent bastion Al Fallujah to hand over terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi or face military action. Details, Page A16

Israeli officer suspended

Background: The Israeli military has the Gaza Strip and the Hamas presence there under heavy pressure over the past month.

New: An Israeli platoon commander is suspended after he was accused of shooting a girl who was already dead, in violation of army rules.

Next: Tensions are likely to continue through Ramadan. Israel says it will restrict Muslim access to a Jerusalem shrine. Details, Page A20

Grenier blames girlfriend

Background: Eric Grenier is on trial for murder in the 2002 death of Sacha Vallee. Grenier is accused of fatally beating the 4-year-old boy while babysitting.

New: Grenier takes the stand in his own defence yesterday and claims his girlfriend, who had adopted the boy as an orphan from Russia, abused the child.

He also says he used only "reasonable" force with Sacha in the days leading up to his death. Details, Page A6

Ramadan a celebration

Background: Ramadan is the month in which Muslims fast during the day.

In Focus

New: A new local arts festival, Les Nuits montrealaises du Ramadan, kicks off

Sunday. The month-long event is meant to show that Ramadan is not just about privation, but also about celebration.

Next: A second cultural festival, Le Festival du Monde Arabe de Montreal, is to begin Oct. 29 and ends Nov. 14. It will feature entertainers, painters, photographers and chefs. Details, Page A7

Hydro rate hike pushed

Background: Pierre Fortin, an economist at Universite du Quebec a Montreal, has advised federal and Quebec governments of all stripes.

New: If Quebecers paid the same for electricity as Ontario residents, Fortin says, the province would have an additional \$4 billion a year for health, education and paying down the debt. Details, Page A15

Move over, Viagra

Background: Testosterone is produced naturally in a woman's ovaries and adrenal glands and has long been linked to female sexual function.

New: A North American clinical study shows a female testosterone patch significantly improved the sexual function in naturally menopausal women who were concerned about decreased desire. Details, Page A13

Marijuana bill high on Liberal agenda

Background: A bill to decriminalize possession of marijuana was first introduced by Justice Minister Irwin Cotler's predecessor, Martin Cauchon.

New: Cotler is poised to reintroduce the controversial legislation and will accompany it with a bill giving police the power to test drivers to determine whether they are driving while stoned.

Next: Both bills are expected in the next month. Details, Page A12

Business

Cargo unit eyes growth

Air Canada's cargo unit wants to cut its dependency on transporting goods in the bellies of passenger planes and will soon start leasing its own aircraft in a bid to double revenues within five years. Details, Page B1

Vegetable prices to rise

Shoppers might be faced with wide price swings for fresh vegetables this fall and winter because of losses and disruptions caused by the hurricanes that devastated Florida last month and then swept north to Georgia. Details, Page B1

Sports

Habs getting paycheques

Two Canadiens will be receiving paycheques despite the NHL lockout. Patrice Brisebois has joined a Swiss team, while Mike Komisarek will get his NHL pay while he rehabilitates an injury suffered last season. Details, Page C3

Als' captain: Don't panic

Alouettes defensive captain Timothy Strickland says it's not time to panic. The team is still among the CFL's elite despite two straight losses. Details, Page C5

Arts & Life

The Stranglers hot again

Thirty years after their founding in Guildford, England, and 14 years after the original lead singer, Hugh Cornwell, exited the band, The Stranglers are back with their hottest album since their heyday in the late 1970s punk era. Details, Page D1

Film festival roars in

Montreal's Festival du Nouveau Cinema kicks off with a bang tonight - the NFB short Ryan and the feature film Clean, starring Nick Nolte, Maggie Cheung and Beatrice Dalle. The event, the oldest film festival in Canada, will wrap up Oct. 24.

Details, Page D1

Follow-Ups

Locust plague spreading: Swarms of locusts that have devastated crops and pastures across west Africa might hit countries as far away as Pakistan, a UN agency said yesterday as it announced an intensified control campaign. Page A18

Graphic

Photo: (The Stranglers);

Photo: (Prime Minister Ayad Allawi)

Load-Date: October 14, 2004

In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism

New York Sun (Archive)

October 22, 2004 Friday

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 7

Length: 802 words

Byline: By ELI LAKE, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Senator Kerry in 2002 welcomed the groundbreaking of a mosque in Boston that has come under recent scrutiny among some of the city's religious leaders for its ties to the radical strain of Saudi-exported Islam known as Wahhabism.

On November 7, 2002, the Massachusetts lawmaker drafted a statement "recognizing the outstanding work of the Islamic Society of Boston." The occasion was the start of construction of a new cultural center and mosque that was to build a partnership with the neighboring Roxbury community.

In recent months the center and the ISB have come under fire from citizens who say the group has espoused a moderate version of Islam for English-speaking audiences while the Arabic materials inside are anything but.

"I visited this mosque one time with my wife," a former Harvard University professor, Ahmed Mansour, told The New York Sun in an interview. "I found their Arabic materials full of hatred against America. I recognized they were Wahhabis."

Mr. Mansour is in a position to know. He taught at Harvard's law school through a program the university established for scholars persecuted in their home countries. In Egypt, Mr. Mansour crossed the country's Islamic fundamentalists, and he has devoted much of his academic work to the study of radical Islam.

Mr. Mansour is one of 20 Boston community leaders that formed Citizens for Peace and Tolerance, a group challenging the city's subsidy of the mosque: It sold the land to the ISB for far less than the market value. Its promotional materials say the mosque has received "most of the \$22 million" to finance the new mosque from donors in Saudi Arabia.

The disclosure could undermine the Democratic presidential nominee's argument that he takes a tougher line on the Saudis than the president. This summer, to cheers at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Mr. Kerry famously said, "I want an America that relies on its own ingenuity and innovation, not the Saudi royal family."

Another member of Citizens for Peace and Tolerance, Dennis Hale, a political science professor at Boston College, said he chalks up Mr. Kerry's early welcome of the mosque to poor staff work.

In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism

"I could blame Kerry for many things; I don't blame him for that. That's the kind of thing any senator would do, a welcome-to-the-neighborhood sort of thing," Mr. Hale said. "If he were not running for president and he was a senator, he would look into this more carefully and I would think the Saudi connection would bother him."

The controversy over the mosque in Boston flared in October 2003, when Mr. Kerry was still an underdog in the Democratic primaries and Governor Dean was surging. The Boston Herald published articles on October 28 and October 29, 2003, disclosing that the ISB's founders included Abdurrahman Alamoudi, who is now in a federal prison for accepting funds from Libya's Muammar Gadhafi and raising money for foreign terrorist organizations like Hamas.

Mr. Alamoudi was part of an Islamic delegation invited to the Bush White House in 2002 for an Iftar dinner.

He founded the ISB in 1982 but has not been associated with the organization for several years. The Herald also reported the close ties between the ISB and the Islamic Society of North America, which is being investigated by the Senate Finance Committee for raising money for terrorist organizations. Both groups have the same mailing address on their tax forms.

Boston's other newspaper, the Globe, wrote an October 15 editorial this year saying that the IBC had changed its ways and its new leadership had promised not to give a forum to radical speakers who espoused anti-Semitism. The mosque recently fired its treasurer, Walid Fitaihi, whose Arabic writings on Jews prompted an outcry from Boston's Jewish community. The leaders of the mosque this month sent a letter to Mayor Menino disavowing Mr. Fitaihi's views. Nonetheless, Mr. Fitaihi, who now resides in Saudi Arabia, remains a trustee of the mosque.

A spokesman for Boston's mayor, Seth Gitell, told the Sun, "These allegations of hate do not represent the community that Mayor Menino knows and the ISP's letter of last week reinforces that."

The former communications director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Hussein Ibish, said that in his dealings with the ISB he did not believe the mosque was a cover for radical ultra-conservative Islam. "The reading materials that may have come in for free from well-funded right wing foundations don't necessarily reflect the beliefs of the leadership. I met with two young women who represented the center, who seemed to be very moderate in their religious and political outlook," he said. Mr. Ibish added that Wahhabi organizations would never allow uncovered women to meet with outside officials.

The Kerry campaign did not respond to calls for comment.

Load-Date: November 17, 2004

In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism

New York Sun (Archive)

October 22, 2004 Friday

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Dateline: WASHINGTON

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The Kerry campaign did not respond to calls for comment.

Load-Date: October 22, 2004

***Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ;
Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance***

The International Herald Tribune

October 11, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 763 words

Byline: Jodi Wilgoren And David E. Sanger

Dateline: DAVIE, Florida:

Body

President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry spent the weekend stumping through states that will most likely decide the election, using increasingly acerbic language as they tried to capitalize on what they saw as the other's weak spots in a second debate that did not appear to give either man a clear edge.

First in Iowa, then at a sprawling rally in Chanhassen, Minnesota, Bush repeated his refrain from Friday night's matchup, saying that Kerry "can run but cannot hide" from his legislative record. The crowd began to shout the phrase back at the president, who declared "I could barely contain myself" when Kerry said he had never changed positions on Iraq.

"He must think we're on a different planet," Bush said, to huge cheers.
The New York Times

At an afternoon rally in the Cleveland suburb of Elyria, Ohio, before flying to Florida, Kerry asserted that Bush's stubborn unwillingness to acknowledge errors of judgment prevented him from fixing them, starting in Iraq.

"Do we want leadership, as it is called, that can't face reality and admit mistakes, or do we want leadership that sees the truth and tells the truth to the American people?" Kerry asked a crowd of more than 10,000. He was referring to Bush's vague response at the debate that he had "made some mistakes in appointing people," to a woman who had asked him to specify three mistakes of his administration.

"If George Bush can't see the problems, and he's not willing to admit the problems, and he can't talk to America about the problems, you can't lead America to solve the problems," Kerry said.

With about three weeks before Election Day, the battleground back-and-forth reflected the tension surrounding two campaigns that can sniff victory. Several national polls were showing the race a dead-heat before the second debate, and Republicans expressed confidence that Bush's improved performance on Friday would stem the slippage from his angrier effort in the first meeting.

But Democrats, buoyed by a week of developments that undercut Bush's claims of vigorous job growth and his main justification for invading Iraq, said they would not lose the momentum heading into the final debate, in Tempe, Arizona, on Wednesday.

Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance

An Associated Press survey published Friday, just before the debate, showed Kerry leading Bush by 50 percent to 46 percent, reversing Bush's 52 percent to 45 percent lead from two weeks before. The margin of error was three percentage points. Time magazine has the two deadlocked at 45 percent, with Bush having lost a six-point lead, and Kerry with a strong advantage among women.

"A week ago we were dead," one top Democrat said in a hotel bar in St. Louis before the debate. "What a business we're in."

But Bush may have stopped declining in the polls, or so his small army of aides and spinners argued as they followed him across the crucial states. An instant ABC poll of viewers of the Friday debate found that 44 percent said Kerry had won and 41 percent gave the advantage to Bush, with 13 percent saying it was a tie. The margin of error was three percentage points. In the first debate, viewers surveyed by ABC favored Kerry by a nine-point margin, 45 percent to 36 percent.

Starting with a breakfast in St. Louis on Saturday morning, then moving on to Iowa and Minnesota -- states he lost by narrow margins four years ago -- Bush built on the critique of Kerry's Senate years that he began in the debate.

"Much as he tried to obscure it, on issue after issue, my opponent showed why he's earned the ranking, the most liberal member of the United States Senate," Bush said at the breakfast for Matt Blunt, the Republican candidate for governor of Missouri. "Senator Kerry was asked to look into the camera and promise he would not raise taxes for anyone who earns less than \$200,000 a year. The problem is, to keep that promise, he would have to break almost all of his other ones."

Here on the outskirts of Fort Lauderdale on Saturday night, Kerry made an appeal to the heavily Jewish population, tacking onto his typical presentation a story about his visit to an Israeli air base and his aerial tour, saying the upside-down view during a loop in a small jet had given him a better understanding of the tiny country's vulnerabilities.

"Our job, Mr. President, is to hold those Arab countries accountable that still support terrorists -- Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Aksa Brigades," he shouted. "And I will not give one inch in our efforts to do that."

Jodi Wilgoren reported from Elyria, Ohio, and Davie, Florida, and David E. Sanger from Waterloo, Iowa, and Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Load-Date: October 11, 2004

For Palestinian moms, some painful choices

USA TODAY

March 31, 2004, Wednesday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2004 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 1578 words

Byline: Ellen Hale

Dateline: QALQILYA, West Bank

Body

QALQILYA, West Bank -- For three months every year when her children return from college, Rasmiya Hannoun holds them hostage in their own home.

Fearful of Israeli soldiers patrolling the security wall that encircles the house, and just as scared they could be lured into a Palestinian terror group, she keeps them under virtual lock and key.

Son Fadi, 23, enrolled at Cairo University, spends so much time lifting weights he looks like his movie hero, Jean-Claude Van Damme. Hadi, 19, a student at nearby An-Najah National University in Nablus, plays endlessly on his computer. Daughter Shatha, 24, also at Cairo University, watches television. Cooped up, frustrated and bored, they can't wait to leave.

"Shatha says she would rather kill herself than come back here," says Hannoun, 55, a clinical psychologist who teaches at An-Najah. "You see what it is like to be a mother now?"

In a conflict where children are in constant peril of becoming accidental victims of violence or being sucked into dangerous activism, Palestinian mothers face obstacles and dilemmas few in the Western world can envision. Some, like Rasmiya Hannoun, go to radical lengths to protect their offspring.

Poverty, lack of education and unemployment mean many have little control over their children. Others anguish over the conflict between religious expectations and the basic instincts of motherhood. "I have to counsel so many mothers because they want to keep their children locked up, even away from school, for fear of bombing" attacks by Israeli forces, prominent Gaza psychiatrist Eyad al-Sarraj says. He also hears from those racked with guilt because they don't want to sacrifice their children to become martyrs in the pursuit of a Palestinian state.

In the 31/2 years of the intifada, or uprising, against Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory, 426 Palestinian children and teens have been killed in the fighting, more than half of them under the age of 15, according to the Human Rights Monitoring Group, a Palestinian organization. An estimated 92 Israeli children under the age of 18 have been killed, the group says. More than 2,800 Palestinians and 870 Israelis have been killed since fighting erupted in September 2000.

Last Wednesday, Israeli defense forces announced they had stopped a 16-year-old boy from Nablus with an explosives-packed vest strapped to his body. A week earlier, they discovered an 11-year-old boy who apparently unwittingly tried to carry a bomb in a bag across a checkpoint.

For Palestinian moms, some painful choices

The cases, Israeli officials contend, indicate an increased use of children and teenagers by Palestinian groups to carry out terror attacks, including suicide bombings -- and reflect the success of Israel's tough security measures.

Palestinians and Israelis, including Palestinian groups that carry out so-called martyrdom missions, condemned both incidents. But Palestinian leaders also questioned the claims, and suggested the boy with the vest was set up by Israelis to attract sympathy and deflect worldwide condemnation for Israel's recent assassination of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

'We have no control'

Whatever the truth, the incidents and the widespread attention they received reinforce the sense that some Arab mothers hate Jews more than they love their children, a belief said to have been expressed decades ago by Golda Meir before she became Israel's prime minister.

Eugene Rogan, head of Middle East studies at Oxford University in England, says by emphasizing the role children and teenagers play in the conflict, the Israeli government tries to paint Palestinian mothers as "bad mothers."

"This image of the Palestinian family being different has to be revised -- it isn't true, and it doesn't get us anywhere," cautions Arie Shalev, head of the department of psychiatry at Hadassah University Hospital. In families he treats at the hospital's Mount Scopus facility in Jerusalem, "we don't see any differences: They love and care for their kids like any family."

Even so, Shalev points out, parenting is at best "very difficult" in conflict zones.

"It's almost impossible to be a good mother under the circumstances we live in. We have no control over anything," concedes Wasfiya Idris, 60, whose daughter, Wafa, the first female suicide bomber, blew herself up in Jerusalem in January 2002. One wall of Wasfiya's small home in the al-Amri refugee camp on the edge of the West Bank city of Ramallah is papered with a floor-to-ceiling poster of Wafa that praises her martyrdom mission. Three of Idris' grandchildren scabble about the crumbling house or are confined to a small yard. Unlike most families of suicide attackers, her home has not been demolished, probably because it so closely abuts other houses.

But to suggest she failed as a mother because her daughter became a suicide bomber does not mesh with Idris.

"If I had known Wafa's intentions, I would have hidden her under the bed," Idris says. "Whoever says a mother is happy when her child becomes a martyr is lying."

"My biggest fear is that my sons might get swept up within this," says Mervat Idris, 31, Wafa's sister-in-law, whose husband recently was picked up by the Israeli military for his alleged involvement with the militant Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, said to operate from the refugee camp.

Studies of Palestinian mothers and children suggest how difficult it is to safely raise children here. In a survey of 800 Gaza children ages 12 to 16 that Sarraj did last summer, 36% of boys and 17% of girls said that to die as a martyr "is the best thing in life." The finding is not surprising, he says. "Life here is dominated by this struggle."

"At the age of 12, children start to look for role models. In the States, you have celebrities and athletes," Sarraj says. "In our part of the world, it is the martyr."

Compounding the problem is the image children have of fathers, many of whom have been imprisoned or killed. Even those who are present often are seen as powerless in the face of Israeli military might, Sarraj says.

Children also are common witness to houses being demolished by the Israeli army to punish the families of militants and serve as a warning to anyone who wants to join the intifada.

Motherhood and martyrdom

For Palestinian moms, some painful choices

Religious mothers have a particular conflict in child rearing; in Islam, life on Earth is considered a test for getting into heaven. Dying as a martyr ensures immediate ascent there. Sarraj recounts an incident last week involving a devout mother suffering immense guilt because her son kept telling her he wanted to die as a martyr. " 'I don't want him to die,' " Sarraj says the mother told him. " 'But at the same time, I'm a good Muslim.' " "

Experts discount claims that any Palestinian mother would wish her child to die as a martyr, even though the mothers of suicide bombers commonly are quoted as glorying in their child's death. Such comments are meant to provide a show of strength and assuage political and community pressure, mental health experts say.

"Families are families across the world, and they do their best to care for their children," Shalev says in a phone interview from New York. "When any child does something a parent would not support, the first response will always be to still endorse them, because you must believe in your children."

In an informal study Rasmiyah Hannoun did of 151 Palestinian mothers -- 78 whose children were killed in Palestinian-Israeli violence and 73 whose children were imprisoned -- she found that the mothers whose children died suffered profound sadness and depression. Many also developed physical problems such as digestive ailments that she says can be traced to their distress.

"They act happy because in the beginning everyone tells them their child will go to paradise," Hannoun says. "But the emotion is there inside like a fire."

For Hannoun, the task of protecting her children requires relentless vigilance. When Yassin, Hamas' spiritual leader, was killed last week, she was teaching at the university where her youngest son, Hadi, studies engineering. She tracked him down and refused to let him join other young men as they took to the streets in protest.

She is careful to point out, however, that she and her husband have the financial means to protect their children, including being able to buy Fadi body-building equipment and getting Hadi a computer to keep him entertained.

In al-Amri refugee camp in Ramallah, many mothers find themselves unable to control their children. Some as young as 10 must work to help support their families. In the streets, they can be drawn into political groups, starting off as scouts or couriers and gradually winding up involved in militant activities. It's not unlike youngsters living in poor neighborhoods in New York and other cities in the USA who get tempted by gangs and wind up using drugs, Shalev notes.

"Children here are lured into things because of the poverty," says Amina Salhiya, 75, whose five grandchildren live with her. "For a shekel, or a cigarette, these thugs hook them in."

Salhiya and her daughter Nirhaya, a widow, keep strict watch on the five youngsters. They impose curfews and give them pocket money so they don't find themselves swept up in gangs. But the poverty there is profound. Salhiya reaches into her apron pocket to show the restaurant's earnings that day: 6 shekels -- less than \$ 2.

"I am a mother," Salhiya says. "I sleep with my worries. I wake up with my worries. I worry all day long. I place nothing above my children."

Graphic

GRAPHIC, B/W, USA TODAY (MAP); PHOTO, B/W, David Silverman, Getty Images, for USA TODAY; PHOTO, B/W, Flash 90 via Reuters; PHOTO, B/W, David Silverman, Getty Images, for USA TODAY; Suicide bomber: Wasfiya Idris holds portraits of her daughter, Wafa, as her daughter-in-law, Mervat, says midday Muslim prayers at their home. <> I worry all day long": Amina Salhiya, right, with her daughter Nirhaya and granddaughter Fardous, in their restaurant in al-Amri refugee camp. <>Stopped: Youth in explosive vest is detained at Nablus checkpoint.

For Palestinian moms, some painful choices

Load-Date: March 31, 2004

End of Document

***Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ;
Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance***

The International Herald Tribune

October 11, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 763 words

Byline: Jodi Wilgoren And David E. Sanger

Dateline: DAVIE, Florida:

Body

President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry spent the weekend stumping through states that will most likely decide the election, using increasingly acerbic language as they tried to capitalize on what they saw as the other's weak spots in a second debate that did not appear to give either man a clear edge.

First in Iowa, then at a sprawling rally in Chanhassen, Minnesota, Bush repeated his refrain from Friday night's matchup, saying that Kerry "can run but cannot hide" from his legislative record. The crowd began to shout the phrase back at the president, who declared "I could barely contain myself" when Kerry said he had never changed positions on Iraq.

"He must think we're on a different planet," Bush said, to huge cheers.
The New York Times

At an afternoon rally in the Cleveland suburb of Elyria, Ohio, before flying to Florida, Kerry asserted that Bush's stubborn unwillingness to acknowledge errors of judgment prevented him from fixing them, starting in Iraq.

"Do we want leadership, as it is called, that can't face reality and admit mistakes, or do we want leadership that sees the truth and tells the truth to the American people?" Kerry asked a crowd of more than 10,000. He was referring to Bush's vague response at the debate that he had "made some mistakes in appointing people," to a woman who had asked him to specify three mistakes of his administration.

"If George Bush can't see the problems, and he's not willing to admit the problems, and he can't talk to America about the problems, you can't lead America to solve the problems," Kerry said.

With about three weeks before Election Day, the battleground back-and-forth reflected the tension surrounding two campaigns that can sniff victory. Several national polls were showing the race a dead-heat before the second debate, and Republicans expressed confidence that Bush's improved performance on Friday would stem the slippage from his angrier effort in the first meeting.

But Democrats, buoyed by a week of developments that undercut Bush's claims of vigorous job growth and his main justification for invading Iraq, said they would not lose the momentum heading into the final debate, in Tempe, Arizona, on Wednesday.

Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance

An Associated Press survey published Friday, just before the debate, showed Kerry leading Bush by 50 percent to 46 percent, reversing Bush's 52 percent to 45 percent lead from two weeks before. The margin of error was three percentage points. Time magazine has the two deadlocked at 45 percent, with Bush having lost a six-point lead, and Kerry with a strong advantage among women.

"A week ago we were dead," one top Democrat said in a hotel bar in St. Louis before the debate. "What a business we're in."

But Bush may have stopped declining in the polls, or so his small army of aides and spinners argued as they followed him across the crucial states. An instant ABC poll of viewers of the Friday debate found that 44 percent said Kerry had won and 41 percent gave the advantage to Bush, with 13 percent saying it was a tie. The margin of error was three percentage points. In the first debate, viewers surveyed by ABC favored Kerry by a nine-point margin, 45 percent to 36 percent.

Starting with a breakfast in St. Louis on Saturday morning, then moving on to Iowa and Minnesota -- states he lost by narrow margins four years ago -- Bush built on the critique of Kerry's Senate years that he began in the debate.

"Much as he tried to obscure it, on issue after issue, my opponent showed why he's earned the ranking, the most liberal member of the United States Senate," Bush said at the breakfast for Matt Blunt, the Republican candidate for governor of Missouri. "Senator Kerry was asked to look into the camera and promise he would not raise taxes for anyone who earns less than \$200,000 a year. The problem is, to keep that promise, he would have to break almost all of his other ones."

Here on the outskirts of Fort Lauderdale on Saturday night, Kerry made an appeal to the heavily Jewish population, tacking onto his typical presentation a story about his visit to an Israeli air base and his aerial tour, saying the upside-down view during a loop in a small jet had given him a better understanding of the tiny country's vulnerabilities.

"Our job, Mr. President, is to hold those Arab countries accountable that still support terrorists -- Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Aksa Brigades," he shouted. "And I will not give one inch in our efforts to do that."

Jodi Wilgoren reported from Elyria, Ohio, and Davie, Florida, and David E. Sanger from Waterloo, Iowa, and Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Load-Date: October 11, 2004

Encouraging bad behaviour can only help the jihadis

Ottawa Citizen

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7; David Warren

Length: 766 words

Byline: David Warren, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

It is a fixed principle of human nature, true in all cultures at all times and places, that if you reward bad behaviour, you will get more of it. This is not rocket science, and yet in the name of "compassion" or from several lesser desiderata, the fixed principle of those who are weak in heart and mind, is to go right ahead. "Liberals" I call them, but the reader may call them anything she pleases.

They are the people who can always find a reason to reward bad behaviour -- invariably at the price of punishing the opposed good behaviour. This in turn leads to transvaluations of good and bad, demanding further cartloads of "nuance."

The usual, if rarely acknowledged, reason to reward bad behaviour, is to avoid immediate pain, or more precisely to trade it -- a smaller pain now, for a larger pain later. Cowardice has never been short of plausible arguments and, conversely, courage requires at least a moment of silence, for the "still small voice."

Why am I moralizing? Because we have to start somewhere in considering the latest challenge presented in Iraq which, if it is not dealt with effectively and memorably, will soon be a problem far outside Iraq.

The current issue is the kidnappings, which are quickly becoming standard procedure among the jihadis. It is now arranged in a standard format. A suitable person or small group is apprehended, a video is made of them begging for their lives, this is shown gleefully and internationally by the Arab TV network, Al-Jazeera -- the smiling media face of the jihad -- and then, depending on the whim of the kidnappers, the victims are either gorily murdered (for another video), or casually set free. Casually setting some captives free is part of the psychological game, intended to contribute to panic by enhancing the adversary's feeling of helplessness.

The jihadis are adopting kidnapping because it is working for them better than other methods. For instance, car bombings are proving, in Iraq at least, much less effective, now that they are taken for granted. They are dealt with more and more like any kind of car "accident" -- just a price you pay for having roads.

At the moment of writing, the jihadis have Paris in convulsions over two journalists they may behead -- Georges Malbrunot of Le Figaro, and Christian Chesnot of Radio France Internationale. This is an act which they have presented for western consumption as if it were a challenge to the recent French law banning Muslim women's headscarves (and other religious paraphernalia) from French public schoolyards -- a law which President Jacques Chirac could not now overturn except by extra-constitutional means.

Encouraging bad behaviour can only help the jihadis

At the same time, another cell has grabbed the attention of Kathmandu, by "executing" a dozen Nepalese contract workers. From the final video, a feed of which Al-Jazeera was happy to provide into Nepalese homes, the jihadis seem to have got bored after decapitating the first, and just shot the rest. They were then at pains, in an accompanying message, to show solidarity with Nepal's own Maoist terrorists, which should help answer the oft rhetorically asked question about whether terrorists could co-operate across the Sunni-Shia divide. (Outlaws and other outlaws have always found common interests: It is another one of those fixed rules. It's a snip when they have common enemies.)

President Chirac's response -- after the surprised popular outpouring, "Why us? We're as anti-American as you are!" -- has been to send his foreign minister on a whirlwind tour of Arab capitals to get help pleading for the captives' release. He found that he could call upon the good offices of Yasser Arafat, **Hamas** and Muqtada al-Sadr, in addition to more conventional diplomatic contacts, to make this pitch. We will see if it works.

It might, because the jihadis in question -- the same cell that beheaded Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni last week, and which from the quality of its captives obviously has its own good media connections (just a small hint to investigators) -- will have been able to show the whole French state bowing and scraping before it for mercy. This will in turn enhance their fellow jihadis' prestige across Europe.

And it might not: The jihadis may butcher their latest victims as they did the last. Either way, it would appear that the French have had another opportunity to join the "coalition of the willing" against the international jihad; but have again chosen to encourage it, and promote kidnapping, rather than take sides with the Americans.

Seven-day subscribers can read previous columns by David Warren at www.ottawacitizen.com.

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

Israeli 'sound bombs': Palestinians hit by sonic boom air raids: UN condemns night noise attacks as indiscriminate: Agencies say they cause trauma and miscarriages - Correction Appended

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

 **Correction Appended**

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 3

Length: 792 words

Byline: Chris McGreal, Gaza

Body

Israel is deploying a terrifying new tactic against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip by letting loose deafening "sound bombs" that cause widespread fear, induce miscarriages and traumatise children.

The removal of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip opened the way for the military to use air force jets to create dozens of sonic booms by breaking the sound barrier at low altitude, sending shockwaves across the territory, often at night. Palestinians liken the sound to an earthquake or huge bomb. They describe the effect as being hit by a wall of air that is painful on the ears, sometimes causing nosebleeds and "leaving you shaking inside".

The Palestinian health ministry says the sonic booms have led to miscarriages and heart problems. The United Nations has demanded an end to the tactic, saying it causes panic attacks in children. The shockwaves have also damaged buildings by cracking walls and smashing thousands of windows.

"I have never heard such a loud explosion. I thought it was right over the top of my building," said the owner, Tareq Dayyeh. "Sometimes you hear the rockets the Israelis fire but this was different. I felt like I was in the middle of a bomb. When I ran out the door I thought I might find the rest of the street was gone."

Over the past week, Israeli jets created 28 sonic booms by flying at high speed and low altitude over the Gaza Strip, sometimes as little as an hour apart through the night. During five days in late September, the air force caused 29 sonic booms.

A senior Israeli army intelligence source, who the military would not permit to be named, said the tactic is intended to break civilian support for armed Palestinian groups. "We are trying to send a message in a way that doesn't harm people. We want to encourage the Palestinian public to do something about the terror situation," he said. "What are the alternatives? We are not like the terrorists who shoot civilians. We are cautious. We make sure nobody is really hurt."

Yesterday, two medical human rights groups asked the Tel Aviv high court to outlaw the use of sound bombs on the grounds it amounts to illegal collective punishment and is detrimental to health.

"The stress is phenomenal," said Eyad El Sarraj, a psychologist and director of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, one of the groups filing the petition. "The Israelis do it after midnight and then every one or two hours."

Israeli 'sound bombs': Palestinians hit by sonic boom air raids: UN condemns night noise attacks as indiscriminate: Agencies say they cause trauma and miscarria....

You try to go to sleep and then there's another one. When it happens night after night you become exhausted. You get a heightened sense of alert, waiting continuously for it to happen. People suffer hypertension, fatigue, sleeplessness.

"For children, the loud noise means danger. Adults may know it's only a sound but small children feel threatened. They are crying and clinging to their parents. Afterwards they are dazed and fearful, waiting for something to happen."

The UN Palestinian refugee agency said a majority of the patients seen at its clinics as a result of the sonic booms were under 16 and suffering from symptoms such as anxiety attacks, bedwetting, muscle spasms, temporary loss of hearing and breathing difficulties.

Although the Israelis say the shockwaves do not cause casualties, doctors at Gaza's Shifa hospital said the overflights had forced women to miscarry. The number of miscarriages had increased by 40%, according to Jumaa Saqqa, a surgeon and hospital spokesman. "There were no other symptoms and the rise happened after the sonic booms. We can see no other explanation. The number of patients admitted to the cardiac care unit doubled. Some of them proved to have suffered serious harm."

Dr Saqqa said one overflight occurred while he was operating. The Palestinian health ministry estimates the sonic booms have caused at least 20 miscarriages.

The UN's Middle East envoy, Alvaro de Soto, wrote to the Israeli high command this week saying he was "deeply concerned at the impact on children, particularly infants, of the use of sonic booms".

Mr de Soto said he did not accept that the tactic was a legitimate response to Islamic Jihad and Hamas firing rockets into Israeli towns. "Sonic booms are an indiscriminate instrument, the use of which punishes the population collectively. We ask therefore that their use be stopped without delay," the letter said.

The military was forced to apologise after one sonic boom was unintentionally heard hundreds of kilometres inside Israel last week. Maariv newspaper described it as sounding "like a heavy bombardment. The noise that shook the Israeli skies was frightening. Thousands of citizens leapt in panic from their beds, and many of them placed worried calls to the police and the fire department. The Tel Aviv and central district police switchboards crashed."

Correction

* The photograph of a US navy jet fighter breaking the sound barrier was taken in July 1999 and not "earlier this year" as we said in the caption (Palestinians hit by sonic boom air raids, page 3, November 3).

Correction-Date: November 7, 2005

Load-Date: November 3, 2005

News Summary

The New York Times
October 19, 2005 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 905 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-10

Egypt Opposition Leader Says He Is Smear Target

Egypt's most prominent political opposition leader, whose defiance of President Hosni Mubarak won him a second place finish in the nation's presidential contest last month, says he is the target of a campaign to discredit and marginalize him. A10

U.S. Presses Abbas on Hamas

The Bush administration, worried that Palestinian militants will gain a foothold in legislative elections in January, is pressing President Mahmoud Abbas to require that candidates renounce violence, administration representatives say. A10

Report Faults U.N. on Sex Abuse

The United Nations has developed standards and procedures to curb sexual abuse by peacekeepers, but the measures are not being put into force in the field because of a culture of tolerating sexual exploitation, an independent review reported. A5

Runoff Election Set for Liberia

A former soccer star, George Weah, and a Harvard educated economist, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who hopes to be the first African woman to become president will meet in a runoff election next month. A3

Women in Liberia, who turned out in huge numbers on election day and who have been victims in the long civil war, have emerged as a key voting bloc in what may be the country's first free and fair elections. A3

Better Plan for Flu Drugs Urged

Too little planning has gone into how to use the medicines and vaccines under development to prepare for a possible avian flu pandemic, experts are warning. A8

Iraq Begins Audit of Vote

Electoral tally sheets from Iraq's provinces began arriving in Baghdad as Iraqi officials pushed forward with an audit of the nationwide vote on a new constitution. A10

News Summary

NATIONAL A12-18

Survey Shows Court Pick Opposed Most Abortions

The Supreme Court nominee, Harriet E. Miers, disclosed in a 1989 survey that she was opposed to abortion except to protect the life of the mother, triggering disapproval from abortion rights supporters but failing to assuage concerns of some conservative Republicans. A1

No Final Report on Leak

The special counsel in the C.I.A. leak case has told associates that he has no plans to issue a final report about the results of the investigation, heightening the expectation that he intends to bring indictments, lawyers in the case say. A1

All Eyes on Weakened Dam

Some 2,000 residents of Taunton, Mass., were unable to return to their homes because of fears that a deteriorating dam on a rain-swollen river could rupture and flood the city's downtown area. A12

Tuition Rise Outpaces Inflation

Average college tuition grew more quickly than did overall inflation again this year, although the rate of increase slowed after a period of explosive growth, according to an annual survey released by the College Board. A12

Fewer Evacuees in Hotels

The Red Cross and federal government said they had been significantly overreporting the number of victims of Hurricane Katrina in hotels. Instead of 600,000 people, 200,000 remain in hotels, the charity said. A1

Scientists Protest Dalai Lama

A group brain researchers have signed a petition urging the Society for Neuroscience to cancel a scheduled lecture by the Dalai Lama about research on how the meditation practiced by Buddhist monks can train the brain to generate compassion and positive thoughts. The researchers claim the subject contains "unsubstantiated claims." A14

NEW YORK/REGION B1-6

M.T.A. May Use Surplus To Reduce Holiday Fares

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority said it would support a proposal to halve subway and bus fares on weekends between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, using part of an unforeseen surplus that could reach \$923 million by the end of the year. A1

Race to Save Failing Agency

Acting Gov. Richard J. Codey is scrambling to avoid a court takeover of New Jersey's beleaguered child welfare agency, with barely three months left in his term. Announcing that he plans to appoint an adviser to assess the states progress in court-ordered reforms, Mr. Codey is also seeking help from a panel of experts. B6

Heated Development Hearing

Simmering tensions over a proposed development project in Brooklyn erupted at a public hearing, as opponents and supporters took turns applauding, booing and interrupting each other in a debate that exposed deep divisions between those who want jobs and those who fear increased traffic. B1

EDUCATION B9

ARTS E1-12

News Summary

DINING IN F1-14

OBITUARIES B8

SPORTSWEDNESDAY D1-6

Torre Still Yankee Skipper

After a meeting with owner George Steinbrenner, Joe Torre announced he had decided to stay on as Yankees' manager in 2006. A1

BUSINESS DAY C1-18

Gambling and the Military

Gambling, in the form of slot machines and bingo games, has become a big business for the armed forces. But the military spends little of its funds, and none of its gambling profits, on treatment for those whose gambling gets out of control. A1

Case Could Roil Hollywood

Anthony Pellicano, the one-time private detective-to-the-stars now finishing a 30-month sentence on federal firearms charges, expects to be indicted for wiretapping and witness tampering in weeks, his lawyers say. And the damage could reach some of Hollywood's power brokers. C1

Business Digest C2

EDITORIAL A22-23

Editorials: Saddam and Iraq on trial; abolishing the poll tax again; the homeland security dole; back on the road.

Columns: Thomas L. Friedman, Maureen Dowd.

Crossword E4

TV Listings E12

Weather D8

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: October 19, 2005

Israeli Pullback in Gaza Met With Palestinian Rockets

The New York Times

August 6, 2004 Friday

Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 758 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Aug. 5

Body

The Israeli military pulled back its forces in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday after a five-week operation intended to stop Palestinian rocket fire. Within hours of the retreat, Palestinians unleashed a new round of salvos.

During the incursion, the Israelis destroyed buildings and flattened orchards, which militants have used for cover. About 20 Palestinians have been killed since tanks and other armored vehicles entered the area in and around the town of Beit Hanun in late June.

Standing amid orange and lemon trees that were bulldozed, Immidhat Hamad, 70, said: "These trees are my life. This is what I've done all my life, and it was ruined within minutes."

Mr. Hamad's wife, who noted that her extended family included 15 people, said, "I don't know how we'll live." She added that she was not aware of any Palestinian factions using her orchards to fire rockets.

Despite the Israeli presence, **Hamas** and other Palestinian factions were still able to fire rockets periodically at the Israeli town of Sederot, a short distance beyond Gaza's perimeter fence.

While Israel pulled its troops out of Beit Hanun and other areas in Gaza, the forces maintained a presence just outside the town, according to Palestinian residents. The military described the move as a "redeployment" and said the operation to prevent the rocket fire was continuing. But shortly after the Israelis pulled back, Palestinians fired at least six rockets. All landed in fields, causing no damage or injuries.

The Palestinians have fired more than 300 Qassam rockets from Gaza in the past few years, including more than 40 in the past month, according to the Israeli military. The Israelis entered northern Gaza after a rocket attack on June 28 that killed two Israelis, including a 4-year-old boy.

Meanwhile, Israel is pursuing a plan to link Jerusalem and the largest settlement in the West Bank, Maale Adumim, the settlement's mayor, was quoted as saying Thursday. The government did not comment publicly.

But Benny Kashriel, the mayor of Maale Adumim, told the newspaper Maariv that government ministries were working to expand the settlement westward and effectively connect it to Jerusalem, about four miles away. Such a move would go against the Middle East peace plan, which calls for a freeze on Israeli settlement activity.

Israeli Pullback in Gaza Met With Palestinian Rockets

Maale Adumim is in a delicate position because it is so large and so close to Jerusalem. The Palestinians want a capital in east Jerusalem, but Arab neighborhoods in that part of the city are increasingly surrounded by Jewish settlements, Palestinians say. "This is a flagrant violation of the promises Israel has made to President Bush," said Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator. "This is a land grab, and if the Israelis carry out this program, there will be nothing left to negotiate."

Israeli trucks and bulldozers were at work on Thursday on a new road on the western side of Maale Adumim. The settlement, which has about 30,000 residents, already serves as a suburb of Jerusalem.

"Contiguity between Maale Adumim and Jerusalem is necessary," Yuval Steinitz, who heads the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in Parliament, told Israeli radio.

Earlier this week, Israel's Defense Ministry confirmed a separate plan to build another 600 homes in Maale Adumim. The United States State Department responded by urging Israel to stick by its pledge to halt settlement expansion. On Thursday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the American envoy Elliott Abrams that Israel was not planning to connect Maale Adumim to Jerusalem, the Israeli media reported.

Also on Thursday, the Israeli military said it would open the border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt on Friday, a move that would permit an estimated 2,000 stranded Palestinians to return home. Israel has kept the crossing closed since July 18, saying it was concerned about a possible attack. Palestinians stranded at the terminal on the Egyptian side of the border include pregnant women and some who had gone for medical treatment in Egypt.

In another development, Israel will permit some Palestinian police officers in the West Bank to resume carrying weapons in public for the first time in more than two years, The Associated Press said, citing Israeli officials. Neither side announced an agreement, though Mr. Erekat, the Palestinian negotiator, said the two sides were trying to arrange a meeting for Friday.

"We can't be expected to take control of security if our police can't be on the streets with their weapons," Mr. Erekat said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A Palestinian man sat atop the rubble of buildings demolished by the Israeli Army yesterday in the town of Beit Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip. The Israeli military pulled back its forces from the region yesterday. (Photo by Mohammed Abed/Agence France-Presse--Getty Images)Map of Israel highlighting Sederot: Despite Israel's presence in Gaza, rockets were fired at Sederot.

Load-Date: August 6, 2004

COSBY, MCCAIN, HILLARY, MARTHA, FENCES, ABU GHRAIB, ETC.

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

July 22, 2004 Thursday City Edition

Copyright 2004 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A-11

Length: 769 words

Body

Selected picks from the hothouse of recent quotations on items in the news...

Martha Stewart's lawyer Robert Morvillo, urging the court to give his client a lenient sentence: "She has brought a measure of beauty to our everyday world with defined color schemes, floral arrangements, and culinary delights. She has stood for the values of quality and making products as perfect as possible."

* * *

Liberal syndicated columnist Richard Cohen, on the Kerry campaign's decision to invite Ron Reagan, son of the late President, to address the Democratic National Convention next week: "Ron Reagan is going to speak [there] because his name is Ron Reagan. He is not a famous Democrat and he is not a well-known ethicist or medical researcher. He will be there just to stick it to the GOP and Bush and to suggest, as do the selfish when they would rather golf than attend a funeral, that they have the permission of the deceased. There's a term for this sort of thing: grave robbery."

* * *

Bill Cosby, in a second blast at certain elements within the African-American community: "You've got to stop beating up your women because you can't find a job - because you didn't get an education and now you're [earning] minimum wage... Dogs, water hoses that tear the bark off trees, Emmett Till - and you're going to tell me you're going to drop out of school? You're going to tell me you're going to steal from a store?"

* * *

Washington Post reporter Josh White, on two Army enlisteds charged in connection with detainee abuse at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison: "In dozens of images obtained by The Post, [Pfc. Lynndie] England is captured in various stages of nudity and in explicit sexual poses with [Spec. Charles Graner]Graner, 35, has been charged with abuses and has been described in an Army investigative report as a ringleader in the scandal. He was involved in a romantic relationship with England, 21, and England's attorneys have said that their client is six months pregnant with his child."

* * *

The Post's Jackie Spinner, writing from Baghdad about Iraqi sentiments regarding proposals to bulldoze Abu Ghraib: "Ghassan Abbas rolled his mustard-yellow prayer beads through his fingers as he sat Tuesday afternoon on a cushioned stool outside his tobacco shop in the eastern part of the capital and asked a practical question of

COSBY, MCCAIN, HILLARY, MARTHA, FENCES, ABU GHRAIB, ETC.

President Bush, who in a televised speech Monday night proposed demolishing the Abu Ghraib prison. Why get rid of a perfectly good prison? 'Abu Ghraib is the biggest one and can keep many detainees,' Abbas said, shaking his head. 'How can they demolish it?'"

* * *

The Wall Street Journal, in an editorial: "The message [from a key Senate vote on a nominee to the federal bench] seems to be: Liberals will keep their private views private but conservatives cannot be trusted to do so. If Mr. Kerry's Catholic beliefs don't disqualify him from becoming President, and they shouldn't, then the same religious beliefs of conservative judicial nominees shouldn't disqualify them from service as federal judges."

* * *

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's finance minister and former prime minister, on the Israeli fence: "Despite what some have argued, fences have proven highly effective against terrorism. Of the hundreds of suicide bombings that have taken place in Israel, only one has originated from the Gaza area, where Hamas and Islamic Jihad are headquartered. Why? Because Gaza is surrounded by a security fence. Even though it is not complete, the West Bank security fence has already drastically reduced the number of suicide attacks."

* * *

Columnist Arnold Beichman: "Western society agrees to a common morality - core values - in that it accepts the validity of laws barring polygamy, men seducing young boys, marriage of children, etc. If the concept of marriage can be redefined to establish the validity of [homosexual] union, then why frown upon the antics of the North American Man Boy Love Association? The age of consent for girls in Canada is 14 years, so why not 13, 12 - whatever?"

* * *

Democratic Senator Hillary Clinton, addressing a three-day "Take Back America" conference in Washington featuring Howard Dean and sponsored by the progressive group, Campaign for America's Future: "Do you remember I once mentioned the vast right-wing conspiracy? Some doubted me."

* * *

Republican Senator John McCain, responding in an interview with AARP magazine to the question, "Are you becoming more liberal?": "I am a committed Republican and will remain so. I am a Republican of the Abraham Lincoln/Theodore Roosevelt garden variety, and I want my party to move back to those principles and practices."

Graphic

PHOTO

Load-Date: July 23, 2004

Andalusia's Islam connection

The Toronto Star
March 20, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 1763 words

Byline: Sandro Contenta, Toronto Star

Body

At the Jamal Islamiya mosque in this seaside town, a Muslim lament of historic proportions is proclaimed in large letters on a framed poster: "In 1492, we lost everything."

For the mosque's leader, and much of the Muslim world, the year marks the traumatic conclusion of Islam's golden age, a time remembered like a collective wound.

It's a period when the last piece of Muslim-held territory in Spain fell to Catholic monarchs, ending almost 800 years of Moorish rule on the Iberian peninsula.

Centuries when poetry, science and architecture flourished under Islamic caliphs expired with bonfires of Arabic manuscripts, mass expulsion and extermination in the Inquisition.

To the east, the Muslim empire of the Ottomans would reign for another four centuries. But many would trace its long decline to the fall of Al Andalus, the Moorish name for Andalusia.

The result is a yearning that today makes Spain, more than any other European country, a battleground in the name of Islam.

"They stole 500 years of history from us," says Omar Checa Garcia, who heads the Jamal Islamiya mosque and cultural centre. "We want it back, but we don't want revenge."

Others are not so accommodating. Osama bin Laden uses what he calls the "tragedy of Al Andalus" as a rallying cry for his deadly brand of Islamic jihad against "the crusaders and Jews."

After the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, bin Laden's chief lieutenant, Ayman al Zawahiri, drew a parallel between the loss of the Iberian peninsula and the struggle of Palestinians.

"We will not accept that the tragedy of Al Andalus be repeated in Palestine," he said.

The taped sermons of some militant Islamic clerics admonish followers with the legend of "The Moor's Sigh."

Having surrendered Granada to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, the Catholic monarchs of Castile and Aragon, a tearful Sultan Boabdil was scolded by his mother: "You weep like a woman for what you could not hold as a man."

Andalusia 's Islam connection

On March 11, 2004, a cell of mainly Moroccan extremists, calling themselves "the brigade situated in Al Andalus," detonated 10 bombs that killed 191 people on Madrid commuter trains.

Many Spaniards blamed their conservative government's support of the Iraq war for making them targets.

Three days after the bombings, they swept the Socialist party to power and it moved quickly to withdraw Spanish troops from Iraq.

But jihad fuelled by the lost glory of Al Andalus suggests that won't be enough to take Spain off the target list.

In a communique claiming responsibility for the March 11 bombings, the cell invoked the name of the Moorish warrior who conquered the Iberian peninsula in 711.

"We will continue our jihad until martyrdom in the land of Tarik Ben Ziyad," it said.

Says Gustavo Aristique, an opposition MP and terrorism expert: "Spain is considered an apostate country that must be reconquered for Islam. It's a sacred duty, and that's why the jihadis are attacking."

The bombings also focused attention on Spain's estimated 1 million Muslims, most of them North African immigrants.

Illegal immigration is rapidly increasing their numbers, making integration one of Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero's biggest challenges.

Warnings that mosques are increasingly falling under the control of radical clerics are coming from anti-terrorism experts and representatives of Spanish converts to Islam, a community estimated at 20,000.

They also warn of tensions between the growing number of immigrants adhering to fundamentalist brands of Islam and right-wing groups rooted in the alliance of fascism and the Catholic Church during Franco's dictatorship, which ended in 1975.

Spanish converts are lobbying the government for funds to train homegrown imams, arguing that defusing social tensions requires clerics who preach an Islam in harmony with European values, which they insist reflects the true spirit of Al Andalus.

"If we don't do this, it's war," says Abdelkarim Carrasco, head of the Federation of Spanish Islamic Entities, one of two Islamic umbrella groups that negotiates with the government.

Carrasco, 56, is a real estate agent in Granada, where members of the March 11 cell spent time in safe houses before the attacks.

Framed by the snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada in southern Spain, Granada was the peninsula's last Moorish kingdom to fall.

Its symbolic significance is heightened by the Alhambra palace, home and seat of government of the Nasrid rulers. The only Muslim palace to survive from the Middle Ages, it stands above the city on the Assabica hills, revered by Muslims and celebrated by tourists.

"I tell my Christian friends, 'You are eating from the stones left by the Moors,'" says Carrasco, referring to Granada's booming tourist industry.

On a hilltop directly across from the Alhambra, the first Granada mosque to be built in 500 years opened its doors in 2003. Before construction, the choice of the highly symbolic site met with two decades of resistance from local authorities, not least because it is squeezed between a Catholic church and a nun's convent.

"The church hierarchy is very hostile to Islam," says Abdulhasib Castineira, director of the Great Mosque, which was built largely with funds from Morocco, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates.

Andalusia 's Islam connection

"I think they feel threatened, actually, because if you come to this mosque on a Friday, it's packed. The church next door is only opened for weddings."

Down the hill, hidden among the steep alleyways of the ancient Moorish quarter of Albaicin, is the Al Taqwa mosque, which is also fronted by a Spanish convert but financed by the United Arab Emirates.

"My responsibility here is to make sure that Andalusia returns to being an Islamic country," says Zakaria Maza, whose mosque has two clerics from Mauritania as imams.

Maza recently spearheaded a drive to allow Muslims to pray in part of the former mosque in Cordoba, north of Granada.

Cordoba was the seat of power when the caliphate of the Umayyad clan was at its height, commanding what was then considered Al Andalus - the whole of the Iberian peninsula except for Galicia. (Today, Andalusia refers to the southern-most of Spain's 17 autonomous regions.)

As the political and religious authority, the Cordoba caliphate rivalled other Islamic dynasties based in Damascus and Baghdad. But internal feuds saw it disintegrate into competing Islamic kingdoms in 1031.

By then, the Umayyads had built a masterpiece of Islamic art, the vast Cordoba mosque. But Catholics conquered the city in 1236, built a cathedral in the middle of the mosque and barred Muslims.

Maza, a 54-year-old native of Cordoba, points in disgust to a notice on tickets handed to tourists who visit it: "Keep in mind that you are visiting a Catholic temple."

"This is terrible," he says. "We ask that everything goes back to how it should be."

Maza argues that allowing Muslims to share the former mosque would be a "sign of tolerance to the world." But he leaves the door open to eventually taking over the whole site.

The request to share the cathedral had the backing of the government MP for the area, Juan Luis Rascon, who also sits on the parliamentary inquiry into the March 11 attacks. But the Vatican dismissed the idea, urging Muslims to "accept history."

Still, Maza says victory is only a matter of time.

"Islam's time has come again, whether people like it or not. We can predict that Andalusia will once again be Muslim."

Most Muslim immigrants in the region end up working at vegetable farms around centres like Almeria, with its white stucco buildings set between desert hills and the sea east of Granada.

Five years ago, after a Moroccan murdered a Spaniard, race riots broke out in a neighbouring town and the shacks of migrant workers were burned. Area residents regard the incident as a cautionary tale, but it hasn't stopped the migratory pull of the local economy.

In Almeria's port district, the peaceful reconquest of this originally Moorish city seems well under way. The neighbourhood teems with North Africans sipping mint tea in coffee shops and streaming into the Al Muhsinin mosque.

The mosque's Palestinian cleric, Abdallah Mhanna, says at least 80,000 Muslims live in the area, some 30,000 of them illegally. Many complain of being exploited with low wages and poor housing.

Mhanna, 41, arrived six years ago from Gaza and says he was immediately struck by Andalusia's Islamic past.

"I can see the soul of Islam here," says Mhanna, who studied at Islamic University in Gaza, where the militant **Hamas** group wields much influence.

Andalusia 's Islam connection

"We are not looking to Andalusia as our land, no. This is the land of Spanish people. But it is part of our Islamic civilization."

Andalusia is the "land of daawa" - a place where Islam is to be spread by the word and not by the sword, he says.

He flatly rejects the methods of the March 11 bombers - "killing civilians is terrorism" - but embraces the hard-line ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood, which rejects secular tendencies in Islamic states.

Formed in Egypt in 1928, the brotherhood is the mother of several Islamic radical groups, including Hamas. But it also has branches that reject violent activity, and those are the ones Mhanna says he supports.

At Jamal Islamiya, Almeria's only other mosque, Garcia isn't reassured.

Having adopted Islam 20 years ago, he says many of the 7,000 Spanish converts in the Almeria area are, like him, leftists who rediscovered their true Andalusian roots.

"The real identity of Andalusia was crushed by Spain and the Catholic Church, which forced our grandparents to become Catholics," he says.

Garcia is an Andalusian nationalist. He sees the brand of Islam brought by most North African immigrants as "reactionary" and foreign.

He several times blocked bids by North African Muslims to take over his mosque, including one group that camped inside for three days before he threw them out.

Last fall, five of the nine people arrested in connection with a plot to blow up the High Court in Madrid lived in the Almeria area, including the imam of a mosque in a nearby town.

"This generation of immigrants is lost. It's under the influence of these reactionary mosques," Garcia says.

He insists social harmony depends on government backing to train Spanish imams for a homegrown Islam that embraces a multicultural and multi-faith society where women are equal, religion is a private matter and laws are secular.

Otherwise, Garcia warns, "there could be a disaster. March 11 could happen again."

Homegrown Spanish Muslims have joined anti-terrorism experts in warning that mosques are increasingly falling under the control of radical immigrant clerics

Graphic

RAFAEL MARCHANTE reuters In the Andalusian city of Fuengirola, imam Mohamed Kamal Mostafa leads prayers for victims of the Madrid train bombings on March 11, exactly one year after the terrorist attack that killed 191 people. Spain is home to an estimated 1 million Muslims, most of them North African immigrants.

Load-Date: April 6, 2005

Israelis compromise on Gaza

The Toronto Star
June 7, 2004 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A02

Length: 820 words

Byline: Ramit Plushnick-Masti, Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government yesterday approved in principle an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, but a last-minute compromise with cabinet hardliners diluted a historic decision and shrouded the fate of 21 Israeli settlements in Gaza in uncertainty.

The wording of the decision was vague enough to allow both Sharon and rebellious ministers from his Likud party to claim victory. It deferred a political crisis, but did not resolve the deep divisions within Sharon's centre-right coalition over the dismantling of settlements.

In yesterday's cabinet meeting, ministers were asked to approve a revised version of Sharon's U.S.-backed "disengagement plan," which calls for the gradual dismantling of all Gaza settlements and four in the West Bank by the end of 2005. A majority of Israelis back a withdrawal.

The plan endorsed yesterday authorizes the government to begin preparations for the dismantling of settlements.

But Likud hardliners attached a disclaimer, insisting the vote did not amount to approval for removing settlements.

However, Sharon said after the meeting that "disengagement has begun."

"The government decided today that by the end of 2005, Israel will leave Gaza and four settlements in the West Bank," Sharon told a large crowd of Jewish teens visiting Israel.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia said Palestinians "welcome any Israeli withdrawal from any part of our Palestinian land ... if the withdrawal is total and comprehensive, which includes dismantling all the settlements."

Other Palestinian officials responded with skepticism.

"If approving this fragmented plan took the Israeli government this long, I wonder how much time it will take to implement it," said Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat.

An Israeli hardliner who voted against the plan said that despite the confusing formulations, the vote meant Gaza settlements would be dismantled.

Israelis compromise on Gaza

"No word laundry can bleach one of the blackest decisions ever taken by an Israeli government, which means expulsion of thousands of residents and the creation of a Hamas terror state," said Housing Minister Effie Eitam, leader of the National Religious Party.

A vote on the dismantling of settlements would only be held by March, giving settler patrons in the government time to try to sabotage a Gaza withdrawal.

It's not an unrealistic goal, since Sharon's government has been weakened by the withdrawal debate and there's talk of early elections by the fall.

Sharon, until now the champion of settlement expansion, has staked his credibility on the withdrawal plan, saying it will reduce friction with the Palestinians and allow Israel to keep large settlement blocs in the West Bank.

Sharon has forged ahead with the plan despite fierce opposition from many Likud politicians and two pro-settler coalition partners, the National Union and the National Religious party.

Sharon fired the National Union on Friday, removing the party's two ministers from the cabinet, to secure a one-vote majority for the Gaza plan.

In the end, a wording compromise gave him a 14-7 margin of victory.

The National Religious party was divided yesterday over whether to quit the coalition as well. If it does, Sharon would lose his majority in Israel's 120-member parliament, a further blow to the once popular leader.

However, he appears in no immediate danger of being toppled. Sixty-one legislators are required to bring down a government, a majority Sharon's opponents are unlikely to muster. The first test will come today, when parliament votes on several motions of no confidence.

Opposition to the withdrawal plan in Likud was led by three senior politicians - Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and Education Minister Limor Livnat.

Over the weekend, Sharon's aides held marathon negotiating sessions to bring the three on board, even though Sharon had already secured a majority with the dismissal of the National Union ministers. Sharon courted the three to avoid triggering an immediate rebellion in Likud, whose rank-and-file had rejected the withdrawal plan in a referendum last month.

The cabinet said preparations could begin for the removal of Gaza settlements.

"After completing the preparations, the cabinet will reconvene to decide whether to evacuate settlements, how many and at what pace, based on the circumstances on the ground," the statement said.

Days of political wrangling watered down what could have been a dramatic decision by a hard-line Israeli government to withdraw from a large chunk of land Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast War. Israeli troops withdrew from 60 per cent of Gaza in the mid-1990s as part of interim peace agreements with the Palestinians.

But during more than three years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting, Israeli troops repeatedly raided Palestinian-controlled areas.

Sharon's "disengagement plan" was his first serious diplomatic initiative since he took office in 2001.

Graphic

Israelis compromise on Gaza

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS ap Members of the Israeli right-wing Women in Green group demonstrate outside Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office in Jerusalem yesterday. They oppose his Gaza withdrawal plan. A last-minute compromise with Likud hardliners diluted Sharon's original proposal.

Load-Date: June 7, 2004

End of Document

WORLD IN FOCUS: Aussies to make citizenship tougher! Americans braced for recharged hurricane I

The Sunday Star-Times (Auckland, New Zealand)

August 28, 2005

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Section: NEWS; INTERNATIONAL;

Length: 894 words

Body

AUSTRALIA

Citizenship crackdown

SYDNEY: Australian citizenship procedures are to be overhauled in response to the London underground bombings and new terrorism fears. Measures reportedly being considered include international legal checks on permanent residents when they apply for Australian citizenship and law changes making it easier to ban pro-terrorist groups. The government is likely to announce action within weeks.

VENEZUELA

'Blame Bush if I die'

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez yesterday said US President George W Bush would be to blame if anything happened to him after American evangelist Pat Robertson said Washington should assassinate the leftist leader. Robertson's comments on Monday illustrated the political gulf that has opened between America and one of its biggest oil suppliers since Chavez was elected in 1998 promising populist reforms. "If anything happens to me then the man responsible will be George W Bush. He will be the assassin," Chavez said at a public event.

UNITED STATES

Hurricane set to return

MIAMI: Hurricane Katrina recharged yesterday for a second and potentially more powerful assault on America's Gulf Coast after killing up to seven people on a rampage across densely populated southeast Florida. Katrina was briefly downgraded to a tropical storm as it churned across the swampy Everglades after dousing Miami and Fort Lauderdale, but turned back into a hurricane with 160km/h winds as it moved over warm Gulf waters. It was projected to become a dangerously powerful hurricane with winds of at least 210km/h by late tonight or early tomorrow, threatening US oil and gas rigs in the Gulf of Mexico and coast communities.

PAKISTAN

Plotters to die

WORLD IN FOCUS:Aussies to make citizenship tougher|Americans braced for recharged hurricane I

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani military court has sentenced five men to death for their roles in a plot to kill President General Pervez Musharraf. The men, including a soldier, were arrested after suicide bombers tried to ram two explosives-laden vehicles into Musharraf's motorcade on a road in the city of Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, on Christmas Day, 2003. Musharraf escaped unharmed, but 16 people, mostly his police guards, were killed.

GAZA

Bombmaker reappears

GAZA CITY: A Hamas bombmaker who tops Israel's most-wanted list yesterday issued his first videotaped statement since going into hiding more than 10 years ago. Mohammed Deif praised Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip as a victory for armed resistance, rejected calls for his group to disarm, and vowed to continue attacks on Israel until the Jewish state is erased from the map. Deif, who has escaped three Israeli attempts to kill him, has been living underground since 1992 and has not been photographed since the 1980s.

SWITZERLAND

Anger at foetus art

ZURICH: A sculpture made with the pickled head of a dead foetus attached to a seagull's body has fuelled a furore in Switzerland about the boundaries of art. Berne's Museum of Fine Arts removed the piece from a Chinese art exhibition this month after a complaint that it was disrespectful to the dead and following concerns its grisly appearance might traumatise visiting schoolchildren. The piece, named Ruan, stole headlines in Swiss newspapers when artist Xiao Yu confirmed that the foetus head was real. The museum's management will decide next week whether to reinstate the work, pickled in a jar of formaldehyde.

UNITED KINGDOM

12-year-old rapes boy, 6

LONDON: A 12-year-old boy was found guilty yesterday of raping a six-year-old boy. A jury at Liverpool Crown Court unanimously convicted the youngster after a three-day trial. The boy, from nearby Wigan, was convicted of two rape offences, two of inciting the boy to engage in sexual activity and one of sexually assaulting the boy. Judge Gerald Clifton warned the schoolboy he could face a custodial sentence. The prosecuting lawyer said the offences occurred when the defendant was 11.

Clifton adjourned sentencing until October 17.

Army in gay pride event

LONDON: Eager to find new recruits, the British army is taking part in a gay pride festival this weekend, with 10 soldiers marching in uniform in Manchester. The army said it would staff a recruitment table at the Manchester Pride Festival, billed as one of Britain's biggest gay pride events, and will march in uniform in the parade. Leanda Pitt, who commands recruiting efforts for the army in and around Manchester, said the parade was an opportunity to try to find new personnel. "As far as the army is concerned, sexual orientation is a private matter," said Pitt.

HUNGARY

Mayor's miniskirt rules

BUDAPEST: The mayor of a Budapest district wants female city hall staff to wear miniskirts only if they have "completely perfect legs" and the skirts are no shorter than 3cm above the knee. Gabor Mitynan, a conservative who runs the wealthy 12th district, also wants male employees to wear blazers in summer, and said the dress code was needed because he had seen staff dressed like beggars or holidaymakers. Mitynan also dislikes crop tops, saying "few women have well-trained bellies worth showing to people" and wants laws on stocking thickness.

WORLD IN FOCUS:Aussies to make citizenship tougherIAmericans braced for recharged hurricane I

CAPTION:

Iraqi Shi'ites attending prayers yesterday. US President George W. Bush has phoned an Iraqi Shi'ite leader to ask the government not to alienate Sunni Arabs, who say they will block a new constitution. Yesterday it seemed his plea was likely to be ignored. Photo: Reuters

Load-Date: August 29, 2005

End of Document

GAZA SETTLERS RESIST PULLOUT

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

August 16, 2005 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD,

Length: 841 words

Byline: Ken Ellingwood and Laura King, Los Angeles Times

Dateline: NETZER HAZANI, Gaza Strip

Body

Jewish settlers, some draped in white prayer shawls and others with wailing infants in arms, implored Israeli troops yesterday not to push ahead with the evacuation of the settlements of the Gaza Strip. But Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and top commanders said the watershed operation would go forward as planned.

At most of the 21 Jewish settlements of Gaza, soldiers who arrived to serve eviction notices yesterday morning were turned back by protesters who locked settlement gates, blockaded roads and burned tires.

But in a half a dozen others, troops went door to door, officially delivering a long-known but unwelcome piece of news: Residents must be out of their homes by midnight tonight or face eviction.

Sharon, in a nationwide address, acknowledged that relinquishing Gaza was emotionally wrenching. But he insisted, as he has for months, that Israel has no choice but to let go of a territory where 8,500 settlers lived among more than 1.3 million Palestinians. Their heavily fortified enclaves were guarded by hundreds of troops and subject to frequent attack by Palestinian militants. The arrangement has for decades exacted an exorbitant cost in government funds and soldiers' lives.

"It's no secret that I, like many others, believed and hoped that we could hold on forever to Netzarim and Kfar Darom," the prime minister said, referring to two Gaza settlements known as ideological strongholds. "But the changing reality in the country, in the region and in the world led me to change my position."

Sharon said the Palestinian Authority must take advantage of a climate of reconciliation that the withdrawal could engender. "Now, the Palestinians need to prove themselves; the world is waiting," he said.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, seeking to bolster the notion that his government will promote democratic rule in Gaza, formally announced a Jan. 21 date for delayed parliamentary elections. The polling, in which the militant group **Hamas** will take part for the first time, was to have taken place in July.

Abbas praised the pullout but stressed that negotiations over the terms for Palestinian statehood must go much further.

In an explicit challenge to Abbas, Palestinian militant groups have been staging raucous street celebrations, some veering perilously close to confrontation with Israeli troops. In Khan Younis, marchers affiliated with a relatively

GAZA SETTLERS RESIST PULLOUT

small militant faction, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, burned a cardboard model of a red-roofed settlement while Israeli soldiers watched from the main watchtower of Neve Dekalim, Gaza's largest settlement. The troops fired warning shots to keep the demonstrators back.

At times, encounters between troops and settlers were sharply adversarial; at times, they had the nature of a family quarrel. In keeping with the long-standing Israeli army ethos of commanders not asking troops to carry out tasks they would not tackle themselves, senior officers were part of the give-and-take with distraught settlers.

The army commander overseeing the pullout, Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, was greeted with jeers when he came to Neve Dekalim. "A Jew doesn't expel a Jew!" protesters screamed, using the anti-withdrawal forces' slogan.

In another scene captured by Israeli TV cameras, a top commander was accosted by a settler who had served under him in combat.

"I am not your enemy; ... we fought together shoulder to shoulder," said the tearful settler, Liron Zaiden. The general, Erez Zucker, who commands the storied Golani Brigade, patiently listened to the tirade, then embraced the distraught younger man.

Settlers were well aware that troops could have easily forced their way into the settlements that barred them. But many settlers seemed to feel the need for a symbolic show of resistance. Netzer Hazani, a small community in the main Gush Katif bloc, presented a typical tableau.

About 250 people, some residents and some outside protesters, chained the entrance gate and made a barrier of parked cars and bodies in the road. Residents withstood withering heat for four hours before troops arrived.

Dozens of men in shawls chanted prayers around a table bearing a Torah scroll. Nearby, teen-age boys in the trademark orange T-shirts of the settlers campaign clambered atop the steel gate. Women with babies sat in the shade of a tree near the front gate.

Yehuda Bashari, the elected head of Netzer Hazani's local council, met in the road with army officers, informing them that residents did not want to receive individual eviction notices. A triumphant cheer rose when the military vehicles made a U-turn and drove away.

"It is a victory," Anita Tucker, a longtime Hetzer Nazani resident, said afterward. "But we just won the battle. We didn't win the war."

Despite the tumult, settlers continued to leave yesterday, some of them helped by troops who packed boxes for them and loaded them into trucks and cars. At Neve Dekalim, settlers who had barred the way to troops allowed a convoy of moving vans inside after protracted negotiations.

Graphic

PHOTO: The Jewish rabbi of Nisanit and the Israeli Army officer in charge of the Gaza Strip settlement's evacuation embrace outside the synagogue there during the first day of the disengagement yesterday.

/ PHOTO: Kevin Frayer/Associated Press: A Jewish settler weeps as he holds a Torah scroll taken out of the synagogue in the northern Gaza settlement of Elei Sinai yesterday.

Load-Date: August 16, 2005

Israeli troops strike Rafah: Three killed by missiles as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes

Ottawa Citizen

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Section: News; Pg. A10; News

Length: 750 words

Byline: Tamer Ziara

Dateline: RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - Israeli bulldozers began knocking down structures at the edge of a Palestinian refugee camp early today, minutes after residents said a helicopter fired three missiles that killed three Palestinians and wounded six others.

Residents said the huge, armoured bulldozers moved to the edge of the Rafah camp near the border with Egypt and began demolishing structures in what appeared to be the beginning of a large-scale Israeli operation aimed at widening a border buffer zone.

The Israeli helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, one critically.

Hospital officials said at least two of the dead were gunmen, but the wounded were civilians, including a 35-year-old woman.

The Associated Press

The Israeli military said the target was a group of armed Palestinians approaching Israeli forces.

Israel Radio reported that troops were prepared to fight from house to house in the camp.

Yesterday, residents were fleeing the camp, expecting the Israeli operation after Palestinians blew up an armoured vehicle there last week, killing five soldiers assigned to destroy arms-smuggling tunnels.

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

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.

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 troops strike Rafah: Three killed by missiles as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes

Israeli security officials said they plan to expand the patrol road to a width of about 250 metres, almost double its current size in some places. The 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 border created then went through the camp, and thousands of houses were destroyed, with compensation paid to the displaced.

Yuval Dvir, an Israeli reserve colonel who oversaw that destruction, said Israel must leave Gaza now.

"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.

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships are unintentional but unavoidable.

Some people in Rafah, he said, "rent their houses for digging tunnels, so not all of the people there are blameless."

Yesterday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath pleaded with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Berlin to stop the Israeli offensive. Mr. Shaath told Ms. Rice he has received calls from fearful relatives. "She said that she and President Bush will act to stop what is going on in Rafah," Mr. Shaath said.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, met Sunday with the Israeli army chief, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Yaalon, to discuss the Israeli operation. "We understand Israel's need to defend itself from attacks, but as a matter of policy we oppose the use of home demolitions to achieve this end and we are concerned about the humanitarian consequences of such demolitions," said embassy spokesman Paul Patin.

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

Also yesterday, the political leader of the terrorist group **Hamas** rejected the Palestinian Authority's proposals for a ceasefire, saying his people were suffering a "war of annihilation" by Israel.

"It is not reasonable that there is a talk about a ceasefire in the shadow of a sweeping aggression," Khaled Mashaal said.

Mr. Shaath had said Sunday after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell that Palestinians are ready for a ceasefire with Israel as a first step toward reviving the stalled U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

Graphic

Photo: Kevin Frayer, The Associated Press; A Palestinian man stands with some of his belongings as a **female** family member throws a mattress out a window as they prepare to leave their home in an area marked for possible demolition by the Israeli army in the Rafah refugee camp.

Load-Date: May 18, 2004

Israeli troops strike Rafah: Three killed by missiles as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes

End of Document

**Gaza protests wilt amid huge security detail: Sharon has upper hand:
Palestinian leader hopes truce can still be salvaged**

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

July 19, 2005 Tuesday

National Edition

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

Dateline: NETIVOT, Israel

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gaza protests wilt amid huge security detail: Sharon has upper hand: Palestinian leader hopes truce can still be salvaged

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Graphic

Gaza protests wilt amid huge security detail: Sharon has upper hand: Palestinian leader hopes truce can still be salvaged

Photo: Roberto Schmidt, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images; A column of Israeli tanks lines up near the Palestinian city of Khan Yunis yesterday. About 40,000 soldiers were deployed.

Load-Date: July 19, 2005

End of Document

Israeli soccer teams are finally coming home to play: European federation lifts its two-year ban imposed because of security concerns

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 3, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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Section: Sports; Pg. C6

Length: 816 words

Body

In a year in which Israelis have had little to cheer about, they finally have something to celebrate: their sports teams are coming home.

As Paul Carbray briefly mentioned in these pages last week, the European soccer federation recently announced it was lifting its two-year security ban on the playing of international games in Israel. The first match of the new era takes place Saturday, when the Israeli national women's team plays Estonia in Tel Aviv.

Now that its soccer teams can finally stop roaming the globe, Israeli officials are hopeful that other international sports officials who had taken a similar stand - with handball, say, or volleyball - will also allow their athletes to compete in Israeli-hosted competitions.

The Gazette

In March, for example, a basketball team from Spain pulled out of a game in Israel in the Euroleague, citing security fears in the wake of the assassination of Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin.

There are far worse problems in Israel than the obstacles facing its sports squads. And the teams of Israel hardly roamed through Europe in search of temporary homes as long as their biblical forebears wandered through the desert. Still it was an imposition and a psychological blow when European soccer authorities ruled - in the wake of a March 2002 terrorist bombing at a restaurant in Tel Aviv - that matches with foreign teams were too unsafe to be held in Israel.

Israel, after all, is as sports-crazy as most of the rest of the world. How sports mad? A Likud party referendum on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's controversial plan to withdraw from Gaza had to be postponed from Thursday to yesterday to avoid a conflict with the televising of a home basketball game in the Euroleague semifinals involving Maccabi Tel Aviv. Party leaders feared the game would keep thousands away from the polls, possibly affecting the outcome.

The ban also hurt in other ways. Israel, like other nations, uses athletics to further international ties. Deprived of the considerable advantage home field usually provides, the performance of Israeli teams suffered greatly. Most important, many Israeli citizens and public officials felt persecuted, arguing that it was wrong to penalize their nation for the terrorism of others.

"I'm delighted that terror has not been rewarded further," said Israeli national soccer team coach Avraham Grant when the news of the lifting of the ban was announced in late April. It was the conclusion to an unfortunate chapter in an Israeli sporting history which has had far more lows than highs. Eleven of its athletes and officials were killed in a terrorist incident at the 1972 Munich Olympic games.

Israeli soccer teams are finally coming home to play: European federation lifts its two-year ban imposed because of security concerns

Its national soccer teams used to play in the Asian region - like every other nation in the Middle East - but had to move to Europe because so many Arab nations refused to play them.

Even in Europe, things have hardly gone swimmingly. Israeli teams are frequently the target of threats and protests, as well as outright anti-Semitism. In 2002, for example, when an Israeli club team went to Vienna to play an Austrian team, they were serenaded with chants about concentration camps.

In its enforced travels throughout Europe, Israel's soccer teams were forced to adopt some odd places to call home. (To add insult to injury, the Israelis had to pick up the often considerable security costs as well.) The Israelis actually wanted to play in far-away Georgia, which still has a sizable Jewish population and offered to pay for security itself. Those plans were rejected, however. Thus, during the ban, Israel played "home games" in, among other places, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Italy, the Netherlands, and that hotbed of Israeli sympathy, Turkey. Then, of course, when Istanbul became the target of terrorism last year, Israel was forced to move its matches out of there too.

Empty stadiums were par for the course: in Palermo, security forces almost outnumbered fans. When one Israeli soccer team played another "home game" in Rotterdam, Holland, all of 350 fans turned up.

The irony is that the ban was instituted, in part, because Israeli teams were cleaning up in international matches at home because so many opposing players were refusing to make the trip - out of either real or exaggerated fears. Hapoel Tel Aviv, for example, upset Chelsea right before the ban was instituted when several key Chelsea players opted out of the trip on questionable grounds. For example, according to published reports, Marcel Desailly told journalists a dental infection had spread to his Achilles tendon.

Are things safer in Israel than before? Probably not. But in a world where the threat of terrorism now seems to be almost everywhere, Israel had argued that things were as safe there as anywhere else - if not safer.

After two years and countless terrorist tragedies elsewhere, officials have finally had to concede the Israelis had a point.

Load-Date: May 3, 2004

Who visits Sweden?

National Post's Financial Post & FP Investing (Canada)

June 21, 2005 Tuesday

National Edition

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Section: FINANCIAL POST: COMMENT; Pg. FP23; Peter Foster

Length: 836 words

Byline: Peter Foster, Financial Post

Body

Unless you were one of the thousand Canadians invited to opine on the issue, you probably missed a recent international survey to determine the "top nation brand." Canada wasn't among the countries being ranked, but perhaps the key reason the rankings escaped your attention was that the winner was ... Sweden. When it comes to countries, being a dimly comprehended, far-off, quasi-socialist paradise obviously pays. Never mind that companies are leaving Sweden in droves, that the real unemployment rate has been calculated at 20%, and that a new women's party was recently formed on the basis that Swedish men are "like the Taliban." According to the survey, "That Sweden is fairly, wisely and peacefully governed is, quite simply, a deeply rooted and almost universal belief." So much for facts.

Scanning the first annual Nation Brands Index -- which was carried out by Seattle-based Global Market Insite, Inc (GMI) and an alleged national branding expert named Simon Anholt -- one can't help thinking that its real purpose was to show that the United States isn't number one (it ranked fourth). This suspicion was confirmed when Mr. Anholt confided to the Financial Times that, "The U.S. spent the last 350 years building the world's best brand and has trashed it in the last four." Mmm. Wonder where he stands on Iraq?

In fact, the survey admits that the U.S. still has the best image both for products and as a place to do business. But Brand America's big problem is allegedly "governance." Glowing views of Swedish governance seem to be associated with not having the slightest clue about what actually goes on in Sweden. Similarly, asked which country they would like to visit if money was no object, respondents placed Sweden second, after Italy. Of course, the fact that money is an object explains why nobody actually visits Sweden.

The survey is perhaps most noteworthy as a showcase for ignorance and xenophobia. Almost no Chinese or Japanese respondents attributed such adjectives as "honest," "trustworthy" or "educated" to the other nation. The survey's anti-Americanism was most flagrantly displayed in its delight in pointing out that "nearly 4% of Americans think that Trafalgar Square is in China, 6% don't know where the Statue of Liberty is and 9% don't know where Mount Rushmore is." But I wonder how many fans of Swedish governance could name a Swedish politician, or perhaps volunteer what the Swedish capital might be.

The notion of national brand image -- borrowed from the corporate sector -- is of dubious value. Indeed, it is intriguing that at a time when big U.S. corporate brands such as Wal-Mart and McDonald's have been the focus of increasingly vicious attacks, countries and international organizations should be eager to "brand" themselves. The

Who visits Sweden ?

NGO/No Logo crowd demonizes brands as a proxy for despised corporate power; national governments strive to brand themselves because they realize that successful brands are in fact symbols of quality and reliability.

While politicians certainly attempt to sell themselves like soap, the concept of national brand image is nebulous, dangerous and slightly ridiculous. Remember "Cool Britannia?" It came attached to the Millennium Dome, one of the greatest white elephants of all time.

Perhaps the biggest danger of country branding is that it further fuzzifies the very necessary distinction between governments and corporations, between political and business "power." The most worrying recent offshoot of this muddled notion is the suggestion from the U.S. Conference Board that corporations must engage in "diplomacy," with one eye on their products and the other on boosting their home nation's "brand."

Given that having the alleged inside track with the White House has meant nothing but negative publicity for companies such as Halliburton, Bechtel and ExxonMobil, corporations would surely be advised to avoid political entanglements at all costs. Similarly in Canada, companies most closely identified with government, such as Bombardier, have been rightfully lambasted as corporate welfare bums.

According to another survey last year by GMI, one-third of respondents declared they would not buy Mattel's Barbie because of its U.S. origins. But what's the answer? Hamas Barbie with a Gucci suicide vest? Mr. Anholt himself has noted the hypocrisy of much anti-Americanism. Ask young Muslims about America and they will say: "I hate America; I spit on the flag." Ask them where they want to do their post-grad work, they'll say Harvard or MIT. In fact, an Associated Press poll earlier this year indicated that U.S. foreign policy has little impact on consumers.

Companies both in the U.S. and elsewhere would be best advised to distance themselves as far as possible from their governments' brands. Still, Ottawa will no doubt be glad to get in on next year's Nation Brands Index. We have all the ingredients. Very few people know anything about Canada, and we have socialized medicine, which, like Sweden, looks great from a distance.

Load-Date: June 21, 2005

Iraq needs 'jaw-jaw' not more 'war-war'

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

April 23, 2004

default

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Section: Features; General; Letters; Pg. 13

Length: 821 words

Body

Showering tons of lethal hardware from a great height on to densely populated civilian "targets" and calling it precision bombing, is not the answer to bringing peace and harmony to the Middle East. Granted, armchair pontification is all very well, but what does it solve? Very little.

What is needed are constructive ideas and advice. How about this for starters? As a matter of urgency, invoke United Nations jurisdiction to quell this anarchic and murderous aftermath resulting from the gung-ho adventure in Iraq. It beggars belief that such an essential body has been treated in an offhand and cavalier fashion by both the President of the USA and our own Prime Minister.

I feel that the UN should be allowed to take over at the time the misconceived and illegal war was declared over.

With our great wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill's famous saying, "More jaw-jaw, less war-war" in mind, why not urge the UN to invite the Muslim brotherhood to take a chair on the Security Council and have its representative put the Arab world's case for peace? At least we would be jawing together and that is surely a step in the right direction.

Sending more bombers and troops to Iraq can only exacerbate an already overheating, and extremely dangerous, situation.

I see and hear the word "implode" creeping into media reporting on tragic Iraq.

Having spent some 30 years travelling widely in Arabia, I judge myself something of an Arabist and have become increasingly concerned about the position exploding outwards, to include the entire Arabian peninsula and Middle East region as a whole.

Unless our leaders begin to listen seriously to occidentals who have studied the area and its inhabitants in some depth, the future bodes ill for world peace and brings the dreadful concept of third world conflagration that much closer.

Tony Jarvis Ermington, Ivybridge More of the same "STUDENTS today show poor knowledge in general culture and an inability to express themselves articulately in English.

The general illiteracy is the price we have to pay for the so-called democratisation of higher education.

Iraq needs 'jaw-jaw' not more 'war-war'

Probably there are more able students today than ever before but the proportion of weaklings is much higher, and unfortunately it is the inferior type who set the pace which the teachers must follow.

The only way to solve the problem is for the able students to be separated from the dullards and taught apart on entirely different lines. To do this would be to involve large additional staff and considerable expenditure." What is remarkable about this statement, still applicable today, is that it was written 73 years ago.

It is an editorial extract from The Scotsman newspaper, published in March 1931 in response to a letter to the paper by Professor C Sarolea, a lecturer at Edinburgh University.

Harvey Thane Higher Clovelly North Devon Cash isn't everything WILL we be conscripted into the grey army of the European Union by stealth? How often one reads a news item about some problem, the solution to which cannot be resolved because of the EU directive on this issue.

A nice soft word is "directive". Will it become stronger one day? Do we follow these "directives" until even our laws and housekeeping are massaged to suit the continental mandarins? Overlarge concerns always fail. People forced into large combines with an overall order find it too irksome. They wish to be in a country whose size they can comprehend and in which their views and wishes can have some weight.

The British Empire disintegrated because of the power of these sentiments.

The proposed EU is about money and trade. Very important things, but not the whole of life.

There are the imponderables such as traditions, customs, usages, beliefs, and the individual pride of an island people, all of which colours everything.

France and Germany, once deadly enemies, are now bosom friends.

With Gallic cunning and Teutonic thoroughness, they would set up a bastion in the middle of the EU to dominate the scene.

As the two strongest powers on the continent they would have an overwhelming influence on any assembly.

The only point of a union is for countries to surrender their sovereignty by having their resources put at the disposal of a general vote. This was a real sticking point, which spelled the end of the old League of Nations.

For their part, the individual nations must make their own sacrifices, with the approval of their people if there is going to be any improvement in world affairs.

The explosions of today are the result of better communications whereby the Third World is able to compare its lot with ours.

G R Cook Okehampton Two wrongs...

FOREIGN Secretary Jack Straw says the killing of the Hamas leader by the Israelis was illegal.

Does he think that the planning, organising, arranging and perpetrating the killing of Israeli civilians - including women and children - is legal and acceptable? L A Parry Falmouth

Load-Date: April 24, 2004

Radical left is being right stupid over terrorism

Australian Financial Review

July 18, 2005 Monday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Opinion; Pg. 55

Length: 825 words

Byline: Ted Lapkin - Ted Lapkin is director of policy analysis at the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council, a Melbourne think tank.

Body

Appeasement is no way to win a war against Islamic extremists, says Ted Lapkin.

The aftermath of the London terrorist bombings has demonstrated that the anti-war left is severely afflicted by the political equivalent of battered wife syndrome.

Many scarred and bruised victims of spousal abuse have a history of excusing and rationalising the actions of their tormenters. A stubborn unwillingness to accept the proposition that their partners are scoundrels plunges these woeful women into a morass of self-deception that only spawns further violence.

The radical left has shown itself to be similarly blind about the fundamental nature of Islamic extremism. After each al-Qaeda outrage, Western anti-war ideologues are quick to castigate their own countrymen for a catalogue of sins. With a perverse combination of self-loathing and adoration of the enemy, the far-leftist mantra preaches that if only we were nicer, the jihadists could not fail to love us. It's our own fault if Osama bin Laden doesn't realise what good people we are.

All the while, these militant academics, pundits and politicians engage in ridiculous intellectual contortions designed to mitigate the guilt of the terrorist perpetrators. When push comes to shove, some left-wing intellectuals believe Islamic extremism is simply an understandable reaction to the sins of the West.

The streets of Britain's capital city were still damp with innocent blood when this obscene dance of political self-flagellation began. Within hours of the bombings, British author Tariq Ali was blaming these attacks on George Bush and Tony Blair. The architects of the London bombings were exercising their just entitlement to vengeance for the "violence being inflicted on the people of the Muslim world", wrote Ali.

Here, anti-war columnist Phillip Adams sang from the same song sheet on the opinion page of The Australian. "Let's be clear about it," thundered Adams, "the people who died in the subway tunnels and on the bus were victims of the Iraq War." It was Britain's participation in the "murderous folly of an invasion" that killed London commuters, not the bombs planted by Islamic extremists (The Australian, July 12).

Deakin University's Scott Burchill chimed in to decry the hidebound unwillingness of the "imperialist West" to consider the "legitimate grievances" of militant Islam. Until we "stop asserting the superiority of our values", warned Burchill, "we are unlikely to bring these attacks to an end". (AFR Review, July 15).

Radical left is being right stupid over terrorism

But the Spanish experience demonstrates rather conclusively that conciliatory overtures towards al-Qaeda sow the seeds of, not peace, but more terrorism.

After a bloody attack last year on Madrid's rail system, Spain's socialist government submitted to Islamic radical demands and withdrew its troop contingent from Iraq. But PM Jose Zapatero's craven act of capitulation did not necessarily purchase immunity to terrorism for Spain. In mid-June 2005, CNN reported that 16 members of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's network were arrested in Madrid while planning additional bombings against that city.

On September 11, 2001, Americans became aware that they were facing a war against an enemy of a kind they had never before encountered. Through bombings, decapitations and assassinations, it has dawned upon other democratic nations that, like it or not, they too are part of this same conflict.

Our enemies go by such names as al-Qaeda, Jamaah Islamiyah, **Hamas** and Hezbollah. They belong to a global jihadist movement that considers it a religious duty to wage holy Islamic war against the infidels of the West.

This is a war we did not start but that we dare not leave unfinished. We dare not leave it unfinished because our antagonists see the destruction of our civilisation as a necessary precursor to the expansion of their own culture.

Our jihadist enemies are fighting to create a society that looks a lot like Afghanistan under the Taliban. This is a vision that is repugnant to the foundation ideals of free people everywhere. **Women** barefoot, burka-clad, illiterate and unemployed. Christians and Jews barely tolerated as second-class dhimmi citizens. No art, no science. A society dominated by poverty, oppression, backwardness and ignorance.

In the world according to radical Islam, it's the jihadist way or the highway, and these seventh-century dogmas represent the only acceptable outcome to al-Qaeda.

But the far left views the world through a political prism that distorts this essential reality. Fixated by a knee-jerk hostility towards all things American, Ali, Burchill et al refuse to recognise the existence of this conflict, much less the stakes that are involved. Thus, primal hard-leftist instinct is to appease bin Laden rather than oppose him.

Winston Churchill defined an appeaser as "someone who feeds the crocodile in the hopes of being eaten last". The sooner we accept the fact this is a war, the sooner we can go about the task of winning it.

Graphic

PHOTO: A CCTV image shows the London bombers arriving at Luton railway station. Photo: AP

Load-Date: April 5, 2012

A family fun - filled holiday . . . sort of

Australian Financial Review

April 22, 2004 Thursday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 64

Length: 701 words

Byline: Peter Ruehl

Body

No school holiday is complete without the obligatory family trip to a fun-filled resort area, where, in true family bonding style, the children try to get as far away from you as possible. Sometimes they've walked all the way home, which is really fun-filled because you're not there.

One feature of these brief vacations is you do them with at least one other family, or in our case last weekend, five other families.

It was sort of like a re-shoot of *The Grapes of Wrath* for people with disposable income. Or at least people who think they had disposable income until they see what a few days of this does to a family budget.

You think you're going to save money because you and the others have rented these cottages that have kitchens and you've brought all this food along. This not only saves the expense of eating at the resort's restaurant, where the cheapest main course is an \$18 hamburger, but also means the kids will have a healthy diet. Or at least healthier than the stuff at their school's tuckshop, where most of the items don't meet nuclear-waste standards.

The problem is the only meal the children actually eat at the place you are paying \$853 a day for is dinner. You think you're just giving them a dollar or two here and there, but by the end of three days you realise you've handed them enough for you and your wife to have had the chateaubriand for two at the resort restaurant.

You tell them you're not giving them any more money and they still manage to get their hands on more food. I think they've got a counterfeit machine that prints American currency so they can take advantage of the exchange rate.

But you actually don't mind if they miss a few meals around the cottage. You discover this the first night when you have to feed them all. What has happened is you've got not only your kids and the other parents' kids, but they all managed to bring friends along. You know, just in case the noise level dips below that of a ***Hamas*** rally.

By our count, we had 20 kids spread over five families. They seemed to range in age from about three to 37, although at the upper end it gets hard to tell, especially with boys. I've been 17 and I've been 37, and I don't remember much difference. And in this type of situation, kids don't eat food; they sort of inhale it and then come back for more.

So we had a barbecue, which wasn't done on a grill, but in the great Australian tradition, on what amounts to an outdoor frying pan.

A family fun - filled holiday . . . sort of

One of the mothers, Liz, had invested her life savings on what looked to me to be the biggest box of lamb and chicken kebabs outside of Lebanon, packed so tight they'd have needed three weeks on Maui to defrost.

I forget whether I volunteered or got volunteered, but I ended up cooking these things. You haven't lived until you've done about 70 or 80 kebabs with 20 kids around sounding like a Boeing 747 on approach.

Thank you, God, for gin.

That much meat sheds enough grease for a lube job on a fleet of Abrams tanks. It wouldn't have been so bad if the smoke they give off made you smell like lamb or chicken, but about a half hour after you've stopped, it's more like New Jersey roadkill.

Even I didn't want to be near me; I know how everybody else must have felt.

And, of course, no gathering like this would be complete without some drama involving teenagers of the male and female persuasions, and an irate mother. How best to describe this without ending up dead or divorced?

My daughter, her friend and one of the other daughters snuck into the swimming pool late at night. What happened next involved tripping laser alarms, a security guard showing up and, oh yeah, the two oldest boys in our entourage being present from the beginning. People of the wrong sex ended up hiding in the men's toilet.

First time in history anything like this has happened.

My wife returned from playing cards at one of the other cottages (two of the fathers and I had been working the kinks out of the republic issue in our place) and wanted to know where the girls were. Duh . . . So she took off for the pool, and at this point it went downhill, with an angry mother climbing pool fences, finding girls in men's pissoirs, etc.

It's over now, but don't blame me. I just do kebabs.

Load-Date: April 5, 2012

Tape urges overthrow of Pakistan government

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

March 26, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P10A

Length: 831 words

Byline: Sarah El Deeb The Associated Press

Body

CAIRO, Egypt - A tape purportedly recorded by Ayman al-Zawahri, the No. 2 man in the al-Qaida terrorist group, called Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf a "traitor" Thursday and urged Muslims to overthrow his government.

The pan-Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera broadcast a seven-minute excerpt from a tape it received Thursday. Its authenticity could not be verified immediately, but the speaker sounded like al-Zawahri and made references to the Islamic holy book, the Quran, which is known to be al-Zawahri's style.

The speaker also called for a military uprising in Pakistan.

"Musharraf seeks to stab the Islamic resistance in Afghanistan in the back," the speaker said.

"Every Muslim in Pakistan should work hard to get rid of this client government, which will continue to submit to America until it destroys Pakistan."

Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said the government has no immediate comment on the purported al-Zawahri tape. When an al-Zawahri tape released in September called for Musharraf's overthrow, the government said it would not be deterred in its pursuit of terrorists.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said he heard news reports about the tape and said if it was authentic, the speaker "is clearly an individual who is very high-ranking and is capable of, and has in the past killed innocent men, women and children. And so one has to recognize that."

The tape comes as Pakistani troops are in the second week of a campaign along the Afghan border in South Waziristan, a longtime hiding place and stronghold of Islamic militants from al-Qaida, Afghanistan's Taliban and their Pakistani supporters.

It was not known when the tape was made, but the speaker appeared to be referring to the conflict in South Waziristan when he said, "I call on the Pakistani army: you, poor army, what a miserable state Musharraf has put you in ... Musharraf ruins your natural fences - those tribes on the border - by engaging you in a fight with them. Then he removes your nuclear weapons.

"Will you stay silent until Pakistan is divided again?"

The speaker repeatedly named the Pashtun and Baluch border tribes and urged them to close ranks with the Taliban against the Pakistani army.

Tape urges overthrow of Pakistan government

"Taliban and their supporters are your brothers," the speaker said, "so how can you allow the agents of crusaders and Jews to hurt them?"

He used the word "crusaders" for Americans as Islamic militants often do.

The speaker said such military operations on the borders violated Islamic law by pitting Muslims against each other at America's bidding.

"Every soldier who finds this act to be legitimate is an infidel, according to Islamic law," the speaker said.

After Musharraf spoke hopefully of capturing a "high-value target," there was speculation that al-Zawahri might be in the rugged border area where local tribes have more power than the Pakistani federal government.

Pakistan Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayyat said Thursday that more than 50 terrorists have been killed in the operation. More than 150 suspects have been captured, said Brig. Mahmood Shah, chief of security in Pakistan's tribal areas.

The speaker did not mention Israel's Monday morning assassination of Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, which suggests the tape was recorded before then.

Al-Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout said the Qatar-based channel received the tape Thursday, but he declined to reveal how. The tape is 17 minutes long.

"Indications are that it is authentic," Ballout said, "the voice, the nuances."

In the United States, an intelligence official said the CIA was reviewing the tape to determine whether it was authentic. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Vince Cannistraro, a former CIA counterterrorism chief, said the rapid response of the tape suggests that al-Zawahri was nowhere near the Pakistani fight zone. He said the message was essentially a call to kill Musharraf.

A Cairo expert on Islamic militants, Dia'a Rashwan of the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, said the tape indicated al-Zawahri was close to the action in South Waziristan.

"This is a counterattack. It reflects how he can feel the tremendous security effort exerted at the borders," Rashwan said.

In urging the tribes to rally to his side, al-Zawahri seems to realize that the Pakistanis are much more dangerous for him than the Americans, Rashwan said.

The speaker also urged Islamic clerics to tell the Pakistani people "the truth about Musharraf, the traitor and killer of Muslims."

"They should incite the nation to expel the crusaders from Pakistan," the speaker said.

"The crusade in Afghanistan, Iraq, Chechnya and Palestine is targeting Pakistan primarily, because America does not want Pakistan to be a special power in the center of Asia."

Al-Zawahri is believed to have provided much of the ideology driving al-Qaida since his Egyptian Islamic Jihad merged with Osama bin Laden's network in 1998, experts say. The United States has offered a \$ 25 million reward for his capture.

Load-Date: March 26, 2004

Terrorism by any other name still reeks of death, dearth

University Wire

April 22, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Daily Titan via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 786 words

Byline: By Ryan McKay, Daily Titan; **SOURCE:** California State U. - Fullerton

Dateline: FULLERTON, Calif.

Body

President Bush's support of the recent political assassinations of Palestinian leaders will do nothing to curb the escalation of violence in the Middle East. In fact, all it will do is bring it right into our own backyard.

Israel has recently vowed to kill anyone who opposes the nation's end goal of the elimination of the Palestinian people, and judging by the events of last week, they aren't bluffing.

Saturday's assassination of **Hamas** leader Abdulaziz Rantisi is the most recent in a long series of political assassinations by the Israeli government.

Apparently, Israel thinks the best way to achieve long-lasting peace with the Palestinians is to kill their highly popular leaders.

While the elimination of political adversaries is common practice for Ariel Sharon and his cronies, this case is different because the assassination was endorsed by the president of the United States himself.

The response to the assassination in the Arab world has been sharp and overwhelming. Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets worldwide to mourn his death and have vowed to avenge his murder.

This reciprocal relationship of killing and retaliation between Israelis and Palestinians has occurred since Israel claimed the Palestinian homeland as its own in 1948.

Israel claims the land is theirs for the taking because God said they could have it. The Palestinians think it's theirs because they were there long before the Israelis.

Both sides are firmly entrenched in their beliefs and are willing to fight for it to the death. Much of the anti-American sentiment in the Middle East stems from the United States' unequivocal support of Israel.

Not only does the U.S. support the political policies of Israel, but U.S. taxpayers pay for the tanks, missiles and bullets that kill thousands of innocent Palestinian **women** and children every year.

The Israeli government regularly conducts Nazi-style round-ups of all Palestinian males over 13 and tattoos numbers on their arms similar to those used in concentration camps. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been evicted from the homes where their families have been for generations.

Terrorism by any other name still reeks of death, dearth

Armed with only rocks and the most primitive weapons, there is no way for the Palestinians to thwart the onslaught of the U.S.-equipped Israeli army.

The only type of response the Palestinians are capable of launching is waves of suicide bombings.

While there is no doubt these bombings are atrocious, what else can the Israelis expect?

Put yourself in the shoes of the Palestinians for a minute. Imagine a foreign offense comes to Southern California and claims it as its own. They take your home, put you in squalor, tattoo a number on you and strip you of all your possessions.

Now imagine they possess weapons far superior to yours and there is nothing the U.S. government can do. What would you do?

Sometimes when people have nothing to live for, they are willing to do anything they can to make a difference. In World War II we called these people freedom fighters. Today we call them "insurgents" and "terrorists."

Last week's assassination of a Palestinian leader was a terrorist act; just don't expect to hear that from the mainstream "liberal" media.

This assassination was meant to further break the spirit of the Palestinian people. Israel is attempting to dehumanize the Palestinian people by taking everything that can be taken from them. In doing this, the Israelis hope to have the region for their taking.

Israel seems convinced they have the Palestinian people under their thumb and President Bush seems to agree with this synopsis.

Yet, the Palestinians aren't so convinced and have vowed to fight to the bitter end. Many of the people in the Middle East have always felt that the U.S. is responsible for much of the conflict in the region and they are right.

While there have been a number of attacks and attempted attacks by terrorist groups in and around the U.S. for many years, the "success" of these attacks have been limited. President Bush's endorsement of the assassination of Abdulaziz Rantisi will only foster American resentment in the rest of the world and in turn spur more attacks against the United States.

It is now only a matter of time until we will experience atrocities of the Middle East right here at home.

The most effective way to achieve a long-standing peace with the rest of the world is to start treating them with the dignity and respect all human beings deserve.

We the people of these United States can no longer afford to be in constant conflict with the rest of the world. Despite all of our military might, we cannot fight everyone on this planet and if we try, we will surely follow in the footsteps of the Romans.

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Load-Date: April 22, 2004

Rowdy crowds, hecklers press Laura Bush

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 23, 2005, Monday

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Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 796 words

Byline: Nedra Pickler The Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM - Laura Bush waded into Middle East tensions on Sunday during chaotic visits to sacred religious sites, where crowds and hecklers grew so rowdy that armed guards had to restrain them.

America's first lady said what she witnessed showed that passions are running high among Palestinians and Israelis. "The United States will do what they can in this process," she said, urging both sides to work for peace.

Before entering the ruins of an 8th-century palace in the West Bank town of Jericho, Mrs. Bush told reporters, "As you can tell from our day here, this is a place of emotion, everywhere we went, from the Western Wall to the Dome of the Rock to here."

At the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest shrine, protesters demanded the U.S. release an American Jew imprisoned for spying for Israel. At her stop nearby at the Dome of the Rock, she faced heckling from angry Palestinians. One man yelled, "How dare you come in here! Why your husband kill Muslim?"

As she moved into the Palestinian territory, she said both sides in the conflict sent her the same message. "We're reminded again of what we all want, what every one of us pray for," she said. "What we all want is peace."

Mrs. Bush placed a note in the Western Wall that she wrote while flying Sunday from Jordan to Israel. She wanted to keep the contents private, a spokeswoman said.

Dozens of protesters stood nearby, shouting, "Free Pollard now." Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, now serving a life sentence in the United States, was a civilian intelligence analyst for the U.S. Navy.

Mrs. Bush's five-day visit to the Middle East was intended partly to help defuse anti-American sentiment in the region. Strains have arisen because of the U.S.-led war in Iraq and allegations that American interrogators have mistreated Muslim prisoners.

Some visitors that Mrs. Bush encountered near the Dome of the Rock, a mosque on a hilltop compound known to Muslims as Haram as-Sharif and to Jews as Temple Mount, shouted at her in Arabic. "None of you belong in here!" one man yelled as Mrs. Bush and her entourage arrived.

Mrs. Bush removed her shoes as she entered the mosque and walked barefoot on the red carpet. She held a black scarf tightly around her head as she gazed up at the gilded dome and the colorful mosaics.

Rowdy crowds, hecklers press Laura Bush

Some of the women studying inside the mosque were clearly annoyed at the intrusion and waved their fingers at the U.S. entourage. Despite the chaos at both sites, Mrs. Bush kept smiling and said little.

As she left, visitors and media grew so aggressive that Israeli police locked arms and encircled her in a wide human chain. U.S. Secret Service agents packed tightly around her. The police yelled at those who got too close to stay back and pushed them away if they did not listen.

Pollard's supporters also held up signs outside the residence of Israel's president, where Mrs. Bush had tea with his wife, Gila Katsav, and other Israeli women.

No protesters were evident when Mrs. Bush had lunch with leading Palestinian women at a hotel in Jericho, a town that Israel recently turned over to Palestinian control, or when she visited the palace ruins and appealed for peace.

"It will take a lot of baby steps, and I'm sure it will be a few steps backward on the way," she said.

"But I want to encourage the people that I met with earlier and the women that I just met with that the United States will do what they can in this process. It also requires the work of the people here, of the Palestinians and the Israelis to come to the table, obviously. And we'll see."

Behind the recent rise in anti-American sentiment is a now-retracted report in Newsweek that Pentagon investigators had found evidence that interrogators at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, placed copies of the Quran, the Muslim holy book, in washrooms to unsettle suspects and flushed a Quran down a toilet.

"We in principle don't reject anyone's visit to the Al Aqsa Mosque [compound], 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 Quran," the militant Islamic Hamas group said in a statement on its Web site.

Adnan Hussein, director of the Islamic Trust that administers the mosque compound, said Mrs. Bush tried to play down the heckling, saying it could have happened anywhere.

Hussein said he told her he hoped President Bush would exert pressure to achieve peace in the Holy Land. Bush is meeting on Thursday at the White House with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas.

Mrs. Bush got the same message during her lunch with the Palestinian women. "She replied, 'I will make sure that I convey this message to my husband,'" said Fadia Daibes, an expert on water law and policy who attended the event.

Load-Date: May 25, 2005

Jews, gentiles stand together; Torontonians united in strengthening community against cowardly acts of vandalism

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A11; Column

Length: 786 words

Byline: Bill Dunphy

Body

This was no Kristallnacht. In early November, 1938, a young Jewish man, furious over the expulsion of his family from their home in Germany, killed the German third undersecretary, one Ernst von Roth, at the embassy in Paris, France.

The death was used by the Nazi party leadership as a pretext to launch the first large-scale pogrom against German Jews since the Middle Ages.

On Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, synagogues across the country were burnt to the ground, over 90 people were murdered, and Jewish shops and homes were trashed and looted. It came to be known as Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass.

The Hamilton Spectator

This past weekend, Israeli security forces assassinated Sheik Ahmed Yassin, a **Hamas** leader in Gaza.

In Toronto neo-nazi vandals went on a four- or five kilometre rampage late Friday night, toppling tombstones, smashing synagogue and school windows, and defacing dozens of Jewish signs with spray-painted swastikas.

You might be tempted to draw a parallel. Don't.

For one thing, this latest rampage -- and another the previous weekend in a nearby neighbourhood across the border in Vaughan -- predated the killing of Yassin.

More importantly, these ugly outbursts of hatred and rage served not to isolate Toronto's Jews, but to unite them with the broader community.

For every person left shaken and fearful by the attack -- and I met several yesterday -- it seems another is proud to step forward and call the vandals by their true name: cowards.

And for every Jew that stepped forward to decry the attacks, 10 gentiles have stood beside them.

It is a remarkable lesson in the value of building bridges, or as it is now known in Hamilton, strengthening communities.

Jews, gentiles stand together; Torontonians united in strengthening community against cowardly acts of vandalism

Within hours of the full extent of the rampage becoming known on Sunday morning, Ontario's Attorney General Michael Bryant was on the scene lending support. As was Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino. Premier Dalton McGuinty and Prime Minister Paul Martin denounced the attack and offered support.

In Nazi Germany, in 1938, the government planned the riots and the police helped carry them out.

Yesterday, after spending an hour or so in the cemetery where 27 tombstones were toppled, I reached Frank Dimant of the B'nai Brith on his cell phone as he left Queen's Park, where an all-party resolution of support had just been passed.

"There were some very moving speeches from the party leaders, it was a strong statement against hate," Dimant said. "It was frightening to some people, but we don't have panic, people understand that it is escalating, but it didn't just happen suddenly," he said.

The support came from more than politicians.

Bernie Farber, of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said yesterday that the community response has been remarkable.

"We have so many people of different religious affiliations coming up and saying they want to work together.

"It's a lesson in how to respond when your neighbour is under threat. This has been an incredibly painful experience, but to receive all of these e-mails and words of comfort is like a giant hug, in our time of need, if you will. It's a shoulder to cry on. It's just remarkable."

The vandals' trail of destruction seemed to move in a southward line from Steeles Avenue, south through the Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park cemetery, past the Pride of Israel synagogue where five stained glass windows were shattered and swastikas painted on the walls, past a Jewish school where more windows were broken, and more Nazi symbols were splashed, and out to Bathurst Street, where they continued south, overturning a clothing donation box and spray-painting Jewish charity appeal signs almost as far south as Finch Avenue.

Farber noted with some wonder that he's had calls from churches asking for copies of the appeal signs so they can plant them on their front lawns, as a sign of solidarity.

And while there is some fear, Farber says mostly what he hears is anger.

Two women I spoke with in the cemetery -- out of a constant stream of relatives rushing in to see if their family graves had been desecrated -- spoke of weeping at the sight of the tombstones of Holocaust survivors toppled by cowards in the night.

"This is how it started in Germany," said the older of the two, who was born in a refugee camp in Germany after the war.

"It's scary, because what happened 50 to 60 years ago is happening here.

"But this is Canada," she added shaking her head.

Hours after the interview, the two called me -- separately.

The younger woman, born in Hamilton, asked me not to use her name.

"I live (nearby) and well, we don't know who these people are. I'd rather you didn't use my name."

The other woman, her aunt, Helen Kamin Lokash, called to make sure I did use her name.

Jews, gentiles stand together; Torontonians united in strengthening community against cowardly acts of vandalism

Load-Date: March 23, 2004

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Israeli bank raid breaks new turf

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

February 27, 2004, Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 06

Length: 744 words

Byline: By Ilene R. Prusher and Ben Lynfield

Dateline: JERUSALEM AND RAMALLAH

Highlight: Israel raided three banks in the West Bank city of Ramallah this week and seized at least \$6.7 million.

Body

Israel sees it as an audacious and definitive blow to the financial base of terrorism. But Palestinians view the army's unprecedented raid on Ramallah banks as a targeting of their economy as a whole.

The fallout from the raids, which ended at 2 a.m. Thursday, was being gauged by the Palestinian financial sector. Bankers were hoping the army's seizure of 30 million shekels (\$ 6.7 million) in assets would not touch off a run of withdrawals from customers fearing for the safety of their money.

"Now no institution is safe," said Omar Abdel-Razeq, senior research fellow at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute. Its offices near the raided Cairo Amman Bank were converted into a military post during the raids. Israeli troops also raided the Palestine International Bank and the Arab Bank, forcing employees to operate computer systems and hand over money from the vaults, employees said.

The soldiers seized assets Israel said were being used to sponsor attacks by Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, the Lebanese Hizbullah organization, and other groups. "The benefits of this will hopefully be understood over the long term. This is a blow to them because the terrorists who use these banks accounts will be more careful. You create obstacles for these terrorists," said army spokesman Capt. Jacob Dallal. "It took a lot of intelligence to identify the accounts of people who are terrorists" or who support terrorism, he said.

But the US State Department criticized the raids, saying Israeli actions "risk destabilizing the Palestinian banking system."

"We would prefer to see Israeli coordination with the Palestinian financial authorities to stem the flow of funds to terrorist groups," department spokesman Richard Boucher said. Israel says the seized money is to be spent on charity for the well-being of the Palestinian population.

Palestinian Authority leaders dispute that the funds seized were used for terrorism. "Israel will use any excuse to destroy the Palestinian economy," says Local Government Minister Jamal Shobaki. "The economy is the pillar of stability and this harms the very stability of Palestinian society." He termed the raids "armed robbery."

Mr. Abdel-Razeq predicts that the effects of the seizures "could be drastic. It all comes down to public confidence now. The stability of the banking system is very important to Palestinian investors both outside the country and locally. This will certainly add to the difficulties of the investment environment," he said.

Israeli bank raid breaks new turf

Eighteen Palestinians were injured by gunfire in clashes that erupted as troops entered Ramallah Wednesday morning. But the operation actually began before dawn, when the Arab Bank's director of information technology, Ahmed Abu Ghosh, was arrested at his home, according to Ahmed-Samah Abu Rajai Aweidah, a vice president. Soldiers later forced him to come to the bank and give them access to the computer system, Aweidah said.

Twenty-five soldiers with guns took over the Arab Bank's al-Bireh branch, an employee recalled. Its regional headquarters was also taken over by troops. At 10:20 a.m., Mr. Aweidah said, "I was sitting with a customer. I saw an Israeli soldier pointing an M-16 in my face and asking me to put my hands up. We and the customers were held up at gunpoint. Some of the soldiers spoke fluent Arabic, and they ordered us to go into the corridor. Once they made sure all of the offices were empty, they split us into two groups, males on one side and females on the other."

"At 12:30, they let the women go out. They checked the IDs of all the men and let all the male employees leave by 2:30. As senior management, we agreed with the soldiers that we would stay. By threat of force their hackers went through the system. They forced us to print out the balances for the accounts. They forced us to open the safe. They had dynamite ready to blow it open if we didn't. Our teller went in and counted the money and gave it to the soldiers. The soldiers gave us a receipt and took the money out of the bank."

Captain Dallal responded: "Obviously we needed the assistance of some bank employees to locate the whereabouts of the accounts. That's true. There was no abuse of the people."

Zeev Schiff, military-affairs analyst for Ha'aretz newspaper, said: "Maybe people will be hurt by this and we have to compensate them. But we have to be tougher on the families of suicide bombers and take money from them as well."

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Load-Date: February 26, 2004

End of Document

Israel's human rights leadership still being ignored

University Wire

January 22, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 Swarthmore Phoenix via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 789 words

Byline: By Randy Goldstein, Swarthmore Phoenix

Dateline: Swarthmore, Pa.

Body

When Reem Raiyshi set off a metal detector at a border control station while passing from Gaza City to Israel last week, she explained that her leg contained pieces of metal from a surgical procedure.

Twenty-two-year-old Raiyshi, a mother of two, was neither harassed nor humiliated by the soldiers on duty. Rather, she was escorted to the privacy of a nearby room, where she was told to wait for a **female** soldier who would perform a body search. That **female** soldier never came, however, as Raiyshi seized the opportunity to run several meters into a nearby building and blow herself up, killing four soldiers and wounding seven others, both Israelis and Palestinians.

Swarthmore College

While this story certainly demonstrates the vile lengths to which Islamic Palestinian terrorists will go to wage war with Israel, it also contains a more subtle truth. **Hamas** sent Raiyshi on this horrific mission because she was a woman. Had she been a man, the soldiers on duty would have certainly been more wary of her claims. However, in their effort to accommodate this woman with the dignity of a private search by a member of the same sex, these soldiers sadly allowed Raiyshi the opportunity to complete her task.

It is difficult to find an unbiased opinion of what goes on in Gaza and the West Bank between Israelis and Palestinians. It is not difficult, however, to recognize that Israel has demonstrated clear moral leadership in many facets of human rights. Sadly, those who are so quick to criticize the necessarily severe restrictions of passage between Gaza and Israel would likely refuse to recognize that the country's reverence for gender privacy resulted in the death of four of its own soldiers.

Many of Israel's human rights stances would be well cited as exemplars for human rights in the region and the rest of the Arab world. Unlike its antiquated neighbors, Israel has embraced its homosexual community.

Same-sex unions are officially recognized, and dual parenthood is awarded to homosexual couples with children. Homosexual Israelis serve openly in the army. If a homosexual soldier is killed, his or her partner is awarded the same benefits a heterosexual partner would receive. Even Israel's parliament, the Knesset, now has homosexual representation.

Israel's effort to protect alternative lifestyles does not stop at its proper borders. As per a 1951 United Nations resolution, Israel grants asylum to anyone facing gender persecution, which has been interpreted to include persecution of homosexuals. As such, Israel has become a safe haven for Palestinian homosexuals who face

Israel 's human rights leadership still being ignored

abuse, torture and death from the Palestinian Authority and often from their own families. Rather than suppress their true identities in such an intolerant setting, Palestinian homosexuals frequently attempt to flee to Israel, where there is no pressure to mask their sexual preferences.

Also in grave contrast with its neighbors, Israeli law has afforded women the greatest equality of any in the Middle East. Israel is one of the few countries in the region in which women, regardless of their religion, may vote in elections, drive automobiles, dress in any manner they choose and make their own decisions regarding sexual activity. Women serve as corporate CEOs, Air Force pilots and government and civil service officials. Perhaps anti-Israel activists would find worth in demonstrating against the many Arab countries in which women can only dream, in secret, of such equality.

A final example of Israel's passion for human rights is its consistent offering of humanitarian relief in times of need around the world. Israel has sent countless amounts of food and medical supplies to all parts of the world, including Afghanistan, Albania, Venezuela, Rwanda and China. This generosity has been largely embraced as a demonstration of Israel's global humanitarian concern.

Sadly, the Iranian government recently rejected an Israeli offer of aid after an earthquake in the ancient city of Bam killed tens of thousands of people. That Israel would offer humanitarian aid to a country that has historically funded terrorism against Israeli civilians is telling. Sadly, it is even more telling that Iran would reject the aid while its civilians perished under the rubble.

It is unfortunate that critics of Israel have failed to laud the country's record on these and other issues as a model for the rest of the Middle East. When the current conflict has ended, these issues will remain crucial to the lives of ordinary civilians. As such, recognition of Israel's human rights successes will be pivotal in the evolution of individual rights for Israel's neighbors in both the near and distant futures.

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Load-Date: January 22, 2004

The Domino effect: Bush's attack on Iraq was a strategic strike against global terror and it's having positive ripple effects in Libya, Afghanistan, Iran, the Mideast and North Korea

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 14, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A19

Length: 734 words

Byline: WILLIAM SAFIRE

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is the pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shia and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defence: the practical impact of U.S. action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in anti-democratic hands.

New York Times

In Libya, Colonel Moammar Gadhafi took one look at the U.S. army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible UN inspectors and - in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion - promises civilized behaviour. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of our military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, **female**-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under the NATO security umbrella and with some UN guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry - and exporter of Hezbollah and **Hamas** terrorism - the dictator Bashar Assad is nervously seeking to reopen negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria - on top of the overthrow of the despot who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers - further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasser Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an anti-terrorist leader who can deliver statehood.

The Domino effect: Bush's attack on Iraq was a strategic strike against global terror and it's having positive ripple effects in Libya , Afghanistan , Iran , th....

In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That panicky crackdown in Tehran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighbouring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses by everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But the U.S. did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; it is helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate the world faced a real threat. But the United States has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defences in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. America's new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

A Washington columnist cautions it is too early to proclaim nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to America's decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case what it had been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right.

Graphic

Photo: SAMIR MIZBAN, REUTERS; Iraqis watch as members of the new Iraqi army practise manoeuvres in Baghdad. A rudimentary federal republic is forming, with all of the customary growing pains.

Load-Date: January 14, 2004

Puppet masters twist young minds to hate

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia) (Sydney, Australia)

February 10, 2005 Thursday

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Section: FEATURES; Piers Perspective Opinion / Op Ed; Pg. 31

Length: 905 words

Byline: PIERS AKERMAN

Body

PIERS PERSPECTIVE - TODAY: PALESTINIAN CEASEFIRE

ONCE again Israeli and Palestinian leaders have verbally agreed to a ceasefire, but there seems little hope of long-term peace while the Palestinian Authority continues to indoctrinate Palestinian children with hate.

The cessation of hostilities is all for the best, but who will save the young Palestinians from the evil cult of anti-Semitism which they are force-fed by the authorities?

Mahmoud Abbas may well declare an end to violence against Israelis, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon may declare an end to Israeli military operations, but while the Palestinian Authority uses its control of the airwaves and the education system to feed lies into the minds of future generations of Palestinians, there is scant reason to believe the Palestinians are approaching the process with clean hands or, indeed, with much honesty.

The Palestinian Authority has made it clear it is not going to actively crack down on militant groups, but it might show some commitment to peace by ending its disgraceful indoctrination program.

MATP

According to Itamar Marcus, an international authority on Middle East media, even Palestinian pre-schoolers are being instructed to hate Jews and resolve conflict with violence by the Palestine Authority's official television network.

The indoctrination takes place through programs featuring puppets, songs and dances aimed at the youngest Palestinian children.

Mr Marcus, the director of the respected Palestinian Media Watch organisation, said in Sydney last week that the level of anti-Semitic instruction directed at young Palestinians had reached horrific levels.

"The justification for aggression is no longer territorial ambition, it has become an existential anti-Semitic conflict with the elimination of the Jews the sole goal," he said.

Mr Marcus said the authority's promotion of genocide was conducted in three stages, the first of which collectively labelled Jews as defective in nature and character, and inherent evil enemies of God, with murderous traditions.

In the second phase the audience was instructed that Jews were the cause of all wars and a danger not only to Muslims but all humanity.

Puppet masters twist young minds to hate

Thirdly, instructions were given to fight and kill Jews for Allah and humanity.

"The propaganda is so focussed on violence as the only way forward that it almost precludes any peaceful solution, that's why it's so dangerous," Mr Marcus said.

Examples he gave included a video of a 21-year-old terrorist Reem Riyashi reciting "it was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on Heaven's doors with the skulls of Zionists".

The "knock on Heaven's door" phrase has been used in mosques and by other militants, indicating its absorption into Palestinian culture.

Similarly, calls by Palestinian academics, religious leaders and community figures for Muslims to kill all Jews are repeatedly broadcast by the authority.

The practice of teaching children to hate is spread throughout the Palestinian system.

Not only are pre-schoolers targeted with the poisonous messages of hatred through glove puppets advocating the use of AK47s, there are hate-filled musical programs aimed at older kids and sporting events such as soccer tournaments are named after suicide bombers.

In one soccer competition, each team was named after a different terrorist and the prizes were distributed by the brother of a suicide bomber.

Girls' summer camps are named after **female** suicide bombers and young girls are taught to admire dead terrorists and suicide as shahadas -- martyrs -- through programs which teach that death as a suicide bomber is not really death but merely a passport to paradise.

"A death-worship society is being created for Palestinian kids," Mr Marcus said.

"To teach a population that you get to heaven through the murder of a Jew is a terrible message to preach."

Horribly, there are clear parallels between the Palestinian Authority's preaching of genocide as a systematic public policy and the ideology Adolf Hitler outlined in his blueprint for the Nazi reich, Mein Kampf.

Mr Marcus says the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, the father of modern Middle East terrorism, has not changed the outlook for peace in the region.

"No one on the Palestinian side is saying that you do not achieve peace through violence," he said.

"All that [controversial Sydney Peace Prize winner]

Hanan Ashrawi and others are saying is that military action must be judged by its political results.

"No one has said that suicide terrorism is wrong, only that it is damaging now."

Both Fatah and **Hamas**, the two major terrorist organisations, are merely saying that the current period of negotiation provides a space for "the fighters to rest".

This was the same message that was relayed to the militants during each period of earlier peace talks. and doesn't bode well for the future.

In the United States, Mr Marcus has received bipartisan support for his campaign to end the indoctrination of children with anti-Semitic, genocidal messages.

Senator Hillary Clinton, wife of former US president Bill Clinton, described the authority's programming as an "horrific abuse of children".

"How can you think about building a better future if you indoctrinate your children to a culture of death?" she asked.

Puppet masters twist young minds to hate

That is a question Australian supporters of the Palestinian cause might well ask themselves.

akermanp@dailytelegraph.com

Load-Date: February 9, 2005

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