

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:02:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223445013

Documents (100)

1. News focus

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

2. Egypt jails journalists

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

3. DOOM & GLOOM

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

4. Islamic opposition quits Jordan 's local elections Group cites violence and irregularities

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

5. NEWS IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

6. Her Jewish State

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

7. Heroes? We got them to spare

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

8. Smuggling to survive in Egypt Residents ferry weapons to Gaza, making bad situation worse

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

9. Iraq, the nightmare by which all other conflicts are measured

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

10. There'll be no peace between Israelis and Palestinians without both compromising

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

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11. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to News

Sep 30, 2007

12. INSIDE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to News

Sep 30, 2007

13. World Journal

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

14. Caught on the divide IN THE SPOTLIGHT KING ABDULLAH II OF JORDAN

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to News

Sep 30, 2007

15. Pension bill is unveiled

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

16. The world this week

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

17. Shields of shame

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

18. No, sheik, sorry isn't good enough

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

19. JACKSON FIVE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

20. Palestinians bury dead Israeli leader offers talks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

21. Doom & gloom



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

22. The pain behind violence'lt hasn't been at all easy...'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

23. DOOM & GLOOM

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

24. Twelve killed in Israeli Gaza raids

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

25. Doom & gloom

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

26. Doom & gloom

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

27. Harper needs a little more diplomacy abroad

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

28. Reporters on the Job

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

29. Islamic Reformation? Be careful what you wish for; The Protestant Reformation was narrow and intolerant

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

30. DOOM & GLOOM

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

31. Now. Where was I?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

32. Blair unrepentant to the end for Iraq

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

33. Islamic Opposition Group Pulls Out of Elections in Jordan

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

34. Sweet cakes with a terrorist Globalist

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

35. Behind Bars film

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

36._A funny kind of peace

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

37. Martyr Mouse? That's taking the Mickey

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

38. Pelosi mingles with Syrians Bush denounces House Speaker's trip to Damascus

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

39. Round the World in Eighty Seconds

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

40. Israeli president's alleged sex crimes distract from neighbouring conflicts

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

41. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

42. <u>Under Muslim feet</u>



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

43. Readers Write

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

44. Every day he clings on, the damage gets worse

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

45. Mid-East Christians keep faith despite exodus

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

46. 19 killed as Israel steps up Gaza air strikes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

47. Palestinian human shields give Israel pause

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

48. GOVT ASKED NOT TO HAVE ANY RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

49. Weekend: 'I TRY TO FORGET - BUT I CAN'T': She was the 12-year-old girl filmed crying alongside her father and siblings as they lay dying - victims of an explosion at a family picnic. But what happened to Huda Ghalia next? Rory McCarthy meets the shy, teased girl who became a symbol of Palestinian despair

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

50. Talk of revenge as Palestinians bury their dead

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

51. Playing war games with innocents is cowardly

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

52. Rape charges against leader dropped

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

53. NEWS IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

54. A Young Woman's Wish, Entombed in Gaza's Isolation

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

55. An Islamic reformation would be devastating

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

56. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

57. Why the West is no nearer to a cure for raging fever of Muslim rage

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

58. When Heroes Depart

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

59. Iragis find common ground - on a soccer field

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

60. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

61. Quotes: "Things they said this week"

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

62. A Ten-Point Plan for Fostering Arab Democracy The strategic Interest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

63. Town's residents eager to leave rockets behind

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

64. Power struggle behind the scenes; Impasse has forced moderates into a corner

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

65. G2: Fighters, leaders and thinkers: Prominent Palestinian women

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

66. GAZA IN THE GRIP OF GRIEF SHELLING VICTIMS BURIED

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

67. IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

68. In Bethlehem, a sense of something lost Violence has cut tourism on which biblical town depends.



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

69. OTV: TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER: SCREENGRABS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

70. Grief turns to rage as Beit Hanoun buries its dead

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

71. <u>Grief turns to rage as Beit Hanoun buries its dead: Militants call for revenge at funeral of 18 victims Olmert blames artillery strike on 'technical failure'</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

72. World report

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

73. Scrutiny Increases for a Group Advocating for Muslims in U.S.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

74. We should be defending things ethnic minorities value

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

75. YOUR SYDNEY ...

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

76. Sewage wave swamps village

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

77. Sewage 'tsunami' kills five in Gaza: Treatment facility was overworked

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

78. Children lured into Pied Piper death cult

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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Sep 30, 2007

79. Headlines you might have missed this week

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

80. It's the soul which matters LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

81. Syrian ambassador discusses frayed ties with U.S. with U. Florida audience

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

82. Light over Bethlehem a disco ball

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

83. Campus 'emir' faces jail over terror attack files

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

84. Time to stop blame game

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

85. Turkey shines as a model

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

86. UC- Berkeley -area coalition demands new plan for Middle East, Israel negotiations

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2007

87. Dave, we can see through this stunt Platell's People

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

88. Woman smuggled three live crocs, strapped to her body; 50-cm reptiles, with jaws tied shut, hidden under

woman's loose robe
Client/Matter: -NoneSearch Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

89. THIS LIFE: Bob 'The Rock' Cooper World Rock, Paper, Scissors champion

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

90. Headlines you might have missed this week

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

91. Arab voter apathy Long overdue indictment of the region's electoral charades

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

92. An eyewitness view of the new world war

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

93. Israel 'asks victims to foot hospital bills'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

94. These hard-hitting essays on Israel reveal a conflict of interest The Monday Book



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

95. Fundamentalists: an act being cleaned up

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

96. Muslim fundamentalists: Signs of an act being cleaned up

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

97. PM marks deaths of millions at ceremony; Grit MP Irwin Cotler criticizes Iran during gathering on Parliament

Hill

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

98. Wave of sewage kills five in Gaza Village near Israeli border swamped, health woes feared

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

99. Sewage flood brings more misery to Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

100. Woman found with three crocodiles strapped to body at Gaza border crossing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007



News focus

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 23, 2007 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Briefs; Pg. 4

Length: 280 words

Byline: David Marr, Kelly Burke, Bellinda Kontominas, Sunanda Creagh

Body

Behaviour bond for whistleblower

The convicted whistleblower Allan Kessing has been given a nine-month suspended sentence for leaking Customs reports that detailed security failings at Sydney Airport. Publication of the reports led to the 2005 inquiry by a British intelligence expert, Sir John Wheeler, that changed airport security measures. Kessing was placed on a good behaviour bond for nine months. - David Marr

News Review - Page 26

Folic acid in bread

Australia and New Zealand will go ahead with a plan to force bread makers to include additional folic acid to guard against neural tube defects. State and federal health ministers concede the outcome will only be achieved if <u>women</u> of childbearing age continue to take a folic acid supplement. - Kelly Burke

Cancer centre to be built

A \$100 million cancer research centre will be built at the University of NSW, following a \$10 million donation by the businessman Frank Lowy. It is believed the Lowy Cancer Research Centre will be Australia's first integrated child and adult research centre. It will house up to 400 cancer researchers from the University of NSW and the Children's Cancer Institute Australia. - Bellinda Kontominas

Mayor decries propaganda

The Mayor of Bethlehem has defended a plan to form a sister city relationship with Marrickville, after claims the partnership would play into the hands of <u>Hamas</u>. The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies said the City of Bethlehem council was dominated by members of the Palestinian political group. But the council's Christian mayor, Dr Victor Batarseh, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called the fears "Zionist propaganda" yesterday. - Sunanda Creagh

Load-Date: July 16, 2007

End of Document



Egypt jails journalists

Pretoria News (South Africa)
September 25, 2007 Tuesday
e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 6 **Length:** 703 words

Body

Cairo - An Egyptian court sentenced three journalists from the opposition al-Wafd newspaper to two years in jail yesterday after they were convicted of publishing lies about the justice minister. Analysts say Egypt's ruling party wants to quash dissent ahead of an ultimate transition of power from President Hosni Mubarak, who at 79 has been in power for a quarter of a century.

Paris - A Chinese illegal immigrant has died of injuries after plunging from an apartment window in Paris while trying to elude the police. The case of Zhang Chulan (51) drew attention to government attempts to step up deportations of illegal immigrants. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has pledged to expel 25 000 illegal immigrants by the end of the year.

Islamabad - Pakistani mounted police yesterday charged at stone-throwing demonstrators and arrested dozens amid a growing crackdown described by key ally, the US, as "extremely disturbing". And a retired judge who opted to resign rather than swear allegiance to President Pervez Musharraf after his 1999 coup said he would stand against Musharraf in elections.

Cairo - Intact clay pots sealed with cartouches of King Tutankamun, as well as eight baskets, have been discovered in the treasure room of his tomb in the Valley of the Kings. The discovery was unearthed by the first Egyptian excavation team to work on the site near the city of Luxor. Cartouches are oval or oblong in shape and typically contain the Egyptian hieroglyphs for a monarch.

Riyadh - More than 1 000 Saudis have sent a petition to King Abdullah demanding that <u>women</u> be allowed to drive in the conservative Muslim kingdom. The petition was sent on Sunday, Saudi Arabia's National Day, by a <u>women</u>'s lobby group, the Committee for <u>Women</u>'s Rights to Drive. It marks the first serious effort to break an informal ban on <u>women</u> driving since the early 1990s.

London - People who do not get enough sleep are more than twice as likely to die of heart disease, according to a large British study yesterday. Lack of sleep appeared to be linked to increased blood pressure, known to raise the risk of heart attacks and stroke. Research showed those who cut sleep from seven hours a night to five or less were 1.7 times more at risk of death from all causes.

Colombo - This dessert may be a little too rich for you, but you're probably not rich enough for it. A Sri Lankan resort is charging \$14 500 (R102 000) for what it calls the world's most expensive dessert - a fruit-infused confection complete with a chocolate sculpture and an 80-carat aquamarine. The dessert was created to give visitors at The Fortress resort in Galle a "one-of-a-kind experience".

Egypt jails journalists

New Delhi - Indian police have arrested three men suspected of sexually assaulting two Japanese <u>women</u> after drugging them in India's Taj Mahal city of Agra last week. The <u>women</u>, in their early 20s, were offered alcohol mixed with sedatives before the accused men raped them over three days in a "half-unconscious" state. The <u>women</u> left for Japan after registering a complaint with police.

London - Work has started on building the Taranis airframe - a £124-million (R1,74-billion) unmanned combat aerial vehicle demonstrator. The Taranis will help Britain's Ministry of Defence's in its approach to the future capabilities needed for deep-target attack and intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance. Ground testing of the Taranis is scheduled to begin in early 2009.

Sydney - Australia's wine grape harvest next year could be cut by more than half by the worst drought in a century. The vintage is expected to be between 800 000 tons and 1,3-million tons, down from an average of 1,9-million tons, according to a forecast by an industry taskforce. Between 800 and 1 000 of the nation's wine grape growers are broke and at risk of going out of business.

Tel Aviv - Several leading Israeli intellectuals, including acclaimed authors Amos Oz and David Grossman, have signed a petition calling on Israel to negotiate a ceasefire with the Islamic militant <u>Hamas</u> movement. They note that "Israel has in the past negotiated with the worst of its enemies" and says "the appropriate course of action is to negotiate with <u>Hamas</u> to reach a general ceasefire".

Load-Date: September 24, 2007

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DOOM & GLOOM

Sydney MX (Australia)
May 23, 2007 Wednesday
SYD Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 11

Length: 266 words

Body

MATP

SIX DIE IN ANKARA EXPLOSION

A BOMB exploded in one of the Turkish capital's busiest commercial centres today, killing six people.

The blast, during evening rush hour in Ankara's Ulus district, also injured about 80 people.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said four Turks and a Pakistani died in the blast, while one person died in hospital.

TRUCE TALKS SET FOR GAZA

ISRAEL warned <u>Hamas</u> today that none of its leaders was safe from attack after a rocket fired by its militants killed an Israeli woman, as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Gaza for talks on shoring up a truce.

Abbas was due to meet Prime Minister Ismail Haniya later to discuss ways of strengthening a three-day-old ceasefire.

CULT BLAMED FOR DISMEMBERMENT

VILLAGERS in central Kenya found heads placed on poles and body parts scattered in bushes in a multiple murder blamed today on an outlawed sect.

The Mungiki sect has fought weeks of battles with minibus operators who are resisting demands for protection money.

The remains of six people were found this week.

BODIES FOUND IN PLANE WRECKAGE

A HUNTER in Cameroon has discovered the wreckage of a South African six-seater aircraft and two charred bodies on the side of Mt Cameroon three months after it disappeared.

The twin-engined Piper PA-34 went missing on February 24 after losing contact with air traffic control during a flight from Togo to Cameroon's city of Douala.

DOOM & GLOOM

FEMALE MOUNTAINEER DIES

THE first Nepali woman to climb Mt Everest from its northern face has died on the world's fourth-highest peak.

Pemba Doma Sherpa fell while descending Mt Lhotse, south of Everest.

Load-Date: May 23, 2007

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Islamic opposition quits Jordan's local elections; Group cites violence and irregularities

The International Herald Tribune
August 2, 2007 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 767 words

Byline: Hassan M. Fattah - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: AMMAN

Body

Suha Maayeh contributed reporting.

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After months of growing tension with the Jordanian government, the opposition Islamic Action Front abruptly withdrew from nationwide municipal council elections. The group cited voting irregularities in the elections, which were seen as a test for the more politically sensitive parliamentary elections this fall.

The Islamic Action Front, or IAF, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and the most influential political opposition group in the country, announced at midday Tuesday that it was pulling out of the elections. The group said that because of violence and accusations of irregularities, its participation would lend legitimacy to the government's efforts to weaken it.

"The level of corruption we witnessed made it impossible for us to continue with this election," said Zaki Bani Rsheid, the group's secretary general. Rsheid said that although the group had withdrawn, it was not boycotting the political process altogether.

The group charged that soldiers had been bused into contested districts to vote and that they were allowed to cast multiple ballots. It also said government security personnel had intimidated some voters and kept them from reaching the polls.

Prime Minister Marouf al-Bakhit said the Islamic Action Front's withdrawal was illegal because it violated rules defining the time frame for quitting an election. Bakhit would not comment on specific allegations of fraud, but said the elections were "legitimate under the Constitution and will not be marred by the nonparticipation of a certain party."

Sporadic violence at or near polling stations, including gunfire and street brawls, further marred the sense of change the government had sought to engender.

Jordan has long tried to engage and co-opt its Islamic opposition, which is one of the few officially sanctioned Islamist political parties in the Middle East. However, with the rise of <u>Hamas</u> in the Palestinian territories and

Islamic opposition guits Jordan 's local elections Group cites violence and irregularities

growing fears of an Islamist ascendancy throughout the region, the government has worked to weaken the group and to ensure that it does not make any major political gains, analysts say.

"What is clear is, we will not be drinking from the same goblet as the Palestinians did," said Fahd Kheitan, a political columnist for the Jordanian daily Al Arab al-Yawm, referring to the election of <u>Hamas</u> to lead the Palestinian government in 2006. "The government is willing to go as far as it needs to curtail the march of the Islamists."

The uproar appeared to stymie efforts by the government to show off its effort at reform and increased representation.

"The IAF is aware of how sensitive this matter is to the government and how it will affect it negatively," said Muhammad Momani, a political science professor at Yarmouk University. "They are using this as a bargaining chip to deal with the government, to press the government - and the government in no time will attempt to re-engage them."

The elections marked the first time that Jordanians outside Amman could elect local mayors, who were previously appointed by the king. It was also the first time Jordanians could elect entire municipal councils instead of having half the membership appointed by the king. The government had also dropped the voting age to 18 from 19 to include more of the country's young population.

But in the circuitous manner that political reform often takes in much of the Middle East, the changes excluded Amman, Jordan's capital and largest city, where the Islamic Action Front has its greatest following.

Some analysts saw the group's withdrawal as well-planned political theater intended to embarrass the government in an election Rsheid conceded was secondary to the parliamentary elections in the fall.

City councils in Jordan are largely administrative bodies with limited political and spending power. The front had fielded only 90 candidates, four of them **women**, among more than 2,000 vying for more than 1,000 seats across the kingdom.

But in a country where tribal loyalties typically trump Islamic credentials in local elections, the Islamists did not seem very likely to make a tremendous showing.

Still, the tug of war between the government and the Islamic Action Front was seen largely as a prelude to the November vote, in which the group is favored to gain seats.

"This is the first confrontation between the two sides on the streets before the parliamentary elections," said Kheitan, the columnist, who said the government had made its position plain. "After today, the statement is clear: The Islamists will not be allowed to spread."

Load-Date: August 2, 2007

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hobart Mercury (Australia) May 28, 2007 Monday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 16

Length: 292 words

Body

LAPD crackdown

THE Los Angeles Police Department is returning to leaner standards after complaints that it was stuffing its ranks with pudgy recruits. The city's personnel department is reinstating rules that LAPD male recruits carry no more than 22 per cent body fat and <u>women</u> no more than 30 per cent.

City stopped

A GENERAL strike shut down Nepal's capital yesterday as schoolteachers pressured the government to rein in police who they accused of beating demonstrating teachers.

Royal concern

BRITAIN'S Prince Charles and his wife Camilla have expressed their concern for Madeleine McCann, the British girl kidnapped in Portugal. It is 24 days since Madeleine was snatched from her bed at the Ocean Club Mark Warner resort in the Algarve town of Praia da Luz.

Texas deaths

RESCUERS have suspended their search for a man now presumed to be the sixth person killed by rising waters in central Texas, and forecasters warned that recurring rain could cause more flooding across the Plains.

Journo 'alive'

KIDNAPPED BBC journalist Alan Johnston is alive and well and could be released "very soon", a Palestinian government official has said in Britain. Dr Ghazi Hamad, the government's spokesman and member of <u>Hamas</u>, said he knew the group holding the BBC's Gaza correspondent and was personally involved in negotiations to free him.

Blast toll rises

A WORKER injured in a methane blast in a Siberian coal mine died in hospital yesterday, bringing the death toll in Russia's latest mine disaster to 39, a government official said.

Imran Khan banned

A SOUTHERN Pakistani province has barred cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan from visiting for a month after he called a political leader a "terrorist" in the wake of deadly gunbattles in Karachi earlier this month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Load-Date: May 28, 2007

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The New York Times
July 8, 2007 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 6; Column 0; Magazine; Pg. 34

Length: 8223 words

Byline: By Roger Cohen

Roger Cohen is a columnist for The International Herald Tribune and a guest columnist for The New York Times.

Body

Soon after our first meeting in her Spartan office in Jerusalem, Tzipi Livni, the Israeli foreign minister, called me. Something was on her mind. A lawyer by training, she does not like to leave loose ends. I had asked her if the four years she spent in Mossad, the intelligence service, made her a disciplined person. Livni had seemed taken aback by the question, which interrupted the cascade of her pronouncements on Israel and its Palestinian nemesis. After a long hesitation, she said: "I don't like this phrase, a disciplined person. I don't know."

Now, an hour later, she wanted to set the record straight. "I was thinking about this idea of me as a disciplined person," she began. I perched myself on a stone wall near the King David Hotel and listened through a blustery desert wind. "There are other parts of me that are different. I prefer jeans to a suit, sneakers to high heels, markets to malls. You've just returned from Paris: I prefer the Quartier Latin to the Champs Alysees. In general, I don't like formality at all. It is just part of what I do. You know, when I was young, I went to the Sinai and worked as a waitress."

I had not known this detail about a woman who entered Israeli politics only 11 years ago, the first to serve as foreign minister since Golda Meir and a potential prime minister. Nor was it easy to imagine the tall, well-groomed 48-year-old I had just met, in her gold-belted black pants, her crocodile-skin shoes and her snug black jacket, donning denims and sneakers and hitting a flea market.

But Livni's phone call was telling. Israelis these days fret about how they are seen. They like to convey the spirit of the underdog -- that of Israel's heroic beginnings -- as if discomfited by the adornments of an increasingly moneyed, Americanized and postheroic society. More powerful than ever, Israelis are also more anxious than ever, a paradox with U.S. parallels that they find maddening. Israel's strength and wealth grow, but the country's long-term security does not grow with them. The shekel rises; so does the billowing smoke just over the border in Gaza. Two Israeli withdrawals, from Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza in 2005, have ended up bolstering two groups that the West and Israel brand as terrorists -- Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u>. Some Israelis, watching the black-masked militia of <u>Hamas</u> take over Gaza, have taken to calling the benighted sliver of territory "Hamastan."

The mother of all conflicts -- the 59-year-old battle for the same land of Zionist and Palestinian national movements -- has become even more tangled. It has been dragged into the wider crisis of Islamic civilization that daily spawns fervid death-to-the-West jihadists. To a Palestinian national struggle for a homeland, there is an

answer, at least in theory. To a religious and annihilationist campaign against Israel, there is none. One of Livni's catchphrases is, "There is a process of delegitimization of Israel as a Jewish state." She sees herself in a race against time.

To manage that race, she wants to lead. Her diplomatic energy, not least in helping put together the multinational United Nations force now in Lebanon, has impressed in capitals from Washington to Europe. Her restiveness is clear. After the spring publication of the Winograd Commission's interim report on the 2006 Lebanon war, which lambasted Prime Minister Ehud Olmert for lacking "judgment, responsibility and prudence," Livni told him he should quit but did not resign herself. She also said she would one day stand for leadership of their centrist Kadima Party. This unusual act of defiance toward her boss, widely criticized as only half an insurrection, was a measure of Livni's ambition, impatience and lingering uncertainties.

"Stagnation works against those who believe in a two-state solution," Livni said in our first conversation. The West, she suggested, needs to tell <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamist movement battling Fatah for control of a Palestinian movement now split between Gaza and the West Bank, that it must not only recognize Israel's right to exist but also "the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state, which is not that obvious anymore."

The Jewish state has been tied to the Livni family with a special bond since zero hour. For Livni, personal history is national history. Her parents were among the first couples to marry in the newborn state, the day after its foundation, on May 15, 1948. Her father, Eitan, served as operations chief for the Irgun, the Zionist guerrillas who used what would today be called terrorist methods to blast the British out of Mandate Palestine. Her mother, Sarah, was also an Irgun fighter; she suckled her daughter on visions of Eretz Israel, the biblical "Land of Israel," including Judea and Samaria on the West Bank. Territorial compromise for peace had no place in the family lexicon. It was the weak talk of the peaceniks.

Yet here is Livni wanting to follow Meir and become the second woman to serve as Israeli prime minister, precisely in the name of a peace that would involve the surrender of West Bank land. On the face of it, she has moved a long way from her political starting point. "I want things to happen," she said, "especially when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Israel's values, the way I believe is the right way." And to achieve that, you want the top job? "Only for this," she replied. "I don't like the exposure, the respect and so on."

Her voice trailed away. Livni's ambition is matched by only her bouts of self-effacement. You feel her presence in a room. She is striking, in a raw rather than a refined way, broad-faced, pale-eyed and slender. She is also strikingly confident in her lucid expositions of what she believes the Middle East needs. Stretched tight, like the membrane of the drums she recently took up playing, she exudes a tense energy. But when the conversation turns to her personal feelings, she shrinks, the "eehhhs" and "ummms" drawn out as she gathers her thoughts.

What she has, at a time of disorientation and seeping corruption in Israeli politics, is an image of absolute integrity, the distinction of being a woman on a male-dominated political scene and a wholesome quality that stands in contrast to the slick, wheeler-dealer style of Olmert, whose approval ratings have plunged into the single-digit zone.

Genuineness is her thing. At Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust memorial museum, Livni, who is married with two sons, had this to say two years ago: "Being a Jewish mother is to understand with the birth of the second son how impossible and inhumane is the choice between the two." And this: "Being an Israeli is to know that you have risen from the ashes of those who were killed and knowing you have a responsibility for the coming generations."

Gil Samsonov, an advertising executive who has known her for many years, put it this way: "Her brand is clean. She's not looking left and right to see whom to please." But Israelis are looking desperately for someone who can please them. The report on the Lebanon war crystallized the country's disorientation. How could Hezbollah have repulsed the Israeli Defense Forces? How could the country's defense minister at the time, Amir Peretz, have had, as the report put it, no "knowledge or experience in military, political or governmental matters?" How can Olmert and his finance minister be facing investigations for corruption? How is it that the former justice minister got himself in trouble over sexual-harassment charges, the same issue that just brought down the president, Moshe Katsav? Is Israel -- far from David Ben-Gurion's model state of "working people, at home on the soil" -- becoming just another tawdry commercial country with an oversize army?

To all these interrogations, Livni, competent and decent, seems to provide a possible answer. "She comes from a different place with a special, strong love of Israel," says Dita Kohl-Roman, a friend. Shlomo Avineri, a political scientist, agrees: "There is an Israeli authenticity about her."

Authenticity was a core quality of Ariel Sharon, Livni's political mentor, the last of the heroic breed of warrior-politicians. He liked her industry and loyalty. His imprimatur bolsters her because at a time of national self-questioning, his loss is keenly felt. It was with Sharon that Livni made her fundamental ideological break: from a defender in the right-wing Likud Party of an Israeli state on all its biblical land to the idea of land for peace, embodied in the evacuation of Gaza in 2005 and the promise of a further withdrawal from the West Bank.

This shift -- the reason for Sharon's, Livni's and Olmert's centrist Kadima Party, created in late 2005 -- was rooted in a simple calculation: an Israel that wants to remain Jewish and democratic cannot also be despotic on occupied territories where Palestinian demography is against it. "There were three ideological goals for families like Livni's and mine: Greater Israel, a Jewish state and democracy," says Arye Naor, a political scientist whose father also fought in the Irgun. "Well, it became clear you could have any two of them, but adding a third condemned the enterprise."

That is logical. A Greater Israeli democracy will end up not being Jewish because there will be more Arabs in it than Jews. Livni likes logic. As her adviser Tal Becker put it to me, "She believes constructive ambiguity can become destructive ambiguity." So it was she who, working for Sharon, wrote the program of the now-governing Kadima. And it is she who pushes hardest to spell out to Palestinians the concessions they must make.

"Just as Israel was established for the Jewish people and gave refuge to them from European and Arab states, so a Palestinian state is the homeland of the Palestinian people, those who live in the territories and those who left in 1948 and are being kept as political cards in refugee camps," she told me. "This is the national answer. The solution for Palestinians is the Palestinian state. Israel is not part of the solution."

Or, put another way, there can be no "right of return," a central canon for Palestinians since the war of Israel's foundation in 1948. That year, the United Nations declared in Resolution 194: "Refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date."

History moves on, of course. About 1 in 10 Palestinians alive today and registered as refugees with the United Nations was born in Mandate Palestine. A Palestinian return en masse would condemn the Jewish state. In that sense, Livni is only stating the obvious. Whether such bluntness is helpful is another question. Palestinians are not about to trade one of their biggest chips up front. "What Livni wants us to do is give up before we start negotiations," says Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. "I feel sorry for her. She wants to remove all risk, all fears, before engaging in discussion."

But Livni can be relentless-- a "nudnik," or nagger, in the words of Igal Galai, a friend of Sharon's. When Livni called me back after our first meeting, something else was eating at her: "I was minister of immigrant absorption in 2004, and I convinced Sharon that it was important that I go see Condoleezza Rice in Washington. So I went, and I saw how she was interested in the depth of the conflict, in finding a real process and doing what was right and just. I had the opportunity to convince Rice, then national security adviser, and so make a contribution to the statement President Bush made soon after."

In that groundbreaking statement of April 14, 2004, George W. Bush declared: "It seems clear that an agreed, just, fair and realistic framework for a solution to the Palestinian refugee issue as part of any final status agreement will need to be found through the establishment of a Palestinian state and the settling of Palestinian refugees there, rather than in Israel." No American leader had ever so explicitly trashed the "right of return" of the Palestinians. "That was my contribution," Livni revealed to me. "I did the right thing -- and so did Bush."

Livni seems to share many things with Rice, who calls the foreign minister a "friend" and a woman of peace. They have the same intensity and work ethic, the same difficulty in thinking beyond a doctrine once it has been formed, the same disciplined intelligence that sometimes appears to lack the subtlety of wisdom and the same penchant for talking about "values" and what is "right."

But I found myself thinking, What good was the "right thing" or plans for Palestinian refugees festering in camps or Bush's two-state road map or Rice's principles or Livni's good intentions, when the whole area -- spiraling downward with a devilish energy, developing ever-more-divergent Israeli and Palestinian narratives, splintering and radicalizing in the image of Iraq, threatened by a resurgent Iran, permeated by jihadists without borders -- was going up in recrimination-clogged smoke? I believed in Livni's good faith, her energy, her honesty, her determination. What I was not sure about after our first meeting was her grasp on reality. The fact is, Israelis and Palestinians have parted company. I could see little evidence that Livni, for all her lucidity, was any exception to this.

When you drive from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv on Route 443, which cuts through Israeli-occupied West Bank territory, walls accompany you. Not merely the "security barrier," as Israel calls the 430-mile-plus high-tech fence it is building to keep out Palestinians (who call it "the racist, separating wall"), but a variety of other bulwarks, of wire and concrete and brick. The barriers exist in the name of security, security, security -- no escaping the Israeli mantra. To some degree, they have delivered. Palestinian suicide bombings have all but ceased. But of course they betray insecurity, a gnawing condition Israelis once thought they might overcome but now tend to view as inescapable.

Also accompanying you along the route is a procession of concrete pillars holding aloft the high-speed-train track that will one day connect the two cities in a half-hour or so and perhaps relieve the clogged traffic and swearing drivers inching across the country. Israel, as this megaproject and national bottleneck suggest, is booming. Its stock market keeps climbing. Areas north and south of Tel Aviv amount to the Middle East's Palo Alto. An emblematic act of the new Israel was the decision of Dan Halutz, then the armed-forces chief, to offload his stock on the eve of the Lebanon war. Materialism now does battle with Zionism for the Israeli soul -- Moshe Dayan requiescat in pace.

I suppose this is natural enough. After double-whammy intifadas, Oslo's aborted peace process, Camp David's near thing in 2000 and repeated illustration of the prodigious Palestinian penchant for self-destruction, the temptation to imagine you are in California-with-fences is understandable. Israelis once conducted a daily argument of Talmudic intensity about how to settle with the Palestinians. Now many just say, To heck with them and their festering stew of a failed and now bifurcated <u>Hamas</u>-Fatah prestate!

"The left saw that its outstretched hand had failed, and the right saw that its iron fist has failed, and they have both veered toward a center that now says: 'Go away. Let's build a bunker and wait and see,' " Shlomo Avineri told me. "The fact is, Yasir Arafat did not set up a state; he set up a means to continue the struggle. And Israel did not prepare for Palestinian statehood; it went on building settlements. Each believes only the language of force works in the end."

This ultimately futile belief is part of what makes Israel such a jangled place these days, its "fantastic economic bubble," in the words of the former diplomat Itamar Rabinovich, hovering over unease. "The country is in good shape, and the mood is in bad shape," Shimon Peres told me. Peres, who joined Kadima from the left rather than Livni's right, says he believes the mood is sour "because we have failed to bring Israel and the Middle East into a new age." No kidding. Islamist fanatics rave about restoring the Caliphate, and <u>Hamas</u> talks of seeing off Israel the way Crusaders were once seen off: you can hardly get more "Old World" than that. But a "new age" Israel is equally vigorous, if less often in the news.

After meeting Peres, I found myself at a dinner party with Yossi Vardi, a dot-com millionaire who made a bundle from one of the first Internetwide instant-messaging services. "Israel became very fertile ground for young people with ideas," Vardi told me. "More than \$1.4 billion in venture capital came in recently. The place is crazy -- a technology boom alongside a very unacceptable political situation and chaos in Gaza, where most of the population is living on under \$2 a day. It's not right or sustainable." He took a sip of a respectable cabernet sauvignon -- Israeli winemaking is on the rise (from a low base) -- before adding: "You know, power corrupts, and occupation is the ultimate manifestation of power. There are no checks, no balances. Occupation, after 40 years, corrupts absolutely."

Livni has a different view. "I don't think the way Israel behaves is against Israeli values," she insists. In a speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in March, she said, "I believe that we are defined -- as individuals, as leaders and as nations -- by our values and by the choices we make to defend them." She sees Israel side by side with the United States in "a struggle for the future of the free world."

As this language suggests, a lot of her intellectual energy goes into placing Israel within the Bush administration's post-9/11, us-and-them Weltanschauung, as an integral actor in the war on terror, battling on the side of liberty against a Palestinian threat that gets agglomerated with Al Qaeda and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran --regardless of the differences between seeking Palestine and seeking the annihilation of the West. Livni sometimes seems to pursue the development of a Pavlovian response to the Middle Eastern conundrum. Say "Israel." Ping! American values. Say "Palestine." Ping! Terror. "I would like to remind the world that they entered our restaurants, our discotheques; they killed children in their beds," Livni told me. "I can understand, and I can feel, the grief of a Palestinian mother. The loss of a child or a family member is awful. It is the same pain. But in any legal system, there is a difference between premeditated murder and somebody who kills by mistake."

She continued: "These terrorists are looking for children to kill while we are trying to avoid it. It is unfair to pitch together in the same package, to say there are victims on both sides, circles of violence and so on. That does not contribute to a solution. When the Palestinians think that the world's judgment is 'O.K., this can happen,' they will never stop. They need to know that the world cannot accept it, that terror is terror."

It is precisely to stop terror, Livni emphasized, that the wall has been built against the wishes of the Israeli far right, who saw in it a division of Zion: "Yet when I am in Europe, I hear Palestinians saying this is ghettoization, this is the Berlin Wall. And I say, at the end of the day, when you are talking about a two-state solution, what do you think? There is going to be a border, a fence, something."

But where? Livni brought out a map to make her point that a return to the precise 1967 lines -- as U.N. resolutions and the Arab peace plan reiterated this year in Riyadh demand -- was impractical. Given certain Israeli settlements, what Bush in 2004 called "already existing major Israeli population centers," and the eventual need to somehow link Gaza and the West Bank (Livni favors a tunnel), the border would have to shift some. So, she said, perhaps the barrier, which often zigzags inside the West Bank to separate Jewish settlers and Palestinians, could even be helpful.

"Palestinians oppose this even before they know where the line would be," she mused. "There sometimes seems to be a contradiction between what Palestinians demand, what they claim and the way they act." Palestinians, however, have no monopoly on self-contradiction. Israelis -- Americanized but still in an existential struggle, terrified of annihilation but now the region's overwhelming superpower, often blinded by the wall to what is perpetrated behind it -- can sometimes resemble studies in unreason garbed in the practiced language of Western reasonableness. At times I wondered to what degree Livni had really moved from her hard-line, Likudnik beginnings.

t the Nahalat Yitzhak Cemetery in Tel Aviv, lilac petals lie scattered on the dusty earth, and old cypresses form a solemn cortege. It is a beautiful oasis in an unlovely city. At one corner is a gravestone with an unusual engraving -- that of the whole biblical Land of Israel with a gun and bayonet cutting through the center and the words "Only Thus!" This is where Livni's father, Eitan, who died in 1991, is buried. He insisted in his will on this Irgun symbol.

He was a tough purist, and his only son, Eli Livni, the foreign minister's brother, appears to have inherited some of his no-nonsense directness. "In the Livni family," Eli says breezily, "your father and mother never hug you. What they give you is a good, formal education." This upbringing involved occasional beatings with a belt (for him) and rigorous instruction in honoring principles. The Livnis were outsiders, a test of their moral fiber. Throughout the children's education, the Labor Party was dominant. The left-wing Palmach, whose commanders included Yitzhak Rabin and Dayan, held places of honor in accounts of the state's creation. The rightist Irgun, by contrast, was marginalized. Its political successor, the right-wing Herut Party, founded by Menachem Begin and others in 1948 and destined to evolve into Likud, was also sidelined. As an Irgun hero, Herut militant and close friend of Begin, Eitan Livni long stood on Israel's political margins.

"Tzipi got into trouble at school at the age of 12 when a teacher was talking about the glorious role of the Haganah and Palmach, and she stood up and said, 'What about the Irgun and the Stern Group?' " Eli says. "Her teacher contacted my mother and said Tzipi should not argue about facts."

Most Saturdays, the Livnis would go to Begin's tiny Tel Aviv apartment. Tzipi (short for the biblical name Tziporah) recalls conversations centering on "stories from the past, frustration from the present and hopes for the future." The frustration was about exclusion: the way promotions in the army depended on being in the Labor Party and getting ahead meant praising the Labor prime minister, Ben-Gurion, rather than Vladimir Jabotinsky, the spiritual father of Likud and a Livni family hero.

"In the history books, they were not there; they were the enemy in a way, being rightists," she told me. "On May 1, which is Labor Day, everyone was out with their red flags, and I was the one walking with the Israeli flag."

From an early age, in other words, Tzipi Livni lived with the sense of being distinct, the need to be willful if she was to be heard and the example of a hero-father not about to hug her. Mirla Gal, who would reach the top of the Mossad during a 20-year career, met Livni in first grade. She recalls the curiosity of other kids at Livni's membership in the Betar scouts, a group founded by Jabotinsky. Gal, like most Israeli children, was in the mainstream scouts movement, called Tzofim, where the songs and heroes were different.

"We were curious because her world wasn't ours," Gal said over lunch at a beachfront Tel Aviv restaurant. "Even then she was principled. When I was 12, she turned vegetarian and has been ever since." Gal gazed out across the broad beach to a glittering Mediterranean -- hard to believe it was the same tranquil sea a few miles away in seething Gaza -- before adding, "You know, she drives herself very hard and always demands a lot of herself."

"Too much?" I asked.

Gal paused. Prudence gets ingrained during two decades in Israeli intelligence. "What Tzipi asks of herself, she asks of others," she said finally. "She has a very high threshold for trust, but once it's there, you're O.K. I understand because I am the same way. You have to be straight. She was raised in a house where these things were fundamental. She grew up in a very Zionist home. She loves this country so much. That is what drives her."

The driven quality was quickly apparent. Livni was a very good soccer player, a very good basketball player, a tomboy who would go nuts when her brother hung her beloved cat out the window. Her father was rarely around, working nonstop in a glucose business, trying to raise money after work for the widows and war-injured of the Irgun. He was a dreamer -- a quality Eli also sees in his sister, who has hung a photograph of their father, in pensive profile, as the only adornment of her foreign minister's office.

"My father expressed a combination of values," she told me, sitting in that office. "There was the understanding that the whole land of Israel was our heritage, but the other part was the need to respect others, not to control others' lives. And because of the need to make a combination of these values, not to bring them into contradiction, I got to my own conclusion, that there is a need to divide the land." That step was a long time coming. After the 1973 war, as a teenager, she took part in demonstrations against Henry Kissinger's peace plans. Giving up land, any land from Sinai to the Golan Heights, was unacceptable.

In the army, Livni excelled, and at training school she was twice elected most-outstanding officer. Gal took part in the same training; she observed a toughness that impressed everyone. This, combined with impeccable nationalist credentials, made Livni an ideal candidate for the Mossad, which she joined in 1980 at the age of 22. "I brought her to Mossad," Gal says. "She was very good at everything she did and only left by her own choice. She could have had a 20-year career there too. The smartness, the coolness, the speed of analysis, the straightness -- these are prized qualities in Mossad."

Livni will acknowledge only that she served in Paris. Did the Mossad experience influence her? "No, no, no," she said, laughing uneasily. Nothing? Nothing, she insisted.

Her brother once visited her in the French capital and found her enrolled as a student in the Sorbonne, behaving in the strangest ways. "I came all the way from Lagos, where I was working in construction, and stayed for two days, and I think I saw her for one hour," he recalls. "She would get these phone calls and say, I have to go, I have to go, and she'd rush off, and so in the end I said, O.K, I'm out of here."

Livni wanted a more normal life. She left Mossad in 1984 and settled down in Israel. She completed a law degree and married Naftali Shpitzer, who now owns an advertising agency. They took up residence in a small apartment in Tel Aviv, not far from where she grew up. A first son, Omri, now in the army, was born soon after; a second, Yuval, followed. When I saw Livni a second time, in Tel Aviv, she said the seashore was where she felt at home. "But," she added, "my existence here comes out of the connection between me and Temple Mount. This is the umbilical cord. It comes from Jerusalem."

The biblical Jewish heritage again: you cannot take it out of Livni; it is part of her Likud inheritance. As she says, "Likud was my home, almost literally." Her father had an office in the Likud building; her own law office was also there. Just before Begin's rise to power in 1977, ending three decades of Labor hegemony, her father was elected to the Knesset, but politics did not grab Livni until the Oslo peace accords of 1993 cast her into inner turmoil. Once again, as in childhood, she felt alienated.

"Society was split and full of hatred, and I found myself in between two camps," she told me. "One was the historical right of the Jews on the whole land of Israel and keeping the entire land." Livni touched her heart. "This was my history, my heritage. On the other, I saw the left wing thinking we could live in a new Middle East, happily ever after. But I thought they were unrealistic, even if I saw we would have to give up some land to preserve the dream of Israel."

On balance, she could not support Rabin's push for peace. Oslo, even before Rabin's assassination in 1995, was an illusion to her because it involved signing a memorandum while leaving the tough issues -- Jerusalem, land and refugees -- to last. The lawyer in her bridled. "The advice can never be just to sign and leave the most difficult parts to the end," she said.

Livni's first campaign for the Knesset, in 1996, failed narrowly, but she caught the eye of the Likud prime minister, Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu, and served as the head of a privatization program that helped stir Israel's current economic boom. Netanyahu ceded to Sharon as mentor after Livni was elected to the Knesset in 1999. At various ministries -- Regional Cooperation, Agriculture, Housing and Construction, Justice and Immigrant Absorption -- she acquired a broad political education. Her efficiency and energy paid dividends. A vicious clash as justice minister over Supreme Court appointments -- she delayed the naming of anyone after her own choice was resisted and so drove some judges crazy -- amounted to one of few ripples.

"She was a Likud princess, coming from the family she did, and Bibi pushed her, and then Sharon pushed her, and here we are," says Zalman Shoval, a prominent Likud member and former ambassador to the United States. "I don't know whether Sharon ever thought of her as a future prime minister. I doubt it, because he only thought about succeeding himself. But she was good for him."

As the collapse of Oslo and Camp David ended the left's dreams of a warm peace and the second intifada hardened views across the country and 9/11 cemented Israel's antiterror alliance with the United States, Livni came to represent a realist, rightward-shifting center. Disengagement from Gaza became the new face of firmness, a "test case" on the road to possible statehood for the Palestinians. She glided upward, spared most of the rough and tumble of politics.

As a result, doubts have lingered about whether she has what it takes to prevail. "There's nothing Clintonian about her, no familiarity or touch with crowds," says Majalli Whbee, a Druze Knesset member who served as her directorgeneral at the Ministry of Regional Cooperation. "I've talked to her about this, told her not to put herself behind glass, and she agrees." Shuval also wonders if she has the needed "fire in her belly." Still, looking ahead to an election that is most likely to come within a year, given the government's weakness, he acknowledged, "A Kadima Party led by Livni is much more formidable opposition for Likud than one led by Olmert."

That Livni will realize her ambition is possible. She could be chosen to lead Kadima into the next election and triumph. Israeli politics are unpredictable. But her motivational dream of a two-state peace -- one at odds with the Greater Israel map on her father's grave -- still seems far-fetched. Putative Palestine is remote and riven and receding. Whether Palestinians, even the moderates now gathered in an emergency West Bank government, will prove susceptible to her ideas is far from clear.

You don't so much drive into the Palestinian territories these days as sink into them. Everything, except the Jewish settlers' cars on fenced settlers-only highways, slows down. Donkeys, carts and idle people replace Israel's first-world hustle-bustle. The buzz of business gives way to the clunking of hammers. The whole desolate West Bank scene, described recently by the World Bank as "a shattered economic space," is punctuated with shining garrisonlike settlements on hilltops and checkpoints where Palestinians see themselves reflected in the stylish shades of Russian-immigrant Israeli soldiers. If you are looking for a primer on colonialism, this is not a bad place to start.

In Jericho, where thousands of foreign tourists would arrive daily when the "peace of the brave" of Rabin and Yasir Arafat still held, a luxury hotel is almost empty; Palestine-in-embryo is a hard sell for tour operators. On a windblown street stands a rundown building with the Orwellian name of Negotiations Affairs Department. In it sits Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator.

He looks brisk in his yellow tie. When the phone rings, it is the Jordanian foreign minister; they discuss Rice's postponing another trip. Erekat, a senior Fatah member, has an acerbic wit. "I try my best to understand the Israelis' fears and aspirations, but they can get too complicated for me," he said. "Every day there's something going on, like the cats outside my window at night, and I never know if they're making love or fighting or both!"

Erekat laughed. There was desperation in his hilarity, a trace of the hysterical. "But the Palestinians are worse!" he continued. "All you hear is shouting; all you see is chaos and lawlessness, the mess in Gaza." He paused, eyes flitting to the Yahoo e-mail account on his computer screen. "But amidst all this, something else is developing. There are 70-percent-plus of Palestinians who go with the two-state solution, even if nearly 50 percent of Palestinians voted for *Hamas*. Those same people condemn suicide bombing. Look, negotiations are over. It's time for decisions!"

He has a point. One odd thing about the Middle Eastern impasse is that a clear majority of people on both sides agree more or less on the outcome: two states, Israel and Palestine, divided along the 1967 borders adjusted to conform with agreed territorial swaps; an inventive deal on Jerusalem allowing both sides their measure of the sacred; massive compensation for Palestinian refugees not wishing to return to nascent Palestine; and perhaps a stabilizing role for a third-party force.

Unlike in Ireland, where peace has broken out without agreement on whether Ulster should ultimately be Irish or remain British, the bedrock lineaments of an accord exist. In that sense, Israel-Palestine is easier than Ireland. But the loud, absolutist, ruthless minority always prevails, and Bush's with-us-or-against-us school in Washington does not believe in probing absolutism, as currently embodied by democratically elected *Hamas*, to find where it might cede to compromise.

Erekat calls himself the "most disadvantaged negotiator since Adam negotiated Eve." He has no army, navy or economy. His society is split. "I don't stand a chance with a U.S. senator," he noted. The impact of Israel-loving evangelicals, the Jewish lobbyists of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the post-9/11 conflation of global and Palestinian terror has made selling Palestine in Washington about as easy as selling the North Korean economic model. That has simplified life for Olmert and Livni.

Any real U.S. pressure on Israelis to reach out to Palestinians has been intermittent at best. This, along with finding viable Palestinian representatives, is a core problem that Tony Blair will confront in his new post as special Middle East envoy for the U.S., Russia, the European Union and the United Nations. The cause of peace has paled. After "Gaza first," at the time of Israel's disengagement in 2005, has come the new cry of "West Bank first." It has the ring of desperation.

"Palestinians are tired of the no-partner-for-talks symphony," Erekat said. "Livni has an interlocutor in me and Abbas. We don't ask why Israelis choose Labor or Kadima; she doesn't need to ask about <u>Hamas</u>. With a decent peace accord, we can go to a referendum. Moderates would win. That would be <u>Hamas</u>'s fig leaf. But Livni has to learn that peace and settlements don't go together, walls and peace don't go together and nothing is solved until everything is solved."

Livni says it is the Palestinians, especially those in <u>Hamas</u>, who must do the learning. They need to learn to side with moderates against jihadists. They need to accept the West's basic demands: renunciation of terror, recognition of Israel and respect of previous Palestinian-Israeli accords. They need to learn that pushing for refugees to return to Israel amounts to questioning Israel's existence: a 1948 rather than a 1967 issue.

Arab states, unlike at Camp David in 2000, can help the Palestinians to make these compromises "by saying publicly what they say behind closed doors." They can contribute to a "political horizon" -- a favorite Livni-Rice phrase -- by "opening bureaus of interest in Israel." If they fear a nuclear Iran, as Sunni states from Jordan to the gulf do, they should support Israel as a bulwark of moderation.

Since the collapse of the Palestinian national unity government, Livni says she is more hopeful. She welcomes Blair's arrival. The new emergency government in the West Bank, headed by a Palestinian she admires, Salam Fayyad, "offers a clear distinction between moderates and the extremists of *Hamas* in Gaza." As a result, she says, "we can negotiate, starting with short-term issues, like freeing up money and easing life for Palestinians in ways that do not affect our security."

At the same time, she continues, "we can start looking at long-term issues, the nature of a future Palestinian state, our common denominators." But can Abbas and Fayyad deliver when <u>Hamas</u> controls Gaza, where 1.5 million Palestinians live? "As usual, we are choosing between bad options," she says. "But we must grab this chance if we don't want to lose the West Bank to <u>Hamas</u>. The Arab League, the world, must work with the moderates and strengthen them right now."

Livni's ideas are clear. But, I asked her in our first meeting, are you good at persuading people? "Eehhh, ummmm, yes, I am good at persuading people," she managed in that quieter voice, before declaring that she does not like to speak about herself and finally mustering, "In convincing the other, I try to start from their point of view, so it's easier for me to find a common denominator."

Their point of view: this is the key. I tried to imagine Livni donning her jeans and sneakers and, instead of hitting a market, taking a look at the scene outside Erekat's place: the dry riverbed with its pile of plastic bottles and discarded tires, and beyond that a brick factory going to seed, and beyond that the sleepy sprawl of Jericho, and beyond that the checkpoints with their daily humiliations, and still farther the snaking path of the wall-cum-fence cutting the beauty of the ancient hills like a blade. What, I wondered, would she feel and how might all this impact her formulas?

Palestinians have failed themselves. Their hand in their misery is decisive. They could have had about half of the land back in 1948. At various points since then, they could have had more than the roughly 22 percent now up for negotiation. But Israelis, justifiably proud of their open society, need to scrutinize the closed autocracy just over the wall. If they will not look at the devastating physical evidence of 40 years of occupation, it is unclear how they can grasp, and so perhaps begin to turn back, the rise of *Hamas* and Islamic extremism.

"<u>Hamas</u> is ready for a two-state solution," says Barghouti, who served as information minister in the <u>Hamas</u>-Fatah unity government. "They will say so when Israel recognizes Palestinians' rights as equal human beings. But the Palestinian government that Israel wants is a government of collaborators working as subagents for Israeli security. And I can promise you they will never get that."

Sitting in his Bethlehem office, he continued, "No walls are ever permanent, and this one destroys the idea of a two-state solution because it kills the option of a viable Palestinian state. In fact it leads to only one alternative: a binational state in which we are a majority because our population grows at 4.2 percent a year and theirs at 1.7 percent." It won't happen, of course, but the insidious one-state talk is a measure of the conflict's dangerous drift.

In May, the month before the violent <u>Hamas</u> takeover of Gaza from Fatah, Livni gathered international ambassadors to Israel for a briefing at a Tel Aviv hotel. <u>Hamas</u> rockets launched from Gaza were raining down on the Israeli town of Sderot; Livni's message was that the situation had become unbearable. "Enough is enough," she declared, appealing for determined pressure on terrorists "so that the Palestinian people will understand that this is something which is not tolerable."

She also gave expression to a particular Israeli disquiet: "Israelis must know that the international community does understand we are under attack. It is so important to Israel to know that our right to defend ourselves is supported and that you understand that there is suffering here, and not just among Palestinians."

Israel -- built on the Zionist dream of gathering in the Jews and so normalizing their status through the attainment of sovereignty -- was supposed, as Avineri has written, not only to take the Jewish people out of exile but also ensure that exile was "taken out of the Jewish people." After the millennia of marginalization and Auschwitz, it was supposed to create what Ben-Gurion called "a self-sufficient people, master of its own fate," rather than one "hung up in midair." In some measure, it has.

But as Livni's appeal for sympathy suggested, all the great achievements of Israel have not yet ended Jewish precariousness, Jewish annihilation angst -- the inner "exile" of the Jew. Israel remains, in Livni's words, "a nation struggling to realize our basic right to a peaceful coexistence." She told me that "in a Europe without borders, people are questioning what the meaning is of a Jewish state."

Its moral authority compromised by a 40-year occupation, its kibbutznik uniqueness compromised by a globalized consumer culture, its future compromised by the gathering appeal of jihadist dogma, Israel stands at a crossroads. "Something deep has to change," says Dahlia Scheindlin, a pollster. "We can't any longer be the victims rushing to proclaim we're being obliterated and ending up obliterating others." The Diaspora Jew did not go to Zion to build the Jew among nations.

Livni, with her umbilical attachment to the Zionist idea, gets this. She gets the need to hurry to some resolution with the Palestinians in order to stop the erosion of the Israeli raison d'etre. Watching her in that hotel conference room, beneath the attentive gaze of dozens of ambassadors, I had to admire her. Each point was made with punch, not least that *Hamas* was rearming in Gaza with Hezbollah in Lebanon as a model. "She is very professional, in good standing and taken very seriously," Jakken Biorn Lian, the Norwegian ambassador, told me.

My admiration was redoubled because May had been a bad month for her. Her high-wire act after the Winograd Commission report, telling Olmert he should go without going herself, had brought a wave of media criticism, much of it sexist. She was described as being fit only to run a <u>women</u>'s volunteer group. The onslaught was a fair reflection of the sexism she also encountered within the heavily male cabinet as she tried to resist another bombing raid on Lebanon.

A few days after her not-quite-oust-Olmert push, Yariv Reicher, a consultant, told me: "I'll take her as my lawyer or friend, but to lead here you have to have something hard to describe, something Sharon and Begin and Rabin had, something from the innermost person that gives you hope, an answer to your pain. She needs to speak from her guts."

But it did take guts for Livni to tell her boss he should quit. Rows between Israeli prime ministers and foreign ministers are nothing new: each vies to control the Washington relationship, the one that counts. But Olmert-Livni represents a new level of poison. When Sharon had his crippling stroke last year, both she and Olmert were in position to take over the Kadima leadership. Livni stepped aside -- and was rewarded, she feels, with contempt. Livni's testimony to the Winograd Commission amounts to a portrait of humiliation. Requests for meetings with Olmert at critical moments in the war are refused; she is told to "calm down" when she does see him; she is forced to watch the prime minister chat to the chief of staff as she is talking; and she is long frustrated in her quest for a diplomatic outcome.

"The situation is very sensitive," she told me when I asked about Olmert during our first meeting, adding that in the end "it is not about me and the prime minister but the crisis in our society." What she had said "was exactly what I wanted to say, no regrets. I chose the words. I know that people want blood. That's nice, but. . . . "

Resilience tends to pay in Israeli politics. Netanyahu has bounced back at the head of Likud, and even Ehud Barak, the former prime minister who fell from grace after his peace efforts collapsed, has returned as Labor leader and defense minister. Many saw a rite of passage in Livni's grilling by the media. Her rise had been too smooth; this painful episode would toughen her. "Of course she will come back," says Igal Galai, the friend of Sharon's who watched her emergence. "Right now in Israel, I don't see anyone better."

Doubts persist over the future of Kadima, bereft of its creator, Sharon, and beset by corruption. But Livni says that she still believes in the neophyte party. She did not leave Likud to follow Sharon, she insists. She left "because there is a need to promote a peace process" and Likud is a party "whose ideology starts with the word 'no.' " Israelis are questing for new hope. Whether Netanyahu's Likud or Barak's Labor can provide that is open to question: both speak of yesterday.

Dita Kohl-Roman has watched her friend's evolution closely. Livni used to shut off any conversation about becoming prime minister, but the Lebanon war was a turning point. Such crises pose the question, Can you take this -- do you want the job enough? "And a few months later we sat in a Tel Aviv coffee shop," Kohl-Roman told me, "and she said she was ready to run for prime minister and that she had gone through an inner process and was prepared." She says she believes that to win Livni "must get over her uptightness, go through a process of loosening. And then I hope our society can encompass someone who represents something so good and decent as our leader."

Livni can rise above her inner constraints. In a speech in 2005 that riveted the nation on the 10th anniversary of Rabin's death, she declared: "I did not elect or choose Rabin, but he was elected to be the Israeli prime minister, the prime minister of my country. . . . Law, ladies and gentlemen, is not a technical issue. It is the full expression of a precious system. Specifically, in a time when Israel is fighting for its existence, we cannot allow ourselves to forget the aim, the common denominator and the shared values that are all the meaning of the existence of Israel: a national homeland for the Jewish people, a Jewish and democratic state. These two values are connected to each other. This is the thing that connects us with each other."

Those words in my head, I strolled through Rabin Square, which has all the beauty of Warsaw at the height of Communism. In one corner is a small shrine to Rabin at the spot where he was murdered on Nov. 4, 1995. An inscription says that here Yitzhak Rabin was murdered "in the struggle for peace." Another says, "Peace shall be his legacy."

Alongside these words is a photograph, seemingly from a faraway era, of Rabin shaking Arafat's hand beneath the sunny gaze of President Bill Clinton. I found myself fighting back tears: how much had been lost since then and how close Israelis and Palestinians had come. A peace of the brave it was; it is brave to see beyond grievance, hurt and history to the innocence in every child's eye.

Might Livni and Israel rise to bravery again and might Palestine find a leader to accompany such courage? There are few encouraging signs, but Livni has not given up hope. "Each of us can live with our narrative, so long as we are pragmatic when it comes to the land," she says. "I still believe in our right to the whole land, but felt it was more important to make a compromise. We cannot solve who was right or wrong in 1948 or decide who is more just. The Palestinians can feel justice is on their side, and I can feel it is on my side. What we have to decide about is not history but the future."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Security, Security: The Kalandia checkpoint between Ramallah, on the West Bank, and Jerusalem.. (Photograph By Taryn Simon For The New York Times)

Load-Date: July 8, 2007



Heroes? We got them to spare

The Sun (England)
July 7, 2007 Saturday

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Body

RAIN-soaked, bomb-threatened and weary, we all needed good news this week - and it came in the shape of a slight, balding, unassuming man who has been to hell and back.

The news that BBC reporter Alan Johnston, above left, had been released by Islamic terrorists after 114 days in captivity lifted all our spirits.

I'm sure I was not the only one who thought that this brave journalist would inevitably be tortured, humiliated then beheaded. It's what we have come to expect.

Extremists showed no mercy to British engineer Ken Bigley or Irish aid worker Margaret Hassan.

They were each cruelly murdered and their sickening killers even posted their butchery on the internet for the perverted pleasure of their supporters.

The longer Alan was held hostage, the grimmer the outlook became.

Alan was forced to wear a vest packed with explosives and was constantly threatened with execution.

He was chained, beaten and did not see sunlight for three of the four months of his captivity.

In the end he was released when bigger bullies, *Hamas*, threatened his captors and they caved in.

It seems that Alan was a pawn in a vile game of one-upmanship. And we have yet to discover what <u>Hamas</u> will demand in return for his freedom.

Calm

Meanwhile, as you would expect from such a modest man, he is quick to downplay his hero status and was more worried about the distress his captivity had caused his elderly mum and dad.

His one glimmer of hope was that he was able to get hold of a radio and could listen to the BBC World Service to hear messages of support for him from all around the globe.

This gave Alan a real boost at a time when he could have been plunged into utter despair.

Incredibly, Alan managed to remain calm, articulate and dignified at all times.

Heroes? We got them to spare

Few people would have been able to deliver a clear, concise report of their situation while wearing explosives - and I bet that piece to camera was done in one take.

I am delighted Alan is free and I hope he takes some time out to be with his family and readjust to life - before he writes that much-anticipated and inevitable book about his experiences.

HUGE plaudits to the staff at Glasgow airport who got the place back up and running as quickly as possible following last weekend's failed terror attack.

As well as trying to kill and maim as many men, <u>women</u> and children as they can, terrorists aim to cause as much fear, chaos and disruption as possible. But the Glasgow bombers failed on both counts.

Passengers refused to be intimidated and instead waited patiently for hours in the rain in mile-long queues. These families had saved hard for their holidays and weren't going to race home to cower in fear.

I still cannot believe those allegedly responsible for the attack were doctors and medics targeting an airport they knew would be stuffed to the brim with kids on the first weekend of the Scottish school holidays.

The badly burned suspect arrested at the airport was rushed to hospital in Glasgow where he got caring treatment from staff whose only thought was to save his life.

So they will not be rubbing him down with sandpaper on an hourly basis because they are the kind of medics who would never inflict pain or death on any fellow human being, even a miserable, cowardly fanatic.

Enraged members of the public, including Michael Kerr, Stephen Clarkson and baggage handler John Smeaton, pictured above, showed great courage piling in to restrain one of the suspects.

Michael had just returned from a Spanish holiday and, after loading his car, was going back into the terminal to collect his wife and kids when he saw the burning Jeep heading for the building. He reacted instinctively, with huge bravery, but in the struggle with the suspect he broke his leg.

I wish him a speedy recovery.

Meanwhile, John Smeaton has become something of a star, especially in the United States, where his Glaswegian chutzpah is being celebrated on banners, badges and T-shirts.

Along with Stephen, who knocked one of the bombers to the ground, Michael and John are reluctant heroes flung into an unimaginable situation and reacting with genuine bravery.

While we can muster up a wry smile at John's rallying cry to terrorists: "This Is Glasgow, we will set about ye!" the fact is that we were incredibly lucky that the bomb attacks in Glasgow and in London were such miserable failures.

Load-Date: July 7, 2007



Smuggling to survive in Egypt; Residents ferry weapons to Gaza, making bad situation worse

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Mona el Naggar contributed reporting.

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The <u>Hamas</u> military takeover of Gaza last week was partly fueled by caches of weapons smuggled through tunnels below this gritty Sinai border town. Two days spent with smugglers here suggest that to stanch the flow of weapons, Egypt will ultimately have to address the economic and social concerns of the region, and not rely solely on its security forces.

"There are two things here," said Ibrahim Sawaraka, who used his tribal name, not his family name, for fear of retribution from the police. "There is poverty, and there is smuggling."

In more than a dozen interviews shortly after <u>Hamas</u> solidified its grip on Gaza, locals said the Palestinian territory was a primary market for goods in a region short of jobs and any other economic opportunities. They said, almost without exception, that the business of ferrying weapons was more about profit than ideology.

Working with small construction tools like jackhammers, people here said, they could dig a tunnel to Gaza in about six months. The shoulder-width passages were often strung with lights and a mechanized pulley system, like a tow rope at a ski lift. And while the tunnels were wide enough for individuals to crawl through, they often carried just merchandise.

One person said that most of the weapons smuggled into Gaza were Russian- and Chinese-made. Others said that the rifles, often AK-47s, might have come from Sudan and moved through Egypt into the tunnels snaking their way into the Gaza Strip.

Egyptian officials said that in the past two years, since Israel withdrew its forces and settlers from Gaza, they had increased their policing of the border area, blowing up tunnels and arresting people connected with smuggling.

Israeli officials said that when they still had a presence in Gaza, the security forces tried to foil the tunneling by installing a concrete or iron wall along the border that extended three meters, or 10 feet, underground. But the tunnels are typically 6 to 20 meters below ground.

Smuggling to survive in Egypt Residents ferry weapons to Gaza, making bad situation worse

Israel also used sonar and other sensors to hunt for the tunnels, occasionally setting off charges to cause undiscovered tunnels to collapse. They also demanded that the Egyptians do more - which they did.

But no matter how much the authorities tried to crack down on smuggling, people here said, the outlaw culture could never be overcome without economic development.

The unemployment rate in the region is among the highest in Egypt.

While a percentage of the smuggling is a function of solidarity with the Palestinians, people here said, weapons were also just a product that brought income. Many of the Bedouins said they also worked to smuggle people into Israel, often <u>women</u> from Eastern Europe heading to work in the sex industry. They said they also smuggled marijuana and cigarettes.

To discuss their situation, Sawaraka and some neighbors gathered at a relative's house in Al Mahdiya village in Rafah city. They complained about the isolation and discrimination they feel as Bedouins, a circumstance they said left no alternative but to work as smugglers.

Smuggling has long been a part of the Bedouin life, offering a living for people who call home the expanse of desert that flows across borders.

But weapons smuggling to Gaza began in earnest with the start of the first Palestinian intifada 20 years ago, people here said.

"Why do you think that people resort to smuggling?" said Abdalla el-Shaer, a resident of Rafah who said his brother was killed more than a year ago as a <u>Hamas</u> fighter in Gaza. "If the country provides employment opportunities, no one will smuggle weapons. With no other opportunity, they smuggle weapons."

In the expanse of rocky, rolling desert that extends past the dusty, rundown center of this town, there is a subculture of poverty and relative wealth that illustrates both the lack of resources provided to people from the region and the temptations that smuggling can fulfill.

Unlike southern Sinai, with its upscale Red Sea resorts, the north has long been ignored. Homes do not even have fresh running water. Officials said that a small group of Bedouins from the area carried out three bombing attacks on southern Sinai resorts.

One problem now is that the Bedouins reject the authority of the state, because they feel brutalized and discriminated against. And the government continues to put pressure on the Bedouins because it questions their loyalty to the state, because of their smuggling and because of a fear that a strain of radical Islam has taken hold.

"Security cannot be the sole solution to any problem, no matter how small," said a general with Egypt's Interior Ministry troops, who spoke on the condition he not be identified. "It is the social problems that create security problems and not the other way around."

But, he added, "I cannot overlook the law under the pretext that someone is needy or poor."

The region's former representative in Parliament, however, criticized the government for not doing more to help with economic development.

"There is only security," said the representative, El Kashef Muhammad el-Kashef. "The government does not play its second role of resolving such issues as unemployment and discrimination."

Wadi Amr is a bleak desert landscape about 65 kilometers, or 40 miles, from Rafah city. It is home to about 3,000 people, including many, like Jedeeiya eid Musleh, 67, who live in huts made of twigs and scrap metal.

Musleh lives with two sons; a third, he said, is in prison for drug running. They own little but their hut and a few cushions on the ground beneath a lean-to. His wife left him to sell sheep on the streets of Cairo.

Smuggling to survive in Egypt Residents ferry weapons to Gaza, making bad situation worse

"Anyone who has the chance to smuggle will do it," said Salim Lafy Ali al-Tarabeen, 30, as he sat beside Musleh. Tarabeen, who was also using his tribal name, carries two cellphones, one with a local number, the other with an Israeli number. As he chatted he received a call from a friend who said he was in an Israeli prison for smuggling weapons.

Not far from Musleh's hut is a large one-story house with four white Toyota pickup trucks parked out front.

"You have seen how poor people live. Now you will see how the smugglers live," said Ahmed Muhammad Hussein, who is working to help improve the Bedouins' social conditions.

The Bedouins' problems are partly the result of the tense day in 1982 that saw Rafah cut in half by the peace treaty under which Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt.

Israel occupied the peninsula after the 1967 war. As the border was fortified with walls and guards, families were split and the challenge of crossing from one side to the other became an act of defiance, but also a simple reality of human nature: People were told they could not cross, so they did all they could to cross over.

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Iraq, the nightmare by which all other conflicts are measured

The Irish Times

December 28, 2006 Thursday

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Length: 1618 words

Body

IRAQ: Through a lethal cocktail of arrogance, ideology and ignorance, George Bush's foreign policy master plan imploded this year, leaving a huge mess, writes Lara Marlowe

There were no limits to George Bush's plans for the Middle East. For more than a year after the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, the US president dreamed of a "greater Middle East initiative" based on neoconservative ideology. The initiative was supposed to usher in freedom and democracy, free markets and <u>women</u>'s rights, from Arab north Africa all the way to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This was the year, 2006, when it all fell apart. The autumn brought a cascade of disavowals. Outgoing UN secretary general Kofi Annan described Iraq with the dreaded words "civil war". Henry Kissinger, adviser to US presidents since 1959, told the BBC that the war in Iraq could not be won.

Robert Gates, who was summoned to replace defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld, was asked by the Senate armed services committee: "Do you believe that we are currently winning in Iraq?"

He replied: "No sir".

No one in Washington talks any more about the greater Middle East initiative. Ambitions for Iraq, which was to have been the linchpin of the new Middle East, have been drastically scaled back. As quoted in the Iraq Study Group report published on December 6th, President Bush's goal is now an Iraq that can "govern itself, sustain itself and defend itself".

Forget about the beacon of democracy whose example was going to undermine neighbouring regimes.

From the Mediterranean to the Asian subcontinent, the entire zone that Bush sought to civilise has festered. Iran defies the US and Europe by continuing its uranium enrichment programme. Five years after the US "liberated" Afghanistan, that country is again the world's number one opium producer and the Taliban is resurgent.

To a large extent because of Israeli military assaults and Western indifference, the Lebanese and Palestinians are also on the verge of civil war.

Iraq is, of course, the nightmare by which all other conflicts are measured. Sectarian violence reached the civil war threshold last February, when Sunnis blew up the golden-domed mosque of Samarra, which is holy to Shia Muslims. Some 1,300 Sunni were massacred in retaliation.

More than 100 Iraqis are murdered every day now and nearly that many are kidnapped by sectarian militia men or gangsters. Their bodies are later dumped by the roadside, in vacant lots or fields, or wash up on the banks of the Tigris. The situation is so desperate that US troops tried building high walls between Sunni and Shia neighbourhoods of Baghdad to stem the bloodbath.

A UN report issued on September 21st says torture by sectarian groups and security forces in Iraq is systematic. The bodies of former detainees bear the marks of beatings with electric cables, wounds to the head and genitalia, broken hands and legs, electric shocks and cigarette burns. Corpses delivered to the Baghdad morgue have been burned with acid, skinned, had eyes and teeth pulled out, or have been pierced by drills or nails.

Another UN report, issued this month, says between 2,000 and 3,000 Iraqis flee the country every day. At least 1.5 million Iraqi refugees have already reached Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and another 1.5 million are displaced within Iraq.

Afghanistan, alas, is beginning to resemble Iraq. With more than 3,000 Afghans and 150 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation soldiers killed this year, 2006 was the bloodiest year in the five years since the Taliban was overthrown.

There were at least 80 suicide bombings, a four-fold increase on 2005. Afghanistan now supplies 92 per cent of the world's opium supply while opium accounts for 60 per cent of the country's economy.

The US recently shifted responsibility for southern and eastern Afghanistan, where the Taliban is strongest, to Nato but, as in Iraq, there are simply too few soldiers. Also as in Iraq, costly attempts to train local police, often by private contractors, have failed. Material and weapons issued to security forces have simply disappeared. Incompetence and corruption further undermine US attempts at "nation-building".

Lebanon's "cedar revolution" provided prized evidence that democracy was coming to the Middle East, but that too unravelled this year. More anti-Syrian politicians, most recently the industry minister Pierre Gemayel, were assassinated.

In July and August, Israel bombarded the country for 34 days, in retaliation for the abduction of two Israeli soldiers by the Shia Muslim militant group Hizbullah.

Some 1,200 Lebanese and more than 100 Israelis were killed in the summer war. Lebanon's infrastructure was shattered, but the most serious casualty was the fragile consensus among the country's religious groups. The body politic split between Christians, Sunnis and Druze on the one hand, and Shia Muslims, supported by the breakaway Maronite Catholic Gen Michel Aoun, on the other.

The former group is allied with Paris and Washington, the latter with Tehran and Damascus.

This month, the pro-Syrian, pro-Iranian camp staged weeks of mass street protests in the hope of bringing down prime minister Fuad Siniora's pro-Western government. "There is no longer a place for America in Lebanon," Sheikh Naim Qassem, the deputy leader of Hizbullah exhorted one rally. "Do you not recall that the weapons fired on Lebanon are American weapons?" he added.

The situation in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories is as volatile as that in Lebanon. The Palestinians elected a <u>Hamas</u>-led government at the end of January 2006, in elections which were deemed exemplary throughout the Arab world.

Israel and the international community punished the Palestinians by blocking \$50 million a month in customs duties that rightfully belong to the Palestinian Authority, and by withholding all aid that might transit a government ministry controlled by *Hamas*.

The situation worsened further when Palestinians abducted Israeli corporal Gilad Shalit at the end of June. As international attention shifted to Lebanon and Iraq, Israel killed nearly 400 Gazans between June and November.

During the same period, Palestinians killed five Israelis. <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah, the former ruling group founded by the late Yasser Arafat, failed to form a "unity government" and have repeatedly clashed.

All attempts to restart peace talks run up against the three conditions imposed by Israel and adopted by the US and EU: that *Hamas* recognise Israel, renounce violence and abide by past Israeli-Palestinian peace accords.

No one seems to notice that Israel has not recognised a Palestinian state, renounced violence nor abided by past accords. The British prime minister Tony Blair offered the faintest glimmer of hope when he said he would search for a different way forward.

If there is one winner in this Middle East cauldron, it is the Islamic Republic of Iran. As the extent of the disaster in Iraq became evident, talk of "regime change" in Tehran subsided. Iran's influence with Iraq's Shia majority, in Syria, Lebanon and among radical Sunni Islamists in the Palestinian territories has never been greater.

The US ostracised the moderate Iranian president Mohamed Khatami, who pleaded for a "dialogue of civilisations," and reaped the far more radical Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. On April 11th, Ahmadinejad announced triumphantly that "Dear Iran has joined the club of nuclear countries" by enriching uranium. The UN Security Council demanded that it stop, yet proved incapable of agreeing on punitive measures.

Ahmadinejad continued to thumb his nose at the West, holding a revisionist conference on the "myth" of the Holocaust in Tehran. In an alarming sign that Iran's nuclear programme may start off a nuclear arms race in the region, six Sunni Muslim Gulf emirates announced they are considering their own atomic energy programme.

George Bush thought he could transform the Middle East into a pro-American oasis of democracy that would embrace Israel. Instead, Iraq has become a staging ground for al-Qaeda and the scene of a Shia-Sunni civil war that risks spreading throughout the region.

This mess was created by a lethal cocktail of arrogance, ideology and ignorance. In The End of Iraq, former US ambassador Peter Galbraith tells how shortly before the Iraq invasion, Bush's Iraqi guests in the White House were stunned to find the US president didn't know the difference between Sunni and Shia. Jeff Stein, national security editor of the Congressional Quarterly in Washington, found that intelligence and law enforcement officials involved in the "war on terror," as well as members of Congress in relevant committees, didn't know the difference either.

The Iraq Study Group report notes that only six of 1,000 staff at the US embassy in Baghdad are fluent Arabic speakers. US statistics on attacks in Iraq were "systematically collected in a way that minimises . . . discrepancy with policy goals," the report says.

Many US analysts have fallen into the trap of believing that if the US had put more troops into Iraq in the first place, or managed the transition better, or had better intelligence, things might have worked out differently.

An intelligence analyst told the Iraq Study Group: "We rely too much on others to bring information back to us and too often don't understand what is reported back because we do not understand the context of what we are told."

The US Congress spent nearly \$2 billion this year on countermeasures to protect troops in Iraq against improvised explosive devises (roadside bombs). "But," the report laments, "the administration has not put forward a request to invest comparable resources in trying to understand the people who fabricate, plant and explode those devices."

Load-Date: December 28, 2006



There'll be no peace between Israelis and Palestinians without both compromising

Irish Independent

June 1, 2007 Friday

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Body

IMAGINE the city of Dublin being bombarded daily by rockets.

Over a thousand rockets a year, launched by terrorists from an area a few kilometres away.

Innocent civilians, <u>women</u> and children are killed and scores wounded, many of them seriously, while thousands are left deeply traumatized.

Homes are destroyed and schools and places of worship damaged. Many children stop attending school.

Mealtimes, prayer-times, bedtimes must often be abandoned as the family runs to a shelter.

Imagine that, as a resident of a city under attack, you must seek shelter at any hour of the day or night.

Your daily routine is disrupted, and you and all the other residents of the city must decide whether to leave your homes or continue to endure the attacks, because it is impossible to live a normal life under the constant fear.

Well, for the 23,000 residents of the city of Sderot in southern Israel, this is not imaginary; this is the reality that they have had to endure since 2002.

Israel left the Gaza Strip some 20 months ago, but these missile attacks have not abated.

In fact these attacks have intensified over the past few weeks.

Sderot and other communities in the western Negev region have been under Qassam artillery rocket attack almost every single day.

Sderot is Israel's front line today, and its residents are the victims of the pandemic violence and anarchy emanating from the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip.

Increasingly, it is the children who suffer.

There'll be no peace between Israelis and Palestinians without both compromising

During a recent visit to Sderot with a group of diplomats, I saw the mountain of twisted rocket parts piled up near City Hall.

I visited a school and heard from the children about their killed and injured friends and relatives, damaged homes and the constant fear for their own lives.

According to a recent survey, one-third of Sderot children are suffering from post-traumatic stress and many others from acute anxiety, depression and an inability to concentrate or sleep.

In August 2005, Israel evacuated all of its citizens from Gaza and dismantled all of its civilian communities and military installations there.

In doing so, Israel demonstrated once again its readiness to make painful concessions for peace.

Sadly, expectations that security and peace would come as a result proved short-lived.

The Palestinians could have used Israel's withdrawal from Gaza to create a new beginning and a better reality for their people, progressing towards the realization of the 'two-state solution'.

Instead, <u>Hamas</u> turned Gaza into a terror base for jihad against Israel and against moderate Palestinians seeking peace.

Tragically, the Palestinian extremists have adopted the tactic of using their own citizens as human shields.

Terrorist groups fire Qassam rockets from within densely populated civilian areas, in order to protect themselves against Israeli counter-strikes. Since the Israeli withdrawal in August 2005, Palestinian terrorist organisations have succeeded in smuggling dozens of long-range artillery missiles, shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles and antitank missiles into Gaza.

These advanced arms have been supplemented by over 33 tonnes of high explosives, 20,000 assault rifles and 6 million rounds of ammunition.

If this trend continues, Israeli hospitals, schools and power plants much further away than the city of Sderot could soon be routinely targeted.

After a long period of restraint, Israel was forced to respond to this threat and to defend its citizens, just as Ireland or any other country would do under similar circumstances.

For Israel, the irony of leaving Gaza for peace only to be rewarded with further violence has been a bitter pill to swallow. It is tempering public opinion against any further withdrawals.

Israelis need to see the security benefits of making further concessions, or the process will fail.

The people on both sides of the border deserve peace.

Increased rocket attacks on Sderot will only prolong the suffering and misery for all the residents of Sderot and of Gaza as well.

A moderate solution exists: two states living side by side in peace, Israel and a Palestinian state, a solution which has received support from Israel and the international community as well as moderate Palestinians and moderate Arab states.

Unfortunately, the *Hamas* extremists have no desire to achieve a peace based on moderation and compromise.

The present extremist reality in Gaza not only endangers the lives of Israeli and Palestinian civilians but also undermines the chances for a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

There'll be no peace between Israelis and Palestinians without both compromising

Zion Evrony is Israel's ambassador in Dublin

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Weekend Australian

June 16, 2007 Saturday

All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Letters; Pg. 18

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Body

MATP

MOST TALKED ABOUT

CRISIS IN GAZA

Palestinian civil war a poor omen for two-state solution

THE current civil war in the Palestinian territories is tragic, benefits nobody and is potentially despairing for those of us who still hope one day to see a peaceful two-state solution that will empower both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

It is also instructive that those local anti-Zionist fundamentalists who seek to impose a Greater Palestine on the Israeli people have suddenly gone silent. They deserve to be asked the following question: If the Palestinian factions can commit such atrocities against their own brothers, what on earth would they do if they ever got the chance to dominate the Israelis?

Philip Mendes

Kew, Vic

IT seems that Gaza will be for <u>Hamas</u> and the West Bank for Fatah. So now it'll be a three-state solution and they'll be thanking Israel for keeping them apart. However, one wonders about the wisdom of another fundamentalist Islamic state arising in the Middle East at this time.

Paul Rozental

Melbourne, Vic

I'M reluctant to say it, as I have always been a firm supporter of the liberation of Iraq, but the latest fighting between *Hamas* and Fatah is going to give great ammunition to those who believe that democracy will never succeed in the Middle East. Political deals, peace deals or two-state solutions will never be achieved when people of the same nationality cannot even agree to live side by side. Until Arabs learn that politics can be debated without killing each other, hopes for peace in the Middle East will wear thin.

A. Khat

Ryde, NSW

I SEE that scores of people have been killed in the civil war that has erupted in the Gaza Strip. Well, I knew the Palestinians hated the Israelis but I didn't realise -- until now -- how much they also hated each other.

Troy Cox

Docklands, Vic

THE fighting and bloodshed in Gaza proves that it's the Palestinians themselves who do not want peace. Gaza has not been under occupation for more than two years and still Israel gets the blame. When will the Palestinians take responsibility for their own territory of Gaza and build rather than destroy? If Israel were to bow to the so-called "right of return" and allow in all of the refugees and their descendants from the 1948 war, it would prove to be genocide for the Israelis.

James Johnson

East Bentleigh, Vic

MOAMMAR Mashni (Letters, 15/6) refers to the moves by Leichhardt and Marrickville councils in Sydney to establish sister-city relationships with Palestinian councils run by groups proscribed as terrorists in Australia, such as *Hamas*, as gestures of goodwill and peace. In fact, they are highly political decisions that contribute nothing to Middle East peace, as they give legitimacy to groups that need to be either marginalised or abandon their violence and rejectionism. The councils should concentrate their energies on serving their ratepayers rather than spending funds indulging in questionable ideology.

As for Mashni's claim that Imre Salusinszky's article was biased, it's not bias for a reporter to refer to a terrorist group as a terrorist group. It's bias to avoid doing so.

Nathalie Samia

Randwick, NSW

MOAMMAR Mashni claims that "building sister-city relationships will go much farther in achieving peace than building a concrete mega-wall that divides". Well, given that Palestinians have been murdering each other ad hoc for the past few months and <u>Hamas</u> is now firmly established in Gaza, I guess it goes to show that they have a long way to go in building fraternal relationships.

Philip Ioannou

Paddington, NSW

AS a resident and ratepayer in Marrickville, I would like to congratulate my council on its sister-city relationship with Bethlehem. As Israel's 10-metre high concrete wall encircles Bethlehem, cutting it off from the world, Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said, "It is unconscionable that Bethlehem should be allowed to die slowly from strangulation." Thank you Marrickville Council for trying to build bridges, not walls.

Jennifer Killen

St Peters, NSW

MOAMMAR Mashni accuses Imre Salusinszky of "unmitigated bias". Conveniently, Mashni failed to note his position in the advocacy group Australians for Palestine, but I'm sure he's not biased, right?

Just this week, <u>Hamas</u> gunmen invaded the house of a Fatah official with mortars and grenades. Not finding him at home, they instead executed his 14-year-old son and three <u>women</u> inside. It must come as a tremendous relief to Palestinian activists such as Mashni that the Marrickville Council issue provides a wonderful distraction from the Palestinian bloodshed currently taking place in Gaza and Lebanon. Palestinians being tied and hurled off roofs by Palestinians, hundreds killed, shootings, riots and bombings, with not an Israeli in sight to conveniently blame. Is there really any wonder why the Palestinians' neighbours might try to build a fence?

Daniel Lewis

Rushcutters Bay, NSW

Kevin Rudd has a point

about our productivity

DESPITE the Howard Government's nit-picking arguments in relation to Kevin Rudd's comments on productivity growth, the Labor leader is on solid ground ("Rudd 'struggles on productivity", 15/6).

Unless an economy is in recession, you will always expect some kind of productivity growth. Therefore, it's usual to compare current growth relative to the average of previous years. It's here where Howard's economic credentials are shown up for the smoke and mirrors that they are.

Throughout the 1990s, Australia enjoyed productivity growth in the 3 per cent-plus range. Between 2001 and 2005, this had shrunk to around 2 per cent. Aside from the spike in the December quarter, Australia's productivity growth has languished around the 0.6 to 1 per cent range since around June of last year, and seems unlikely to increase anytime soon. These results are especially damning considering that Howard claimed Work Choices was going to unleash greater productivity growth.

Marcus Hicks

Elizabeth Park, SA

STEVE Lewis quoted a spokesman for Kevin Rudd as saying the Government's attack on the Labor leader's grasp of productivity was a distraction from John Howard's embarrassment over the Kirribilli House affair.

On the contrary, it's Rudd who is running the distraction. Why has he turned to trivia during question time in parliament instead of asking about matters of national importance?

Peter Lang

Griffith, ACT

IN all the guff about the Liberal Party "fund-raiser" at Kirribilli House, has everyone forgotten that the reason John Howard gave for using it as the family home in lieu of The Lodge in Canberra was that he did not wish to distance his young family from friends and force them to change schools.

So far as I am aware, the children have all grown up and left home, so why do taxpayers still have to bear the costs associated with the PM using Kirribilli House as his family home and de facto office?

Michael Kalaf

Warrawee, NSW

Gallery needs reality check

WHAT sort of idiots are responsible for security at the Art Gallery of NSW ("For a cavalier, he sure went quietly", 15/6)? They have a painting 21 centimetres by 15 centimetres worth \$1.4 million hanging on the wall but have no

security camera in place in the side gallery where it's hung nor have they bothered to attach an alarm to the painting itself. Now that someone has stolen it, all the gallery director can say is he feels as if someone has taken it from his own home!

It's time for a reality check. Those responsible for running this important gallery should join the 21st century -- or resign.

Robert McCormick

Bridgewater, SA

Quality in the classroom

LEONARD Colquhoun (Letters 14/6) is right in saying the essence of any reform on teachers' pay is that "good classroom teachers will stay teaching in their classrooms", but finding a way to get potentially good teachers into teaching is a challenge.

Federal Opposition spokesman on education Stephen Smith ("Independent schools willing to test merit pay", 13/6) told Justine Ferrari that rewarding "specialist skills and accreditations" and "ongoing professional development" is the way to go. He obviously has not had a child forced to fill in worksheets in the classroom all day because the teacher was studying for a master's degree at night. He also did not see the drop in numbers at afternoon sessions of professional development where there was no way of assessing whether the teachers had learned anything even if they did stay all day.

Kevin Donnelly has pointed out some of the problems to be overcome if good teachers are to be given a fair go, but problems are there to be solved and merit pay would be better than what we have now. It would send a message to young graduates that hard work in the classroom will be rewarded, giving them the personal satisfaction necessary to keep our best teachers teaching.

E. Johnson

Bridgewater, SA

In defence of Robert Manne

MANY times I have wanted to write to The Australian to protest its often distorted accounts of what Robert Manne had written, usually in other publications. Because our close friendship is public knowledge, I feared too many people would respond to my protest by saying, "Well, Gaita would, wouldn't he?", so I didn't write.

Now, however, friendship requires me to do so. Manne has never supported intentional attacks on civilians, by suicide bombings or by any other means. Nor has he justified suicide attacks on coalition troops in Iraq. He claimed only that such attacks are not surprising, that the people who gave up their lives in those attacks were "fanatically brave", that they should not be called terrorists and that "Western moralising about the cowardly terrorism of such people" was hypocritical. Apart from that last claim, nothing Manne said strikes me as even seriously contentious. But even the addition of that last controversial (though I think true) claim won't justify the suggestion that he supports terrorism in Iraq.

Raimond Gaita

St Kilda, Vic

'No mystery' at NAB

THE article by Adele Ferguson ("Has NAB managed to change its spots?" 11/6") is incorrect in its assertion that there is an "unexplained" difference on NAB's March 31, 2007 balance sheet, and that the net interest margin was "manufactured".

The various components of net interest margin, both at a Group level and for each regional banking operation, were fully disclosed in charts in the presentation at the half year results briefing on May 10 (available at www.nabgroup.com). This clearly sets out the competitive impacts on our margins, in a manner consistent with prior periods.

As we explained to your journalist, at a Group level, the difference in growth referred to in the article between interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities predominantly relates to an increase in net non-interest-bearing liabilities such as short-sold securities and other derivative products, typically in nabCapital and Group Funding.

Growth in these net non-interest-bearing liabilities typically results in either funds that increase interest-earning assets or reduce interest-bearing liabilities. There is no "mystery increase" in the bank's interest earning assets, nor any attempt to "inflate net interest margin ... to remove the focus on competition", as was asserted.

Michael Ullmer

Finance director, National Australia Bank

FIRST BYTE

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The Australian Electoral Commission's liberal view of the PM's partying suggests Kevin Rudd has been flogging a dead hors d'oeuvre.

M.F. Horton

Alice Springs, NT

I thought it was bad being John Howard's enemy until I saw how much it costs to be his mate: \$8250!

M. Pearce

Richmond, NSW

John Howard, the "clever" politician, has a repertoire of one song: scare them. This time it's the unions who are supposed to terrify us.

Peter Clayton

Neutral Bay, NSW

I share the concern of Margaret Goody (Letters, 15/6) about the ACTU's marginal-seat campaign strategy, but

at the first phone call the voter could simply give a response in the manner of Dean Mighell: it's none of your (expletive) business!

Rob Langley

Burradoo, NSW

Paul Keating's regular incursions into the current political debate suggest he is proposing to contest the election later this year, but he really should tell Kevin.

Bill Carpenter

Bowral, NSW

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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<u>INSIDE</u>

The New York Times

December 18, 2006 Monday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 4; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 265 words

Body

Call for Palestinian Vote Spurs Fighting in Gaza

Palestinian leaders appealed to militants to lay down their weapons after a day of heavily armed partisan rallies, right, and gun battles in the Gaza Strip. The two main factions, <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah, were reacting to a call by Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority president, for new elections. Clashes near the presidential compound killed three and wounded 15 before the two sides agreed to a cease-fire. PAGE A3

Blair Pledges His Support During Surprise Visit to Iraq

Prime Minister Tony Blair pledged his support for the Iraqi government in a surprise visit to the country, saying that British troops would remain "until the job is done." Less than a mile from where he spoke, gunmen in police uniforms seized 25 employees of an Iraqi aid organization. PAGE A12

Medicaid Drug Payment Cuts

The Bush administration will propose sweeping reductions in payments to pharmacies to save money for Medicaid, the health program for low-income people. PAGE A16

Women React to Cancer News

Reaction to the news that breast cancer rates fell after many <u>women</u> stopped taking hormones to treat menopause varied from fury to disbelief to complacency. PAGE A27

Castro to Return, Cubans Say

Cuban officials told a group of visiting United States lawmakers that Fidel Castro did not have cancer or a terminal illness and would eventually return to public life. PAGE A6

The Human as Bloodhound

Researchers have found that humans can follow a scent surprisingly well, as long as they do not mind putting their noses right to the ground and crawling. PAGE A27

Graphic

Photo (Photo by Hatem Moussa/Associated Press)

Load-Date: December 18, 2006



World Journal

The Telegraph-Journal (New Brunswick)

March 19, 2007 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 742 words

Body

War

Six U.S. troops killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD - Sunni insurgents, resilient despite the five-week security crackdown in the capital, killed at least six more U.S. troops over the weekend. A Sunni car bomber also hit a largely Shiite district in the capital Sunday, killing at least eight people. The American military said four U.S. soldiers died and one was wounded when the unit was struck by a roadside bomb in western Baghdad. A fifth soldier was killed in an explosion in Diyala, an increasingly volatile province just northeast of the capital. A marine died in fighting the same day in Anbar province, the vast, largely desert region that sprawls west of Baghdad to the Saudi Arabian, Jordanian and Syrian borders.

Mideast

Olmert against new coalition

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Sunday said he will not work with the new Palestinian government, but promised to maintain limited contacts with President Mahmoud Abbas. Olmert told his Cabinet that future talks with Abbas will be on humanitarian issues, saying serious peace talks could not take place following Abbas' alliance with the <u>Hamas</u> militant group. The new coalition government between <u>Hamas</u> and Abbas' Fatah movement took office on Saturday, hoping to persuade the international community to end its isolation of the Palestinian Authority and lift a year of bruising sanctions.

Racism

Ku Klux Klan rallies in Texas

STEPHENVILLE, Texas - Two dozen Ku Klux Klan members held a downtown rally Saturday in this usually quiet dairy community to show support for college students who threw a party that was criticized for being racist. Three people were arrested after a scuffle broke out with counter-protesters near the end of the 90-minute rally, but no other violence was reported. The event drew about 500 bystanders who booed and held anti-hate signs.

Protest

Marchers against war

WASHINGTON - Denouncing a conflict entering its fifth year, protesters across the world raised their voices Saturday against U.S. policy in Iraq. Thousands crossed the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial to rally

World Journal

loudly but peacefully near the Pentagon. Smaller protests were held in other U.S. citie. Demonstrations were also held in cities across Canada, including Halifax, Montreal, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton. Overseas, tens of thousands marched in Madrid as Spaniards called not only for the U.S. to get out of Iraq but to close the prison for terrorist suspects at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Smaller protests were staged in Greece and Turkey.

Accident

Jet crash in Russia kills six

MOSCOW - A Russian airliner came down short of a runway in heavy fog Saturday, bouncing and then flipping onto its back. Six people were killed and 26 injured, the government said. Prosecutors investigating the crash in the central Russian city of Samara said bad weather and pilot error were the most likely causes.

Demonstrations

French protest nuclear plans

RENNES, France - Tens of thousands of people filled the streets of five French cities Saturday to protest plans to build the next generation of nuclear reactors. The simultaneous protests organized by Get Out Of Nuclear, a collective made up of hundreds of associations, was intended to raise the prominence of the issue in the run-up to April-May presidential elections. Smaller-party candidates resolutely opposed to the construction of new facilities called European pressurized-water reactors joined the protesters.

Politics

Centrist party wins in Finland

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) - Finland's incumbent centrist party barely won parliamentary elections Sunday, with the main opposition Conservatives making strong gains to claim a possible spot in the next government. The outcome could lead to the formation of a new centre-right government, and leave the left- leaning Social Democrats, the Centre party's main coalition partner, in opposition for the first time since 1995.

Health

Doctors share treatment info

Doctors who have treated H5N1 avian flu patients are meeting in a Turkish seaside town to try to find answers to the myriad mysteries that remain about what the brutal virus does to its human victims. The World Health Organization hopes that by pooling patient data, the meeting will answer critical questions such as whether all lineages of the H5N1 virus cause the same severity of disease and how best to treat pregnant <u>women</u> who become infected. Based on what it learns at this meeting, the WHO will update H5N1 treatment guidelines.

Load-Date: March 19, 2007



Caught on the divide IN THE SPOTLIGHT KING ABDULLAH II OF JORDAN

Financial Times (London, England)

March 5, 2007 Monday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2007 The Financial Times Limited

Section: FT BACK; Pg. 34

Length: 727 words

Byline: By SHARMILA DEVI

Body

For many Jordanians, the warm reception accorded King Abdullah II in the west only serves to highlight the growing disconnect between the ruler and the ruled.

As befitting a loyal ally, the king will be the first head of state to address the new Democratic-controlled US Congress on Wednesday. But in Jordan, there is rising disquiet over the perceived unevenness of US policies in the Middle East.

In an attempt to check the tide, the king will repeat his mantra to the US administration that time is running out for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Jordanian monarch and his American friends also have a host of other problems to address: conflict in Iraq that has driven up to 1m refugees into neighbouring Jordan; sectarian unrest in Lebanon; Iran's nuclear ambitions, and a more marked Sunni-Shia divide emerging across the region.

It was King Abdullah, a Sunni whose Hashemite family claims direct descent from the prophet Mohammed, who caused a storm in 2004 when he warned of a growing "Shia crescent" as Iran extended its influence. Coverage of these comments, which many thought incendiary in a simmering region, overshadowed his Amman Message of religious tolerance.

Born in 1962, Abdullah grew up never expecting to be king during his education at US and British schools and at the UK's Sandhurst Royal Military Academy. His uncle, Prince Hassan, was groomed as crown prince but King Hussein, on his deathbed, pronounced his eldest son successor. He assumed the throne in 1999.

He faced some scepticism over his Arab credentials but was afforded leeway as the son of a much-loved monarch. His mother, Princess Muna, was born British and his mastery of the Arabic language was imperfect. He was best known in the US for a guest appearance in a 1995 episode of 'Star Trek', one of his favourite shows.

The diminutive king's public image was boosted by his beautiful and much-photographed wife, Queen Rania. Bought up in Kuwait, she is of Palestinian descent, as is more than half of Jordan's population of almost 6m.

The king and queen's profile is that of a modern couple, perhaps more at home in the west than with Jordan's conservative Bedouin roots. Each is working to modernise their country; the king looking towards economic and political reforms and the queen to social issues such as child abuse and <u>female</u> empowerment.

Caught on the divide IN THE SPOTLIGHT KING ABDULLAH II OF JORDAN

The record is mixed. A sizeable middle class has benefited from soaring real estate and stock market prices but unemployment and poverty levels remain stubbornly high. Concerted political reform is repeatedly delayed, partly as a reaction to increased political turbulence in the region.

King Abdullah was left with little choice but to back Washington's Iraq war policy after watching his father fall into isolation after backing Saddam Hussein in 1991. A 1994 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, the last Arab country after Egypt to sign such an accord, helped to bring Amman back into the western fold. Jordan is reliant now more than ever on western aid, with cheap oil from the Gulf and Iraq having been phased out or cut off.

Even before the 2003 Iraq war, local passions were inflamed by the Palestinian intifada that started in 2000. Jordanians questioned the peace treaty with Israel, especially after already scant cross-tourism dried up. The victory last year of <u>Hamas</u> in Palestinian parliamentary elections further raised fears in the royal court of an emboldened domestic Islamist movement.

A crackdown on Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood followed and sits uneasily with a commitment to hold elections later this year, particularly as the brotherhood's political arm, the Islamic Action Front, is poised to do well as the only organised opposition party. The king might find some relief if Washington keeps the brakes on its democracy drive, having watched *Hamas* come to power through legitimate elections.

Suicide bombings that killed 60 people in Amman in November 2005 damped popular support for radical Islam, according to opinion polls. But opposition to US policies in the region is rising.

This was acknowledged by Queen Rania during a speech in Saudi Arabia last week. "Americans . . . must face up to the fact that negative sentiments among many Arabs stem not from lack of understanding of US policy in our region but because many Arabs and Muslims think much of the policy is unsound."

Load-Date: March 4, 2007



Pension bill is unveiled

EVENING CHRONICLE (Newcastle, UK)

November 29, 2006 Wednesday

Edition 1

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 275 words

Byline: By The Evening Chronicle

Body

Sweeping reforms of the pensions system - including raising the retirement age to 68 - will be unveiled by the Government today.

The Pensions Bill is expected to set out plans for the state pension age to increase gradually to the new level by 2046. Ministers insist the move is necessary to ensure fairness between generations, while securing the long-term financial stability and sustainability of the pension system.

Flying high

Easyjet founder Stelios Haji-loannou will be knighted by the Queen today at Buckingham Palace. The Greece-born entrepreneur, who set up his budget airline company 11 years ago, said the accolade was a "great honour".

Hacking claim

The royal editor of the News of the World will appear at the Old Bailey today accused of mobile phone hacking charges. Clive Goodman is alleged to have conspired to intercept voicemail messages and of intercepting voicemail messages. The case is listed as a plea and case management hearing. A provisional trial date has been set for July 23 next year.

Turkey talks

The European Commission is expected to recommend today that the EU partially suspend entry talks with Turkey, officials said. The recommendation is to be issued a week earlier than expected because Turkey continues to refuse to open its ports to EU member Cyprus, the officials said.

Prisoner swap

The Egyptian official negotiating an Israeli-Palestinian prisoner swap plans to deliver to Israel today a *Hamas* demand that Israel free 1,400 detainees in exchange for a soldier held since June.

Ban backing

One in three people would support a ban on Muslim <u>women</u> wearing veils which cover their faces in public, according to a new survey.

Pension bill is unveiled

Load-Date: November 30, 2006



The world this week

Waikato Times (Hamilton, New Zealand)

December 23, 2006 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 1

Length: 277 words

Body

EAST TIMOR: Hundreds of gang members battled with guns and machetes in East Timor's capital Dili on Sunday, killing one and injuring two.

PALESTINE: Palestinian rivals <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah reached a deal on Monday to stop fighting after a day of bloodshed in which President Mahmoud Abbas' offices came under mortar fire.

AUSTRALIA: Hundreds of thousands of animals such as koalas and kangaroos have been killed in bushfires across southeast Australia in the past two weeks, wildlife officials say.

BRITAIN: A coroner formally opened inquests into the deaths of five <u>women</u> on Thursday as police continued to question two men suspected of killing them.

AUSTRIA: Vienna's highest court ruled that British author David Irving, imprisoned on charges of denying the Holocaust, could be released to serve the rest of his three-year sentence on probation.

LIBYA: A Libyan court sentenced five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor to death on Wednesday for deliberately infecting hundreds of children with the virus that causes Aids, provoking a chorus of Western condemnation.

THEY SAID IT:

- * "We get all sorts of strange rescues -- children's heads stuck in bars at shopping centres, kids' fingers stuck in plugs -- but that was the first I had heard of someone being stuck in a washing machine."
- -- Queensland Fire and Rescue Service spokesman Andrew Berkman after rescuing a 10-year-old Brisbane girl from a washing machine.
- * "It will not happen overnight, but it will happen on our time. It is what the military has been wanting all along."
- -- Fiji military strongman Frank Bainimarama on a proposal to restore Fiji to civilian rule.

CAPTION:

FRANK BAINIMARAMA

The world this week

Load-Date: January 9, 2007



Shields of shame

Ottawa Citizen

November 21, 2006 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 295 words

Byline: The Ottawa Citizen

Body

For years Israel has complained about the Palestinian use of human shields. In the 1980s, Palestinian gunmen started firing from behind civilian crowds, making it impossible for Israeli soldiers to shoot back without killing innocent Arabs. In the 1990s, with the advent of suicide bombings, Palestinians began shuttling operatives in ambulances and hiding bomb-making materials in civilian buildings.

Palestinians typically denied putting their own <u>women</u> and children in such peril, but as of this weekend they abandoned the fiction. The use of human shields is finally out in the open. Palestinian leaders, in the mosques and on the radio stations, are publicly calling for civilians to converge on buildings used by men who lob rockets into Israel. Over the weekend, Israel called off several defensive strikes because it didn't want to hurt the civilians who had been called upon to shield the targets with their bodies.

The Palestinian attempt to erase the line between combatant and non-combatant is at first glance repulsive, but on second thought, one is tempted to place it in the tradition of non-violent resistance. Did not civil rights workers in the American south, pursuing social justice, put their lives on the line?

The difference is that American civil rights workers were fighting for the right to eat at lunch counters. The Palestinians who shield <u>Hamas</u> personnel and facilities are fighting for the right to fire rockets into Israeli towns and blow up Israeli buses. The American civil rights workers sang "We shall overcome." The Palestinian crowds this weekend chanted "Death to Israel, Death to America."

"Death to Israel" rallies play well in the Arab press, but it's hard to see how they help accelerate the coming of an independent Palestinian state.

Load-Date: November 21, 2006



No, sheik, sorry isn't good enough

The Australian (Australia)

November 1, 2006 Wednesday

All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Opinion / Op Ed; Pg. 14

Length: 1154 words

Byline: JANET ALBRECHTSEN

Body

MATP

For too long the West's unreciprocated tolerance has allowed fanatical Muslim leaders such as Taj Din al-Hilali to spawn a new generation of Islamic radicals who reject our values

THIRTY years ago, Elton John may have crooned that "sorry seems to be the hardest word", but these days the sorry word rolls off the tongue too easily. So it's no surprise that Muslim cleric Taj Din al-Hilali thought a few apologies would get him off the hook for claiming that <u>women</u> in short skirts who smile and sway their hips are to blame for unleashing unlawful sexual appetites in men.

The mufti was tapping into the modern-day disease of apologitis. Say you're sorry and endless Western tenderness and tolerance will forgive all. The West has mistakenly believed tolerance begets tolerance. Having discovered that it spawns intolerance, we are finally getting back into the values debate. That means realising that sorry just won't cut it any more.

But right on cue, the first reaction from Abdul El Ayoubi of the Lebanese Muslim Association was: "We did accept his apology and we want to move on." Whoa. Before we move on, let's figure out precisely why sorry does not work any more. The sheik's apology has the distinct smell of someone being sorry that he was caught. There was no hint of contrition from Hilali in the weeks between his speech and The Australian reporting it. His faint-hearted mea culpa once the media arrived looked more like one of those PR-spun apologies. You know the kind, like the one AWB was advised to make but declined.

Going into further damage control last Friday, the wily cleric from Sydney's Lakemba mosque said his words were misinterpreted just like the Pope's address at Regensburg University. Full marks for cunning, with Hilali and his supporters believing that if good-hearted people cut a Christian leader some slack, then a Muslim leader deserves the same courtesy. The argument fails on logic. The Pope is entitled to ask whether violence is part of Islam in an attempt to encourage Muslim leaders to talk openly about what it is within Islam that encourages jihadists. The validity of that question was instantly proved by the violent response it triggered. By contrast, Hilali's medieval comments about women as meat pose no valid question. They are unacceptable in an enlightened world.

Let's put the mad sheik to one side. De-sheiking him is only part of a bigger problem. Fanatical Muslim leaders have been pandered to by Western leaders who should know better. They have been too frightened to make judgments for fear of incurring a cultural wrath. And Muslim communities living in Western liberal democracies have

failed to hold their leaders to account for their extremism. Remember that 500 Muslims listened to the sheik's poisonous remarks at Lakemba mosque last month. Not one person went public to immediately declare them unacceptable.

Criticism from some Muslims came only after The Australian reported the speech. But for the media, we would not have flushed out this madness and Hilali would be quietly fomenting more extremism under cover of the mosque.

This is a point Australian Federal Police boss Mick Keelty may want to mull over, given his remarks last week blaming the media for fuelling vilification of Australian Muslims, which he said was encouraging home-grown terrorism.

Let's focus on the real problem here. Notwithstanding Hilali being benched for a few months, and then choosing to step aside indefinitely, many Muslims support his outpourings of hate. The paralysis of the Lebanese Muslim Association attests to that.

And when the sheik returned to Lakemba mosque last Friday, 5000 people turned up to listen and cheer.

As Peter Costello remarked about Hilali on Monday: "These kinds of attitudes have actually influenced people ... So you wonder whether a kid like [gang rapist] Bilal Skaf had grown up hearing these kinds of attitudes and you wonder whether kids rioting down at Cronulla have heard these kinds of attitudes."

Those attitudes are found in the most unlikely places. A straw poll by The Sydney Morning Herald of Muslim **women** in their 20s and 30s -- **women** one might expect to have a more enlightened view -- revealed that some supported the view that **women** must cover up to prevent men from raping them. Little wonder some Muslim boys are growing up to view short-skirted Western **women** as "asking for it".

Now for the biggest problem of all. Western nations have long taken the view that by setting themselves up as role models of best practice on the tolerance front, tolerance would be forthcoming from other quarters. Specifically, it was thought that those from other cultures who make their home in the West would embrace tolerance as a Western virtue. We also hoped that other less tolerant nations would see the light and follow suit. It's what the Pope calls reciprocity.

That plan is coming unstuck in the clash between modernity and Islam. In Western countries, the tolerance virtue is being used by the likes of Hilali to spout venom. In Britain it has led to what English columnist Melanie Phillips has dubbed Londonistan. A moral vacuum over the worth of Western values effectively handed control of the debate to rabid Muslim leaders. As Marcello Pera wrote in his introduction to the 2006 edition of a book he co-authored with the Pope: "Try saying that Western institutions are better than the institutions in Islamic countries. A warrant will be sworn for your cultural arrest."

The same timidity has infected Europe, now nicknamed Eurabia. <u>Hamas</u>'s al-Aqsa television station is planning to beam its ideology of hate against the West into European homes. It's a clever recruitment drive for the Palestinian terrorist group given that these days Western-born terrorists are the ones more likely to be loading up their backpacks with explosives. We think we have a problem with the Western media convincing tweenies to buy lip gloss and low-slung jeans. As The Wall Street Journal reports, in a recent edition of <u>Hamas</u>'s online magazine aimed at children, young readers are treated to a cartoon of a smiling child riding a rocket. Let's hope Europe is quick to shut down <u>Hamas</u>'s hate TV channel. It took them years to shut down Hezbollah's al-Manar TV.

Every time we take our eye off the ball, the other side scores. This is why the values debate matters. For more than 20 years, the West abandoned that debate. We gave ourselves over to Western self-loathers, cultural relativists and romantic primitivists. We allowed Muslim leaders such as Hilali to use their tolerant host countries to spawn a new generation of Muslims who reject Western values.

The good news is that Western nations are reclaiming the values debate after discovering that tolerating subversion signals Western weakness and encourages more subversion.

The bad news is that reclaiming the ground is going to take more than getting rid of one mufti.

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Load-Date: October 31, 2006



JACKSON FIVE

Sunday Mercury
September 23, 2007, Sunday
First Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 10

Length: 294 words

Byline: LORNE JACKSON

Body

1 RUSSIA'S Foreign Minister says: "We're convinced that no modern problem has a military solution."

He was attacking France's position on war with Iran.

Putin and his pals certainly have a keen sense of humour because Moscow is currently brandishing more heavy-duty weaponry than you'd find at an International Convention Of Male Strippers.

Or perhaps Russia just doesn't want to defy her old mate, Iran.

It's a foolish move, whatever the reason.

The great nations of the world must stand together and tough against Iran.

That's the only way to avoid conflict.

2 NO-NONSENSE military man General Dannat says British Army morale is being sapped because soldiers don't feel they're backed by the nation.

He's got a point.

Led by chattering-class chumps, too many people are happy to support Hezbollah, <u>Hamas</u> and Iraqi insurgents (or terrorists, if you want their proper, non-BBC name). Flag-waving does still exist. Unfortunately, too many ageing anarchists and left-wing 'rebels' have chosen the skull and cross-bones as their flag of choice.

3 CHRIS Langham's wife says he is not a paedophile, just arrogant and stupid.

But by downloading porno-graphic images of children, the actor helped finance a horrific system.

He wasn't just a big-headed fool, he was a voyeur of vicious acts.

A man who thoroughly deserves his prison sentence.

4 SIAN Lloyd has won the Rear Of The Year Award.

I'm not particularly impressed by that wobbly blancmange she packs into her jeans.

JACKSON FIVE

Maybe the competition organisers were talking about that thing balanced on top of her neck.

5 COMMISERATIONS to the England Rugby Team, who got beaten by America in the final of the World Cup yesterday.

What? That was the **Women**'s football team!

Gals, you really have to start wielding those Lady Shavers with conviction.

Load-Date: September 23, 2007



Palestinians bury dead; Israeli leader offers talks

The International Herald Tribune November 10, 2006 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 761 words **Byline:** Ian Fisher

Dateline: BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip

Body

Palestinians marched in anger Thursday to bury 18 civilians killed by Israeli artillery baring for cameras the battered faces of two dead children as the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, offered to ease tensions by meeting the Palestinian president "any time, any place."

"I am very uncomfortable with this event," Olmert said at a business conference in Tel Aviv. "I'm very distressed."

Saying that he personally investigated the incident, which has spurred <u>Hamas</u> to warn that it might resume suicide bombings against Israeli civilians, Olmert called the shelling a "mistake" caused by "technical failure."

And he urged Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, to meet with him immediately.

"He will be surprised when he will sit with me of how far we are prepared to go," he said. "I can offer him a lot."

He did not explain what he meant. But the statement seemed to reflect deep embarrassment at the deaths, condemned around the world but also by many Israelis long concerned about the numbers of civilians killed in Israeli operations to curb rocket fire by Palestinian militants into Israel.

His statement also seemed to reposition the deaths the largest single loss of life among Palestinians in years into the realm of politics.

Any discussion between the two men would invariably center on the difficult question of prisoners and it is unclear how far Olmert could move from his past insistence that an Israeli soldier kidnapped this summer must be released before he would free Palestinians in Israeli jails.

Abbas did not immediately respond to Olmert's offer, amid three days of mourning among Palestinians after the deaths on Wednesday. Among those killed were 9 <u>women</u> and 5 children 16 years or younger. But he has refused other open-ended offers, saying that he first wanted a concrete deal on prisoners.

Amid the mourning, the cycle of violence continued Thursday: By evening, seven of the homemade Qassam rockets were fired from Gaza, wounding two Israelis hit by shrapnel in the city of Sderot, the Israeli military reported.

The issue of the Qassam rockets, crude and inaccurate, has emerged as a central dynamic of the conflict since Israel evacuated its settlers and military outposts from Gaza Strip last year.

Palestinians bury dead Israeli leader offers talks

Palestinians argue that the rockets are a legitimate form of resistance to combat what they call an Israeli "siege" of Gaza, virtually locked out from the outside world and for their larger claims against Israel.

The rockets have been condemned by human rights groups, but the groups have also criticized Israel for what they say are disproportionate tactics against them. Israel has responded forcefully with artillery barrages in densely populated areas against rocket launchers that often also kill civilians.

On Wednesday morning, just a day after ending a major military operation to stop the rocket fire here in Beit Hanoun, the Israeli military said it fired off 12 rounds near an orange grove used by rocket launchers.

But, for reasons the military has not explained in detail, the rounds slammed into a cluster of houses here, home to the extended Athamnah family. The death toll seemed especially high, witnesses said, because residents fled their bedrooms for a narrow alley after the first shells hit and were in the open when the others landed.

On Thursday, thousands of Palestinians, waving banners and shooting guns into the air, returned to the shrapnel-scarred houses with the bodies carried on stretchers and wrapped in the yellow flags of the Fatah party, led for decades by Yasser Arafat. <u>Women</u> wailed and screamed for revenge: "Martyrs by the millions!" they chanted. "We are going to Jerusalem!"

Many of the dead were completely covered. But family members exposed the faces of two youngest victims sisters named Maisa Athamnah, 6 months old, and Maram, 3 as they held their bodies over their heads for the crowd to see.

"How was this baby guilty?" asked Kamal Hamdan, 43.

The bodies were carried to a new cemetery and buried in a single row, the two girls in the same concrete tomb as their mother, Manal, 25. The mood was angry, with many people saying that they believed Palestinians should intensify their attacks on Israel, civilians included.

"We must continue our resistance, even if the price is as big as this," said Ataa Zania, a paramedic who helped evacuate the dead and wounded on Wednesday. "Whoever wants to liberate his country has to pay the price."

There was much approval for statements from <u>Hamas</u> leaders following the attack that they might resume suicide bombings inside Israel.

Load-Date: November 10, 2006



MX (Australia)

July 31, 2007 Tuesday

Melbourne Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 307 words

Body

PILGRIMS DROWN AS BOAT CAPSIZES

SIXTEEN people, including <u>women</u> and children, drowned in the Ganges river near the banks of the holy Hindu city of Varanasi when an overloaded boat of pilgrims capsized.

The boat, which was carrying 25 passengers, was fit to carry only eight people, police said.

Five <u>women</u> and three children were among the dead, while nine people managed to swim to safety.

Police have detained the owner of the boat.

SOUTH AFRICAN FIRES CLAIM 19

FIRES that swept through parts of South Africa and neighbouring countries at the weekend have killed at least 19 people and damaged power lines, crops and forests.

Fires were still burning in the eastern Mpumalanga province and bordering Swaziland.

More runaway fires were also reported in the east coast province of KwaZulu-Natal.

The weekend's fires claimed at least 13 lives in KwaZulu-Natal, and six firefighters died in Mpumalanga. Some reports put the death toll in Mpumalanga as high as 17.

ISRAELI AIR STRIKE WOUNDS SEVEN

ISRAEL launched an air strike against a vehicle in the central Gaza Strip, wounding seven people, three of them militants.

For a second day, Israel allowed Palestinians stranded in Egypt since <u>Hamas</u>'s takeover of Gaza last month to return to the coastal strip travelling via the Jewish state.

An Israeli security source said 313 crossed yesterday.

A senior intelligence official loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was also found dead in the Gaza Strip.

HUNTERS SET SIGHTS ON LEOPARDS

INDIA'S leopards are under threat, with increasing numbers of the wild cats being poached for their body parts and villagers killing them for straying into human settlements, experts say.

With tiger populations dwindling in recent years, wildlife officials say hunters have set their sights on leopards, killing them for their skins and for use in traditional Asian medicines.

Load-Date: July 31, 2007



The pain behind violence'lt hasn't been at all easy...'

The Toronto Star
October 15, 2006 Sunday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: IDEAS; Pg. D01

Length: 1132 words

Byline: Andrew Chung, Toronto Star

Body

Talks began last week to restore self-rule to Northern Ireland after the Independent Monitoring Commission, the body charged with, among other things, monitoring paramilitary activity in the province, said in a major report that the Irish Republican Army was no longer engaged in terrorism. It was a major step to a lasting peace in Northern Ireland, which has suffered under 30 years of conflict between Catholic Irish Republicans and pro-British Protestants, during which 3,600 people have been killed.

John Alderdice, a psychiatrist, former member of the Northern Ireland assembly, and a member of the House of Lords, is a commissioner with the IMC. A Protestant, he has also worked tirelessly to bring the sides together over the years. It has meant he has had to talk to, and try to understand, terrorists - something most authorities and governments engaged in the war on terror today seem unwilling to do.

How did growing up in Northern Ireland affect you?

I was growing up when the violence started. My question was, why are people doing this? What is it that drives people to behave in such a self-destructive way? Those were the reasons I went into psychology and psychoanalysis, and politics. Understanding the psychology of individuals and groups was a way of addressing politics in a different fashion.

Did you see a lot of the fallout of the violence in your practice?

We're beginning to see the long-term sequelae of young people growing up in this kind of atmosphere, where normal boundaries are put to the side and living with criminal behaviour and what not. There's a huge amount of pathology.

You have some theories about the pathology of terrorism.

One thing that came out for me as I started to talk to people in Northern Ireland, those involved in violence and those who were sympathetic to the violence, was a strong feeling that their community had been humiliated, and it was historical and it had been deeply felt.

And when I went to other parts of the world - the Balkans, Middle East, Latin America in Peru, Nepal, Sub-Saharan Africa - I discovered this was a widespread phenomenon, the feeling that their community was not treated with respect. They responded in an angry and very violent way.

The pain behind violence'lt hasn't been at all easy...'

That's not to say that economic disadvantage and other political issues are not of importance. But this is something that has kept coming out to me as a common feature of countries and communities where terrorism emerges.

But what's the difference, say, between two people, both of whom experience these feelings of humiliation, yet one embraces paramilitarism and the other does not?

We don't really know the answer. It's the same as what happens when someone is physically or sexually abused. What turns someone into an abuser and the other into a social worker working with the abused? It's a question for which we don't quite know enough to be able to say with clarity.

But there are a number of things we do know. If somebody is raised in an emotionally supportive, thoughtful, congenial and consistent environment, they have a better chance of becoming that social worker, but if they're in an unhappy, emotionally deprived environment, they're more likely to be an abuser. You can transpose that to the political environment.

What is it that IRA leader Martin McGuinness said during peace talks that struck you so deeply?

He told the story of wanting to be a motor mechanic and asking to be taken on for a job. And the guy said there was no job available. He said, "Keep me in mind." But the guy explained to him that he'd never have a job there because he's a Catholic. He became really humiliated with that.

But he also said, "Sometimes I wonder if I'd ever have got involved in all the subsequent things if I'd gotten that job." That was a powerful thing for those of us listening to hear. And I wonder if that garage owner had heard that, would he feel any sense that maybe he played a part in it?

But is giving someone a job enough to stop him from becoming a terrorist?

It's not a question of giving him a job. It was the emotional reaction to the reason for not giving him a job.

Why have you been so willing to embrace those that have been behind so much terror in Northern Ireland?

It hasn't been at all easy. I've had to struggle both emotionally and intellectually, my colleagues advising me not to do it. For a long time I felt that to get moderate people working together we had to marginalize those responsible for the violence. But we tried it and it didn't work. Repression was tried, and it didn't work. So should we continue with something that wasn't working? Or take a risk? It was very difficult, and it took a very long time, but it made an enormous change. If we didn't try to engage with people who supported the use of violence and involved the use of terrorism, then you can't come to understand why they did it.

The conventional wisdom nowadays is to never talk to, or negotiate with, terrorists.

Well, it may be the conventional view, but it's not wisdom.

What about terror in the name of Islam?

<u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah, they have clearly identified origins and a political agenda they want to achieve, different from the global jihadists. I've gone and sat down with people in <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah, not because I agree with their positions or their methods, but because I don't agree with the way they've done things and want to find a way in which disagreements can be handled in a different way. People don't see a way out without resorting to violence. Then they go down the democratic road, <u>Hamas</u> gets elected, and then people say we don't want to do business with you.

What does that have to do with humiliation and disrespect?

Because if you talk to those people, they will tell you how profoundly they feel disrespected and humiliated. Some of it is current, some historic. It's not difficult to find reasons why they feel this way. And again, like our situation, there are two sides of it. There's a profound insecurity and despair and long history of disrespect and humiliation of the

The pain behind violence'lt hasn't been at all easy...'

Jewish people. You've got to understand the profound depth of feeling there. You can't just deal with Palestinian feelings.

What about global jihadists, Al Qaeda?

It's more complex. But you have many young people who look at how the West is related to the Middle East, and (they say), "You talk about rights, <u>women</u> in society, but who are your allies? They're leaders who do not conduct their countries democratically, and we think you're keeping people in place who support you and provide you with strategic resources, and we're not getting the benefit."

This is not to justify terrorism; it's appalling, reprehensible. But you can't say that you can't find a way of understanding it if you think only a military approach is usable. You'll find it gets worse and worse.

Graphic

PETER MUHLY getty images John Alderdice: No wisdom in not talking.

Load-Date: October 15, 2006



DOOM & GLOOM

Sydney MX (Australia)
July 6, 2007 Friday
SYD Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 305 words

Body

BLAST AT KARAOKE BAR KILLS 25

AN explosion at a karaoke bar in northeastern China has killed 25 people.

A further 33 people were injured in the blast yesterday in Tianshifu town in Liaoning province.

Investigators are trying to establish whether the explosion was a bombing or an accident.

CAR BOMB HITS WEDDING PARTY

A CAR bomb killed 17 people and wounded 25 others outside a restaurant in a Shi'ite neighbourhood in southern Baghdad today, Iraqi police said.

Among the victims were women and children who were part of a group accompanying a newlywed couple.

The couple were in a nearby photographic shop having their pictures taken when the parked car exploded in the suburb of Abu Dshir.

ELEVEN DIE IN GAZA STRIP CLASHES

ISRAELI troops killed 11 Palestinian fighters in fierce clashes today while ground troops backed by air power pushed into the Gaza Strip, stepping up pressure on the *Hamas*-run enclave.

Israeli troops and tanks rolled across the border into the central Gaza Strip to the outskirts of the Mughazi refugee camp, where they got locked in heavy gun battles with Palestinian militants.

CARGO PLANE CRASHES ON TAKEOFF

A CARGO plane crashed at an airport in western Mexico today, killing the three people on the plane and at least six people on the ground.

The plane slid off the runway and on to a highway after failing to take off from the airport in Culiacan, in the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa.

MOSQUE BATTLE IS STILL RAGING

DOOM & GLOOM

NEW gun battles and blasts rocked a besieged Pakistani mosque today as the Government rejected a conditional surrender offer by a cleric it accused of using <u>women</u> and children as human shields.

Authorities said Abdul Rashid Ghazi, the deputy leader of Islamabad's Red Mosque, must come out with his 1000 followers and lay down their weapons after three days of violence that have left 19 people dead.

Load-Date: July 6, 2007



Twelve killed in Israeli Gaza raids

Irish Independent

June 28, 2007 Thursday

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Independent.ie

Section: WORLD NEWS: World News

Length: 313 words

Body

AT least 12 Palestinians, including a 12-year-old boy, were killed during the most lethal Israeli raids into Gaza since *Hamas* seized control of it two weeks ago.

The deaths occurred after Israeli forces moved into the Gaza City neighbourhood of Shejaia and to the southern town of Khan Yunis. The move followed Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas's vow to crack down on militants in the West Bank.

US seeks apology over sex slaves

JAPAN suffered a rare rebuke from the US yesterday when a congressional committee demanded an "unambiguous" apology for the enslavement of hundreds of thousands of "comfort <u>women</u>" in military brothels during World War II.

But Tokyo brushed off the request and insisted that its close ties to Washington were "unshakable", despite the resolution that was overwhelmingly endorsed by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

UK judge fourth victim of floods

THE fourth victim of Britain's summer floods was named yesterday as a county court judge with over 20 years' experience.

Father-of-three Eric Dickinson (68) was found dead in his submerged Volvo near Pershore, Worcestershire, after he had attempted to cross a swollen ford.

Swelling diet pill 'satisfies hunger'

ITALIAN scientists have invented a new diet pill that swells inside the stomach, giving its users the impression they have already eaten.

The pill contains an extremely absorbent powder that expands to more than 1,000 times its initial size when combined with water.

US senators urge troop pullout

Twelve killed in Israeli Gaza raids

TWO influential Republican senators have broken ranks and called for President Bush to change his strategy in Iraq and co-operate with Congress as it tries to frame an exit strategy for US forces.

Yesterday, shockwaves were sent through Washington's political corridors after Richard Lugar called for a drawdown of US troops in Iraq. George Voinovich later renewed the call.

Load-Date: June 28, 2007



MX Brisbane (Queensland, Australia)

July 6, 2007 Friday

BRIS Edition

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Section: MX; Pg. 9 Length: 307 words

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Load-Date: September 27, 2007



MX Brisbane (Queensland, Australia)

July 31, 2007 Tuesday

BRIS Edition

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Section: MX; Pg. 10 Length: 307 words

Body

PILGRIMS DROWN AS BOAT CAPSIZES

SIXTEEN people, including <u>women</u> and children, drowned in the Ganges river near the banks of the holy Hindu city of Varanasi when an overloaded boat of pilgrims capsized.

The boat, which was carrying 25 passengers, was fit to carry only eight people, police said.

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Police have detained the owner of the boat.

SOUTH AFRICAN FIRES CLAIM 19

FIRES that swept through parts of South Africa and neighbouring countries at the weekend have killed at least 19 people and damaged power lines, crops and forests.

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More runaway fires were also reported in the east coast province of KwaZulu-Natal.

The weekend's fires claimed at least 13 lives in KwaZulu-Natal, and six firefighters died in Mpumalanga. Some reports put the death toll in Mpumalanga as high as 17.

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For a second day, Israel allowed Palestinians stranded in Egypt since <u>Hamas</u>'s takeover of Gaza last month to return to the coastal strip travelling via the Jewish state.

An Israeli security source said 313 crossed yesterday.

A senior intelligence official loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was also found dead in the Gaza Strip.

HUNTERS SET SIGHTS ON LEOPARDS

INDIA'S leopards are under threat, with increasing numbers of the wild cats being poached for their body parts and villagers killing them for straying into human settlements, experts say.

With tiger populations dwindling in recent years, wildlife officials say hunters have set their sights on leopards, killing them for their skins and for use in traditional Asian medicines.

Load-Date: September 27, 2007



Harper needs a little more diplomacy abroad

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

August 31, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. A18; Susan Riley

Length: 816 words

Byline: Susan Riley, Ottawa Citizen

Body

Away for a refreshing two-month break, far from the political white noise, but, unfortunately, not entirely out of range. I did pick up disturbing signals, even cycling through foggy Nova Scotia, as Prime Minister Stephen Harper spent his summer building his majority and refashioning what he once called "a second-rate socialist country" into something more muscular, righteous and useful.

To be fair, he warned us. Under his leadership, Canada would reassert its presence in the world, he said, fearlessly defending democracy and denouncing tyranny, making common cause with ideological allies like Israel, Australia and the United States and scolding human-rights scofflaws -- some, at least. "Canada is back," he boasts, as if the entire country had dropped off the map during the long Liberal interregnum.

A few foreign-policy wonks took issue with Harper's historic revisionism, pointing to Canada's role in establishing the 1997 Ottawa land mines convention, its refusal to embrace the war in Iraq despite pressure from the U.S., an honourable history of peacekeeping that started with Lester Pearson and Canadian leadership in strengthening the International Criminal Court. But none of these achievements, apparently, is as emphatic (and manly) as sending Canadian soldiers to a war zone.

That said, it is facile to portray Harper as a lapdog, or imitator, of tough-guy George W. Bush. As the prime minister himself said in Latin America this summer, "it is not in our past, or within our power, to conquer or dominate." That job -- sheriff of the world, imperial bully, dangerous innocent -- falls more naturally to the U.S. Canada's emerging role under Harper is different: We are becoming the world's unappointed ethics commissioner.

On the same visit to South America, Harper's first, he laid down the law in a speech in Chile. Calling upon his hitherto undisclosed expertise on Southern Hemisphere politics, Harper urged his listeners to reject the example of Venezuela and its leftish president, Hugo Chavez. The choice is not, he declared, "economic nationalism, political authoritarianism and class warfare," or economic and cultural domination by the U.S. Canada offers a third alternative, he said, as a country that promotes "fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law." Promotes, but does not impose.

To do this credibly, however, we have to be consistent. Last year, on his first trip to China, Harper declared, with what some saw as admirable moral clarity, that Canada would not sacrifice rights for trade. He sternly lectured Chinese leaders on human-rights abuses. Yet last month, when he visited Colombia's right-leaning president, Alvaro Uribe -- whose government has been linked to murderous paramilitaries -- he deliberately avoided finger-

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wagging. "We're not going to say fix all your social, political and human rights problems and only then will we trade with you," he said. "That's ridiculous."

The business of promoting democracy abroad is equally treacherous. Are U.S. forces "promoting" democracy in Iraq, for example, or imposing some face-saving version that won't survive an hour after the last American soldier leaves? As for Canada, we are repeatedly told that our soldiers are in Afghanistan to support Hamid Karzai's fledgling democracy. But Karzai's influence hardly extends beyond Kabul, and his government is known to be corrupted by drug profiteers and warlords.

On the other hand, when Palestinians elected a government dominated by <u>Hamas</u> last year, Canada was the first country to withdraw support on the grounds that <u>Hamas</u> is a terrorist organization that refuses to renounce violence and recognize Israel's right to exist. But if we are going to take on Islamic fundamentalists, why stop there? While Canadians are in Afghanistan fighting for <u>women</u>'s rights, for example, we maintain normal relations with Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries where <u>women</u> are chattel and Jews unwelcome.

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In international affairs, there is always tension between doing the right thing and doing the smart thing -- and Canada has developed a reputation for skating carefully between cynicism and sanctimony.

Harper could damage that reputation if he doesn't learn to tone down the outrage and lead by example.

Load-Date: August 31, 2007



Reporters on the Job

Christian Science Monitor June 21, 2007, Thursday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 301 words

Body

* More Than Tequila: Staff writer Sara Miller Llana was impressed by the passion in Mexico for a tourism project dubbed the "Tequila Trail." She was met by officials on a Sunday afternoon (see story) and was whisked away on a road trip that lasted more than eight hours. "Of course all of the distilleries are there, and the agave fields are beautiful. But there are obstacles - trash, for example. There is a lot of trash along the road," she notes.

Sara was told the Jalisco state government had just made littering a punishable crime, and someone was in a jail for a few hours to make a lesson of it. "But as they were telling me this, someone in the bus in front of us threw a Coke bottle out the bus window." Among the other obstacles: few quality hotels or restaurants.

"I'd like to go back in a couple years and see if the nice hotels, gourmet restaurants, and a trash-free route materialize. This region, as they say, could be so much more than just tequila!"

* On the Gaza Border: Correspondent Joshua Mitnik went back to the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel Wednesday, for the second time in less than a week. Hundreds of Palestinians are trying to get out (see story). On the Israeli side, dozens of journalists have gathered. "As a reporter, it was frustrating because access is limited," he notes. Israeli officials let about 90 Ukrainians out of Gaza Wednesday. "I saw two bus loads of people, mostly women and children, waving happily as they pulled away. But I wasn't allowed to talk to them."

In the parking lot, Josh spoke with worried Palestinian family members. "They had family members in Gaza who had told them by phone that <u>Hamas</u> activists were patrolling the neighborhoods looking for Fatah members."

- David Clark Scott

World editor

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Load-Date: June 20, 2007



Islamic Reformation? Be careful what you wish for; The Protestant Reformation was narrow and intolerant

The Gazette (Montreal)

August 21, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A17; DIANA MUIR

Length: 832 words

Byline: DIANA MUIR, Washington Post

Body

Salman Rushdie, Thomas Friedman, Nicholas Kristof and Mansour al-Nogaidan are among the well-intentioned people who have called for an Islamic Reformation. They should be careful what they wish for.

The Protestant Reformation did precede the things these men admire about modernity in the West, including <u>women</u>'s emancipation, political liberty, scientific breakthroughs, the wealth and opportunity created by the Industrial Revolution, and permission to think freely regarding God. But all this came later, and the Reformation was only part of what brought them about.

The Reformation was a time of intense focus on God and what he requires of people. As a movement, it was enthusiastic, narrow and far from tolerant. It and the Counter-Reformation brought two centuries of repression, war and massacre to the West. It's unlikely that anyone who lived through it would consider wishing a Reformation on Muslims.

And yet, even as some hope for such a turn of events - presuming, it seems, a certain conclusion - a Reformation is sweeping through the Muslim world. Westerners are generally aware that the Shiite and Sunni sects of Islam are struggling for dominance in Iraq. But broadly, the words and doctrine promoted by the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafis or Wahhabists are eerily similar to those of our 16th-century forebears.

Like the followers of Martin Luther and John Calvin, Islamic reformers reject the interpretations of generations of scholars in favour of seeking the word of God directly in scripture. Normative Islam follows one or another school of interpretation of scripture, known as a Madhab.

Careful study leads students to understand that God's word is often nuanced. Nuance is not the stuff of reform. Salafi reformers argue that Muslims should ignore generations of sages, read the Quran and Hadith for themselves, and act on the truth they find. A popular Salafi quote from the early Islamic jurist Abu Hanifa reads: When a passage (Hadith) is found to be authentic (saheeh) then that is my path (Madhab).

As Luther put it: Sola scriptura (Scripture alone).

This is heady stuff. The conviction of having the Word direct from God can empower individuals to rebuke, to command and even to kill in God's name. Protestant determination to follow the word of God straight from the Bible was accompanied by a desire to purify Christianity by emulating the beliefs and practices of the early church.

Islamic Reformation? Be careful what you wish for; The Protestant Reformation was narrow and intolerant

Hassan al Banna, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood; Sayyid Qutb, a leading Muslim Brotherhood thinker; and Ibn Wahab, the founder of modern Salafi, or Wahhabist, Islam, call upon Muslims to return to the uncorrupted beliefs and practices of early Islam and to become as pure as Salafis, or the first three generations of Muslims. To become, as it were, Puritans.

The call to purity appeals in part because in the Muslim world today corrupt holders of wealth and power resist moderate attempts at reform, much as the corrupt holders of wealth and power in the church and states in Luther's Europe resisted moderate reform.

Western pundits have debated whether Arabs who voted for <u>Hamas</u> or the Muslim Brotherhood in the Palestinian and Egyptian parliamentary elections were voting for the Islamist religious program or voting against corruption. Surely it was a two-for-one deal. To vote for the Muslim Brotherhood or <u>Hamas</u> is to vote against corruption and for returning to the purity of the days of the prophet Muhammad. This was a compelling idea when preached by Calvin. It is compelling still.

There are, of course, differences between the Protestant and Islamic reformations. In Islam today it is usually radical reformers who have reached first for the sword. In the European Reformation, things became tense when a determined minority demanded reform, but in general it was those church and state officials who held power who first resorted to violence.

In some European countries, the Reformation or the Counter-Reformation produced a rigid orthodoxy that stifled development for generations. In other countries the wars of religion were followed by the Enlightenment. Muslims might not follow a European course. They will choose whether they prefer societies shaped by Sayyid Qutb, who advocated closing the Islamic mind to everything but the ancient texts, or Ibn Rushd (also known as Averroes), who preferred the open embrace of all knowledge.

In the near term, though, the Islamic Reformation will divide Muslim society as the Reformation divided Europe. A fervent minority in many countries is already pressing for narrow interpretations on issues such as veiling, whether to listen to music and replacing secular laws with religious codes. As we have seen in Europe and more recently in Afghanistan, we are likely to see Muslim Puritans take over communities where they are far from being the majority. Meanwhile, the majority has yet to construct an effective ideological defence of moderation.

Diana Muir is working on a book about the history of nations and nationalism.

Load-Date: August 21, 2007



DOOM & GLOOM

Sydney MX (Australia)
July 31, 2007 Tuesday
SYD Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 307 words

Body

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Load-Date: July 31, 2007



Now. Where was I?

Ottawa Citizen

August 29, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12; Susan Riley

Length: 838 words

Byline: Susan Riley, The Ottawa Citizen

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Susan Riley's column runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday. E-mail: sriley@thecitizen.canwest.com

Load-Date: August 29, 2007



Blair unrepentant to the end for Iraq

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

June 30, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: OPINION; Pg. A18

Length: 303 words

Byline: Bruce Spencer, The Edmonton Journal

Body

Re: "Don't let terrorism dull our senses," by Tony Blair, Ideas, June 23.

The reprinted article from the Economist by ex-British prime minister Tony Blair is breathtaking in its omissions. Not one apology for lying to the British people and the world about the illegal invasion of Iraq (his fabricated false evidence of "weapons of mass destruction"). Not one regret for the thousands of men, <u>women</u> and children killed in his (and George W. Bush's) name. Civilian deaths according to Blair only result from "terrorist" actions.

Now he is to take up a job as "peace envoy" in an area where he refused to recognize the result of monitored democratic elections favouring <u>Hamas</u> or press for implementation of long-standing UN resolutions demanding Israel return to 1967 borders.

He favours a "transatlantic alliance" and asks that "Europe and America" stick together, by which he means accept U.S. foreign policy -- he is too young to remember the British Labour Party's resistance to the illegal, genocidal U.S. war in Vietnam and too self-obsessed to understand that even Margaret Thatcher opposed the illegal, murderous U.S. invasions of Panama and Grenada. This opposition may have made little difference in stopping the U.S. but at least it represented a "moral" (as opposed to a lapdog) position that helped rally antiwar elements in the U.S.

He asks us to stand up for "our values," but portrays none that I would want to be associated with. He ruled arrogantly, not even seeking cabinet approval for his actions, and ignored public opinion on his wars. He gagged the BBC and made a mockery of its independence. He sold peerages to the rich and sold public assets at knockdown prices. In short, he has nothing to teach Canadians about international relations and peace-keeping, let alone morality.

Bruce Spencer,

St. Albert

Load-Date: June 30, 2007



Islamic Opposition Group Pulls Out of Elections in Jordan

The New York Times

August 1, 2007 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 774 words

Byline: By HASSAN M. FATTAH; Suha Maayeh contributed reporting.

Dateline: AMMAN, Jordan, July 31

Body

After months of growing tension with the Jordanian government, the opposition Islamic Action Front abruptly withdrew from nationwide municipal council elections on Tuesday. The group cited voting irregularities in the elections, which were seen as a test for the more politically sensitive parliamentary elections this fall.

The Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and the most influential political opposition group in the country, announced at midday that it was pulling out of the elections. The group said that because of violence and accusations of irregularities, its participation would lend legitimacy to the government's efforts to weaken it.

"The level of corruption we witnessed made it impossible for us to continue with this election," said Zaki Bani Rsheid, the group's secretary general. Mr. Rsheid said that although the group had withdrawn, it was not boycotting the political process altogether.

The group charged that soldiers had been bused into contested districts to vote and that they were allowed to cast multiple ballots. It also said government security personnel had intimidated some voters and kept them from reaching the polls.

Marouf al-Bakhit, Jordan's prime minister, said the Islamic Action Front's withdrawal was illegal because it violated rules defining the time frame for quitting an election.

Mr. Bakhit would not comment on specific allegations of fraud, but said the elections were "legitimate under the Constitution and will not be marred by the nonparticipation of a certain party."

Sporadic violence at or near polling stations, including gunfire and street brawls, further marred the sense of change the government had sought to engender.

Jordan has long tried to engage and co-opt its Islamic opposition, which is one of the few officially sanctioned Islamist political parties in the Middle East. However, with the rise of <u>Hamas</u> in the Palestinian territories and growing fears of an Islamist ascendancy throughout the region, the government has worked to weaken the group and to ensure it does not make any major political gains, analysts say.

Islamic Opposition Group Pulls Out of Elections in Jordan

"What is clear is, we will not be drinking from the same goblet as the Palestinians did," said Fahd Kheitan, a political columnist for the Jordanian daily Al-Arab al-Yawm, referring to the election of <u>Hamas</u> to lead the Palestinian government in 2006. "The government is willing to go as far as it needs to curtail the march of the Islamists."

The uproar appeared to stymie efforts by the government to show off its effort at reform and increased representation.

"The I.A.F. is aware of how sensitive this matter is to the government and how it will affect it negatively," said Mohammad Momani, a political science professor at Yarmouk University. "They are using this as a bargaining chip to deal with the government, to press the government -- and the government in no time will attempt to re-engage them."

The elections were the first time Jordanians outside Amman could elect local mayors, who were previously appointed by the king. It was also the first time Jordanians could elect their entire municipal council instead of having half the membership appointed by the king. The government had also dropped the voting age to 18 from 19 to include more of the country's young people.

But in the often circuitous manner that political reform takes in much of the Middle East, the changes excluded Amman, Jordan's capital and largest city, and where the I.A.F. has its greatest following.

Some analysts saw the group's withdrawal as well-planned political theater intended to embarrass the government in an election Mr. Rsheid conceded was secondary to the more significant parliamentary elections in the fall.

City councils in Jordan are largely administrative bodies with limited political and spending power. The Islamic Action Front had fielded only 90 candidates, 4 of them <u>women</u>, among more than 2,000 vying for more than 1,000 seats across the kingdom.

But in a country where tribal loyalties typically trump Islamic credentials in local elections, the Islamists did not seem very likely to make a tremendous showing.

Still, the tug of war between the government and the Islamic Action Front was seen largely as a prelude to the November vote, in which the group is favored to gain seats.

"This is the first confrontation between the two sides on the streets before the parliamentary elections," said Mr. Kheitan, the columnist, who said the government had made its position plain. "After today, the statement is clear: the Islamists will not be allowed to spread."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: Men in Amman beneath an election poster and an image of King Abdullah, right. Jordan held nationwide municipal council elections yesterday. (Photograph by Bryan Denton for The New York Times)

A woman voting in Amman. The Islamic Action Front withdrew from the election, citing violence and accusations of irregularities. (Photograph by Khalil Mazraawi/Agence France-Presse)

Load-Date: August 1, 2007



Sweet cakes with a terrorist; Globalist

The International Herald Tribune
July 9, 2007 Monday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 723 words

Byline: Roger Cohen - The New York Times Media Group

Body

The West Bank town of Nablus sits in a valley, baking in its amphitheater, its white apartment buildings climbing hills, its central market a maze of alleys. Carts carry watermelons, cucumbers, green and red tomatoes. From dark interiors seep the smell of falafel frying and the sweet tobacco of hookahs.

Rubble from buildings destroyed by the Israel Defense Forces, or IDF, nourishes rose bushes that somehow rise from the stones. The city's haunting, troubled beauty makes the senses swim. Nablus stays with you. I was there a few weeks back and am haunted still.

Throughout the town, as elsewhere on the West Bank, Palestinian "martyrs" and prisoners are remembered. One poster in Jericho showed a young man from the Al Aksa Martyrs' Brigades, a terrorist group, with the words: "My enemy, do not think that I will forget the day of my being killed and occupied. If you put me in jail as a prisoner, please know that I am a prisoner in my own house. And in my prison I will find people who will avenge my situation."

The words chilled me: The gyre of killing keeps widening. A friend suggested she could arrange an introduction to Mahdi Abu Ghazali, the leader of Al Aksa in Nablus.

On the principle that looking someone in the eye is the path to understanding, I accepted. The war on terror is a phrase that has agglomerated terrorists - those fighting for national goals like a state, and nihilists intent only the destruction of the West. It is important to distinguish between them. There are answers to national struggles.

A shoe salesman named Ahmad Hassan Al-Assi led me through the labyrinth of the market. "I think the West Bank will go to Jordan and Gaza to Egypt," he said. "How are we supposed to make a state?"

We met an Al Aksa operative who took us here and there before climbing a maze of stairs and ushering me into a room with battered chairs. A toy pistol lay on one.

Direct and clean-shaven, with a weary gaze, Abu Ghazali speaks some Hebrew, having spent three years in Israeli jails. He described a life of hide-and-seek in a city plied every night by the IDF. Claiming that more than 1,000 Palestinians have died on the West Bank since 2003, he said: "Israel calls Palestinians terrorists. But it is a terrorist state. End the occupation, give us what we own, and we'll stop everything."

Unctuous sweet cakes were served and a rifle brought in for Abu Ghazali. "The situation in Gaza makes me sad," he continued. "Fatah is divided into an Americanized group and the old guard, and *Hamas* has an Iranian faction

Sweet cakes with a terrorist Globalist

and a Haniya faction" - a reference to Prime Minister Ismail Haniya, whose <u>Hamas</u>-led government has been fired by Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president. "We need one umbrella, like the Palestine Liberation Organization."

Aged 34, he talked about a life lived in its entirety under Israeli occupation. I asked him why he fought. "It's in the blood," he said. "I opened my eyes to this reality."

His older brother, Maher, was killed during the first intifada in 1987. "Three bullets from the IDF," he said. But it was not just his brother. The death of friends, and of what he called "the whole nation," produced "an internal need to fight them."

And what about suicide bombings, blowing up Israeli <u>women</u> and children? "The suicide bombing was right," Abu Ghazali said, "because it balanced the fear scale for a while. This was the result of their aggressions. I see a 4-year-old killed and I have to react. They call it terrorism. We call it reaction."

For now, however, suicide attacks were suspended, he said. "We fight soldiers on the West Bank. We could do operations in Israel, but we choose not to."

Abu Ghazali smiled. I was unsure what to make of his claim. Braggadocio? Probably.

In the moment when he justified suicide bombings, I felt a surge of anger. Still, I could not help feeling that if you could just get a group of Israelis and Abu Ghazali in the same room, let the Israelis talk about their fears and him about his slain brother, the Israelis about Zion and him about the olive groves of Palestine, the Israelis about the Holocaust and him the Nakba, the Israelis about a fence that keeps them safe and him about a wall of confinement - in short let them duel it out with their respective pain. More good than ill would come of the encounter.

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Email: rocohen@iht.com

Load-Date: July 11, 2007



Behind Bars; film

The Forward June 22, 2007

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Section: Arts & Culture; Pg. B2

Length: 782 words

Byline:

Peter Ephross is a reviewer for Publishers Weekly, as well as for other publications and Web sites. He was a longtime editor for JTA.

Body

A new documentary examines the lives of Palestinians in Israeli security prisons.

There's a particularly chilling scene about two-thirds of the way through Hot House, a new documentary that examines the lives of Palestinians serving time in Israeli security prisons.

The film's Israeli director, Shimon Dotan, asks <u>female</u> prisoner Ahlam Tamimi how many children were killed in the August 2001 terrorist attack on the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem. (Tamimi, a former newscaster for Palestinian TV, admits that she selected Sbarro as a terrorist site, and even delivered the suicide bomber there before leaving to read the news on air that day.) Three, she says. Eight, Dotan replies. Eight? Eight, Tamimi repeats, her smile betraying no emotion at the loss of innocent life.

Tamimi's lack of remorse which she expresses explicitly elsewhere in the film is just one of the jarring moments in Hot House, which is screening June 25 at the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival in New York City and airing June 27 on HBO/Cinemax. The winner of a Special Jury Award at Sundance earlier this year, Hot House is framed by the 2006 Palestinian elections, which <u>Hamas</u> won even though (or perhaps because) Israel held more than a dozen of its candidates in prison.

Dotan's film focuses on how the jails politicize the prisoners. Cells, for example, are divided into Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> factions with both groups having separate representatives to the prison warden. The two factions appear to get along well in jail, but are they so chummy now that their parent organizations are fighting a near-civil war in Gaza? The prisoners raise each other's political consciousness and teach each other Hebrew. Some are educated, even at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, while they are imprisoned. I think that the Palestinian people have turned the Israeli jails into acadaround

emies and universities, says former prisoner Samir Masharawi, who served eight-and-ahalf years in Israeli jails.

Both Israelis and Palestinians assert that the congenial atmosphere helps prisons run more smoothly, though at first glance one wonders if the jail time education and the status the prisoners receive in Palestinian society only make them more effective fighters against the Jewish state. But some argue that prison experience can bring the two sides closer together. Previous prisoners got to know the Israelis and not through gunsights, said Ofer Lefler,

Behind Bars film

a colonel who is a spokesman for the Israeli Prisons Authority. And they realized that the State of Israel cannot be eliminated, certainly not by terror.

At times, the prisons give off an uncomfortably utopian shine. The jail cells have the odd feel of a camp cabin; several prisoners live together in a room, sleeping in bunk beds. Dotan's camera follows the prisoners in their boring but oddly peacefu daily lives: They eat, joke, wash up, listen to Walkmans, even exercise. (The access granted Dotan will seem unbelievable to American viewers: It is difficult to imagine anyone getting this sort of window into Guantanamo Bay.)

Dotan also highlights the realities of jail life and of the conflict itself. Many of his shots take place through gates and bars, and he frequently shows lockdowns and searches. When they introduce themselves throughout the film, terrorists from both factions announce their crimes. Nor does Dotan shy away from displaying the radicalism pervading Palestinian society. In one scene, an older woman who is visiting the prisoners yells. The Jews and the United States are the same thing, before screaming Islam is the solution and calling for applause for Allah.

Still, as viewers get to know the prisoners as individuals, there's an almost inevitable humanization that takes place. O'thman Musleh, a Fatah member who has been imprisoned for 23 years, says that after all the in-prison exposure to Israeli media, you become an expert on what's going on between the nations, on when you need to exert influence, how to find a solution. Certain Jewish and pro-Israel viewers will likely cringe, if not turn angry, as this humanization takes place, not least because carnage from the horrific attacks perpetrated by these terrorists is shown just once and then only for a few seconds.

Indeed, late in the film, Fares Jad, a failed suicide bomber, tells Dotan that he hopes to raise children after he is released, so that he can prepare them for suicide missions. Dotan says that he hopes Jad doesn't raise his children this way. Despite the filmmaker's best intentions, however, it's hard to feel optimistic that his words will have any sway.

Graphic

IMAGE: Politics and Prone:ShimonDotan's documentary focuseson how the jails politicize theprisoners. Cells, for example, are divided into Fatah and Hamasfactions.; courtesy of hothous e

Load-Date: June 25, 2007



A funny kind of peace

Ottawa Citizen

May 19, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B6; Leonard Stern

Length: 872 words

Byline: Leonard Stern, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

If there were a gold medal for misrepresentation, it would go to the Canadian Peace Alliance. As the Citizen recently reported, members of the peace alliance attended a conference in Cairo where other participants included terrorist organizations such as *Hamas* and Hezbollah, groups that pioneered the suicide bomb.

The peace alliance, which claims to be the "largest network of peace coalitions and organizations in Canada," is an odd outfit. When North Korea tested a nuclear bomb last fall, the peace alliance issued a press release denouncing ... the U.S. and Israel. In another press release on Iran's nuclear program, the peace alliance denounced ... the U.S. and Israel. What's really weird, though, is a brochure on the alliance's website that seems to deny Osama bin Laden had anything to do with 9/11.

A diverse society makes room for all types: flat-earthers, swingers, Elvis-sighters. But please, choose a name for your organization that fits. If the Canadian Peace Alliance is consorting with people who blow up family pizzerias, then it has an odd definition of "peace."

One former official with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service has suggested that these "peace" activists ought not to be surprised if the Canadian security establishment will now take a closer look at them. In Cairo there were calls for "resistance" against "Zionists," which in the language of Islamism has often meant the killing of Jews.

Now some will argue that "Zionist" means "Israeli." Trouble is, Muslim fundamentalists have never bothered with such distinctions. In 1994, Hezbollah bombed a Jewish community centre in Argentina, killing dozens of "Zionists." Islamists murdered the Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl because, though born in New Jersey, to them he was a Zionist. Iran organizes "anti-Zionist" festivals featuring lectures from leading racists like ex-Klansman David Duke.

No, don't be fooled by the duplicitous language at the Cairo Conference, an event that one Egyptian newspaper celebrated as a significant step toward building an alliance between Islamists and western leftists.

It's clear why such an alliance benefits Islamists. Traditional Islamist propaganda such as martyrdom videos play well to Arabic-speaking crowds, but they don't resonate with western audiences. <u>Hamas</u> is better off being represented in the west by stooges who march under the banner of "peace" or "antiwar."

But what accounts for the attraction that some leftists have for militant Islam? The left historically has championed secularism, whereas Hezbollah is Arabic for "Party of God." What possibly could motivate secular leftists to sell their moral and intellectual inheritance, and to ally with religious totalitarians?

A funny kind of peace

Radical leftists and Islamists have united in a shared hatred. The object of their hatred, according to literature from the Cairo conference, is "imperialism and Zionism." Again, in the coded language of militant Islam, that usually means Americans and Jews.

Hatred, especially anti-Semitism, is a curious disease, and people so afflicted will act even against their own interest. The left historically has championed the rights of <u>women</u>, whereas Islamists oppress <u>women</u> horribly. The left historically has advocated for liberal causes such as gay rights, whereas Islamists consider homosexuality a hanging offence.

James Clark, one the Canadian activists who went to Cairo, says that so far as he could tell, there was no anti-Semitism. Although he said that "oppressed" Muslims have been known in the past to "conflate Zionism as a political movement with Judaism," in Cairo people avoided doing so.

Yet there is something malignant on the left. We saw it six years ago, in Durban, South Africa, at the United Nations conference against racism. There, anti-Israel delegates carried signs saying "Hitler should have finished the job." Copies of the anti-Semitic classic The Protocols of the Elders of Zion circulated openly.

Still, one admired the chutzpah. Durban was billed as a conference "against racism" but really it was a forum for hatemongers. There's a similar disconnect when we hear of "peace" activists showing solidarity with with those who preach jihad.

Political extremists are savvy marketers. During the Cold War, Stalin's agents in the U.S. called themselves the American-Soviet friendship movement. They of course didn't want to build friendships but to bring communist rule to the Americas. On the radical right, white supremacists typically have the word "heritage" in their organizations' names. "Heritage" has a positive connotation and hides the organization's true nature.

The main association of Hitler apologists calls itself the Institute for Historical Review. Its agenda is to rehabilitate fascism, which was discredited as a political ideology thanks to the Holocaust. Its members think that if they can persuade enough people that there was no Auschwitz, then Nazism has another chance -- but of course the association can't openly advertise itself as fascist, so members call themselves "revisionists."

Never judge a book by its cover, or an organization by its title. Look closer. You might be surprised.

Leonard Stern is the Citizen's editorial pages editor. E-mail: lstern@thecitizen.canwest.com

Load-Date: May 19, 2007



Martyr Mouse? That's taking the Mickey

The Daily Telegraph (Australia)

July 7, 2007 Saturday

City Edition 11:30pm Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 25

Length: 808 words **Byline:** Tim Blair

Body

IF YOU'VE not heard of Farfour the mouse, let's get you quickly up to speed. Farfour was the star of Pioneers of Tomorrow, a children's television program produced by Al Aqsa TV -- a sort of Middle Eastern ABC -- and broadcast throughout Gaza.

Farfour's program aired weekly from April. How the children loved that helium-voiced Mickey Mouse lookalike!

"We together are placing the cornerstone for the ruling of the world by an Islamic leadership," Farfour -- an actor wearing a large, comical mouse-head -- quipped during one early episode. Another time he blamed the Jews for bombing his house and destroying his homework.

"We will annihilate the Jews," said one young female caller to the show, getting into the Farfour spirit.

"I will commit martyrdom."

Farfour was always happiest when his tiny viewers were vowing to blast themselves to death.

Note the past tense. Sadly, Farfour no longer appears on the few Gaza televisions unperforated by <u>Hamas</u> or Fatah gunfire. His final show aired a week or so back; visit youtube.com and search for "Farfour" to find the deeply moving footage.

You'll find AI Aqsa TV's notion of killing off a character turns out to be rather literal. Unlike written-out Neighbours stars, Farfour doesn't "move to Brisbane". (Unless you consider "move to Brisbane" to be a metaphor for brutal death at the hands of an enraged authority figure, which nostalgic lefties might claim was valid during the Joh era.) Yes, Farfour was bashed to death. By a Jew, natch. (Remember, this is a kids' show we're talking about.) The final scenes are -- from an adult perspective -- insanely, deliriously funny. Having received some deeds to ancestral lands from his dying grandfather (who is not, in defiance of biology, a mouse), Farfour finds himself faced by an angry Israeli inquisitor who demands he hand over his inheritance in exchange for lots of money.

Farfour declines. For a guy -- well, a mouse -- who's been carrying on about Israeli brutality for his entire television career, Farfour seems remarkably unprepared for his beating. (Also, he appears to be the sole Palestinian not to own an AK-47 with which to defend himself, or shoot randomly into buildings, traffic, whatever Fatah or <u>Hamas</u> subfactions he currently disagrees with, and the sky.) Farfour's inquisitor returns to his chair and continue negotiations,

Martyr Mouse? That's taking the Mickey

but proud Farfour refuses to budge ... at which point another beating commences, this time raised from the previous bitch-slap level to full-on Once Were Warriors mode.

Remove the religious/territorial/mouse-human interbreeding components from this dispute and most everyone would agree Farfour deserves, if not death, at least a serious fist-administered attitude adjustment.

His voice alone would earn a clubbing from even Adele Horin. And his mouse-head doesn't seem to fit properly, forcing the actor playing Farfour to constantly re-align it.

He tries to do this slyly, pretending to be in-character by placing both hands on his Farfour face as if alarmed. Or maybe that's Farfour's stock move. Either way, the resultant visual effect recalls a rodent Macauley Culkin.

I don't care where you're from, what philosophy you follow, how much of a pacifist you claim to be, or even if you're insensate and hooked up to life support, a Macauley/mouse combo appearance will inspire violence.

That look will get you beat-down faster than if you turned up at Live Earth wearing a costume made from blood-dripping baby polar bear eyeballs laced together with puppy sinew.

Anyway, Farfour's unfortunate real estate deal was still under way when the show cut to its teenage girl co-host, who announced Farfour had been martyred while defending his land; 72 virgins for Farfour.

A young <u>female</u> viewer phoned in. "We don't like the Jews because they are dogs!" she railed. "We will fight them! They killed Farfour!"

Add that to the list of Islamic grievances against Jews and the West.

It's interesting that the same infantile loathing of their perceived enemies as demonstrated by Farfour's mourners also exists in the well-educated and comfortably employed types behind recent UK terror attempts.

Following 9/11, many sought to find so-called "root causes" for Islamic fury. A popular theory had it that "poverty breeds terrorism" -- ignoring Osama bin Laden's ability to combine massive wealth with insanely blowing things up.

Another theory, mentioned in a New York Times report, holds English Muslims are "disenfranchised" and inclined to jihadi-boy adventures.

These theories don't hold up too well in the wake of attempted mass killings by enfranchised, non-poor medicos.

It might be time to further explore the Farfour Theory -- that those Muslims who hate us have been taught to hate us. Not very complex, I know, but it seems to cover all the bases.

Read more Tim and join in the comments at timblair.net

Load-Date: July 7, 2007



Pelosi mingles with Syrians; Bush denounces House Speaker's trip to Damascus

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

April 4, 2007 Wednesday

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Section: NATIONAL/WORLD; Pg. c6

Length: 294 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS Dateline: DAMASCUS, Syria

Body

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi mingled with Syrians in a market and made the sign of the cross at a Christian tomb Tuesday in a visit to hard-line Syria that was criticized by President Bush.

Bush said the visit sends mixed signals to Syria's government, which his administration accuses of supporting terrorism. The United States says Syria allows Iraqi Sunni insurgents to operate from its territory, backs the Hezbollah and *Hamas* militant groups and is trying to destabilize the Lebanese government.

Pelosi's visit to Syria was the latest challenge to the White House by congressional Democrats, who are taking a more assertive role in influencing policy in the Middle East and the Iraq war. The Bush administration has resisted calls for direct talks to help ease the crisis in Iraq and make progress in the Israel-Palestinian peace process.

Bush criticized her visit.

"A lot of people have gone to see President Assad ... and yet we haven't seen action. He hasn't responded," he said. "Sending delegations doesn't work. It's simply been counterproductive."

Pelosi did not comment on Bush's remarks before heading from the airport to Damascus' historic Old City. She was scheduled to meet President Bashar Assad today.

Pelosi visited the 8th-century Omayyad Mosque, shaking hands with Syrian <u>women</u> inside and watching men in a religion class.

She stopped at an elaborate tomb, said to contain the head of John the Baptist, and made the sign of the cross. About 10 percent of Syria's 18 million people are Christian.

At the nearby outdoor Bazouriyeh market, Syrians crowded around, offering her dried figs and nuts and chatting with her. She strolled past shops selling olive oil soaps, spices and herbs, and at one point bought some coconut sweets and eyed jewelry and carpets.

Graphic

AP photo

Load-Date: April 12, 2007



Round the World in Eighty Seconds

The Daily Telegraph (Australia)

March 13, 2007 Tuesday

Drop in 12.30am Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 19

Length: 308 words

Body

MATP

MOSCOW: Pro-Kremlin parties were clearly in control after local elections in Russia yesterday, exit polls showed. At the start of election season, which is expected to culminate in President Vladimir Putin's replacement, a Kremlin-linked polling centre's exit polls showed the pro-presidential United Russia party in control. At least 10 of 14 contested local electoral areas have gone to the United Russia party.

MILAN: Italy's richest man, media mogul and former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, goes on trial today for allegedly paying a bribe. Berlusconi is accused of paying a British lawyer to keep quiet about his media business dealings while giving evidence in two 1997 court cases. If convicted of corruption, Berlusconi could face up to eight years in prison.

DAKAR: Senegal's top court confirmed President Abdoulaye Wade's landslide re-election to five more years in office yesterday, throwing out an appeal by the main opposition over alleged irregularities in last month's poll.

STOCKHOLM: US rapper Snoop Dogg was arrested by police on suspicion of using illegal narcotics yesterday. He was arrested en route to a party after a concert with P Diddy in the Swedish capital. Police said Dogg and a <u>female</u> companion were released but could face a fine if drug tests come back positive.

LONDON: British police have found evidence that al-Qaeda plotted to disrupt use of the internet in the UK to spread chaos through the business and financial services industry.

HARARE: Zimbabwe's main opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai was severely assaulted in detention and has been taken to hospital for treatment. His lawyer said Mr Tsvangirai was so badly beaten he could not see properly.

CAIRO: Al-Qaeda's No.2 accused <u>Hamas</u> of selling out by agreeing to respect past peace deals with Israel in a recording broadcast on TV channel al-Jazeera yesterday.

Load-Date: March 13, 2007



Israeli president's alleged sex crimes distract from neighbouring conflicts

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

January 31, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 304 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- In separate but chillingly similar incidents, Israeli President Moshe Katsav forcibly undressed two much younger <u>female</u> members of his staff and, despite verbal and physical attempts to resist him, forced the <u>women</u> to have sex with him, according to details of the alleged crimes made public for the first time yesterday.

Katsav's growing list of legal problems include a new demand from the attorney general yesterday that he be evicted from the presidential residence until the six charges against him for sex crimes and fraud announced last week are resolved.

The affair has continued to divert Israelis' attention from the civil wars that have been brewing in Lebanon and Gaza and from a suicide bombing in the Israeli resort town of Eilat that killed four people including the Palestinian bomber.

Yesterday's lull in the fighting in Gaza came as the emir of Qatar received a senior Israeli official -- deputy prime minister Shimon Peres -- for the first time in 10 years yesterday.

Emir Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, who leads the gas-rich Gulf sheikdom, told Israel's senior statesman that there could be no peace between the Jewish state and the Palestinians unless Israel started to talk with <u>Hamas</u>. Israel, backed by most western countries including Canada, has refused to do so.

The two <u>women</u> who made the most serious allegations of sexual impropriety against Katsav claimed that Israel's 65-year-old ceremonial head of state came up to them from behind in their offices and groped their stomachs and buttocks.

Both alleged that they were then raped, although Katsav faces a rape charge in only one of the cases and indecent assault, sexual harassment and breach of trust for the other.

Despite his claims of innocence, the Israeli media have begun to speculate that Katsav may be considering a plea bargain.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Moshe Katsav: Plea deal possible;

Load-Date: January 31, 2007



News Summary

The New York Times

April 11, 2007 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 862 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-12 Fierce Fighting in Baghdad After Mosque Is RaidedSunni militants and residents of a Baghdad neighborhood fought a daylong battle with the Iraqi Army and American soldiers in what appeared to be the most sustained confrontation since the start of the new security plan. A1 A Call for 'Plan B' on DarfurWhile the Bush administration scrambles to make good on threats that the United States will hold the Sudanese government accountable for violence in the Darfur region, critics, including some lawmakers, say the efforts have been ineffective and are pressing the administration to switch to a Plan B. A6 Ethiopia Admits DetentionsEthiopian officials acknowledged that they had detained 41 terrorist suspects from 17 countries who had been fighting for Somalia's Islamist movement. Officials in Washington said later that American intelligence agents have questioned several of the detainees. A12 Unfocused Race in FranceWith 12 days to go before the first round of France's presidential election, the campaign has entered a phase of improvisation that reflects the absence of any defining issue and a competition to win over the country's undecided voters.

A3 Israel Accuses *Hamas* of PlotsInterrogations of arrested members of *Hamas* in the West Bank produced information that the Islamic organization there was planning imminent terrorist attacks against Israel, the Israeli A8 4 Serbs Guilty of War CrimesA Serbian court convicted four former paramilitary security service said. policemen in the 1995 killings of six Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica, where thousands of Muslims were massacred. A11 NATIONAL A13-18 Voter Data Played Down By Federal Agency Afederal agency responsible for conducting election research played down the findings of experts last year who concluded that there was little voter fraud around the nation, according to a review of the original report. A1 G.O.P. Anxious About FutureRepublican leaders across the country say they are growing increasingly anxious about their party's chances of holding the White House, citing public dissatisfaction with President Bush and the political fallout from the war in Iraq. Student Loan Scandal GrowsA federal Education Department official and financial aid directors at three universities received stock in a student loan company from the current president of the company in what could be a violation of securities law, Senate aides say. A13 An Abortion Law is RevisitedA South Dakota law that would require doctors there to tell women seeking abortions that the procedure would "terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being" will be revisited by the federal appeals court in St. Louis. A13 Romney Focuses on MilitaryMitt Romney made his most extensive remarks on military and foreign policy, saying that if elected president he would push to add at least 100,000 troops to the armed forces and increase military spending. A16 Donation Program Under FireA new program that lets cell phone users send text messages to make donations to the American Red Cross during major natural disasters has come under fire by a consumer group, which contends that it is a business development strategy masquerading as charity. A15 NEW YORK/REGION B1-8Billionaire Leaves Columbia A Gift of \$400 MillionColumbia University is planning to announce a gift of at least \$400 million today, one of the largest ever to an American university, from John Werner Kluge, 92, a billionaire who has long been one of the university's

News Summary

strongest supporters. B1 City to Raise Water RatesNew York City plans to raise rates 11.5 percent on the water that every New Yorker uses, the largest annual increase in 15 years. The proposed increase would add \$72 to the average water and sewer bill for a single-family home. B1BUSINESS DAY C1-14 Imus Scrambles to Save JobDon Imus, one of the most successful pitchmen in the history of radio, has spent days begging for forgiveness for a racially disparaging remark about the Rutgers women's basketball team. But whether he can save his career A1 China Reacts to U.S. ComplaintsChina's government expressed "deep regret and strong dissatisfaction" with the Bush administration's decision to file complaints against it with the World Trade C1 Business Digest C2 SPORTSWEDNESDAY D1-62 N.F.L. Players SuspendedSaying the Organization. integrity of the N.F.L. had to be protected, Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Tennessee Titans cornerback Adam (Pacman) Jones without pay for the 2007 season and the Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry for the first eight games for repeated off-the-field conduct problems. D10BITUARIES A19Elizabeth JolleyAn Australian writer who came to wide public attention only late in life, but whose distinctive literary voice and eccentric literary preoccupations eventually made her one of her country's most acclaimed novelists, she was 83. A19EDITORIAL A20-21Editorials: Bush on the border; the Rutgers winning team; Nigeria's imperiled elections; Verlyn Klinkenborg on Lewis Thomas.Columns: Thomas L. Friedman, Maureen Dowd.Crossword E10TV Listings E11Weather C10

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: April 11, 2007



Under Muslim feet

University Wire February 7, 2007 Wednesday

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Section: COLUMN Length: 768 words

Byline: By David Day, The Dartmouth; SOURCE: Dartmouth

Dateline: HANOVER, N.H.

Body

On Feb. 1, 2007, British police arrested nine Muslim men in Birmingham for their alleged plan to kidnap and behead a Muslim British serviceman. A large segment of the Muslim population stood up in defense of these men, to an extent that Muslim clerics throughout the country needed to call for calm. Many feel the Muslim community is being unfairly targeted.

However, a Muslim community leader, Shabir Hussein, had a different take on the issue. Regarding the notion of there being terrorists in their midst, he told the BBC, "The [Muslim] community is under stress. They do not know where their children are, they do not know what they do. At the mosque we are saying 'open your eyes, look underneath your feet.'"

I found this to be a telling statement of the beliefs of moderate Muslims: They are not aware or are apathetic about radical behavior in their communities.

We have all heard that terrorists who kill innocents in the name of Allah are not real Muslims and are breaking the fundamental beliefs found in the Quran. We also know that Muslims at their dogmatic core are peaceful, caring individuals.

We also realize that many Muslims, even moderate Muslims, are easily incensed by any assault on their religion or prophet from foreign sources. The Jyllans-Posten cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad caused such uproar in the Islamic world that Danish embassies were set ablaze in Syria and Lebanon and dozens were killed. Theo van Gogh created a film dealing with domestic violence in Islam and was assassinated by an extremist in Amsterdam. Salman Rushdie and his "Satanic Verses" brought a fatwa on his head causing him to live in fear for years.

However, none of these so-called offenses about the Muslim religion made by private citizens in free nations should even compare to the blasphemy that is being perpetrated in the name of Islam, Allah and the Prophet by the terrorist murderers and bigots of the Islamic world.

I once lived in Israel and can remember the feeling of sitting next to old <u>women</u> on a bus and fearing that we would not make it to our destination. If we had not, would our families have received a sincere apology from the Muslim world or would they have watched a terrorist organization gleefully claim responsibility?

Millions of sick "Muslims" stand under the flags of al Qaeda, <u>Hamas</u>, the al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigade, Muslim Brotherhood and Hezbollah, defaming the Muslim people and their faith for all the world to see. Suicide bombings

Under Muslim feet

against civilian targets in America, England, Spain, Italy, Israel and Iraq shame Islam in the eyes of men and God. Radicals and criminals have hijacked their religion from right under their noses. Yet, the Muslim world remains eerily silent.

We do not see the protests in the street condemning these men. Are these men not impostors blowing up children in the name of Allah?

We do not know of any respected Muslim religious leaders who can tear radicalism from the minds of Muslim youth. Where are the real Muslims? Why worry about cartoons from Denmark when your neighbor's son may be a suicide bomber?

What we see are the leaders of Islamic states and communities becoming more and more radical. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wants to wipe Israel off the map. Just last month, New South Wales cleric Ismail Yusanato called for a holy war to bring about an Islamic state in Australia. <u>Hamas</u> places suicide bomber's portraits in town squares for impressionable Palestinian teenagers to lovingly admire.

Perhaps it is fear of reprisal that keeps moderate, sensible Muslims from vocally expressing their feelings of disgust. Indeed, it was just that fear that the recently arrested Muslims in Birmingham were trying to exploit: If you work with the "infidels," you will be killed.

It doesn't matter whether it is fear or apathy that keeps the real Muslims silent. They are unable or unwilling to control the radical elements within their own nations, communities and families.

Members of the Islamic faith in the Western world often feel they are treated unfairly at airports and loathe the looks of suspicion they may receive walking down the street. They blame American foreign policy, British police, Israel, Western decadence, the media, authors, the Pope, filmmakers and cartoonists. Most need to look no farther than in their mosque or out their window.

There is a growing tide of radicalism within the Muslim faith that threatens the entire world, yet most Muslims choose to ignore it. It is simply evidence of the hypocrisy that is destroying the good name of the Muslim faith underneath their feet.

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Load-Date: February 7, 2007



Readers Write

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

June 22, 2007 Friday

Metro Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 18A

Length: 1271 words

Body

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Bush shows ignorance

In regard to President Bush's stem cell veto on Wednesday, I find it sad that all he can come up with is the same old statement, "Destroying human life in the hopes of saving human life is not ethical." In fact, those same precious embryos are being destroyed by the thousands every day. Obviously he has not looked into the facts of this issue and chooses to remain ignorant of its potential.

His executive order to continue other forms of stem-cell research proves his ignorance and should be viewed as nothing more than an insult toward anyone involved in this field. Let's all make sure that our next president treats this subject as a top priority and allows the scientific field all of the funding it needs to make up for these last eight years.

Clay B. DuVal, Golden Valley

Two standards?

The president says that "Destroying human life in the hopes of saving human life is not ethical." Isn't that exactly what we are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Pam Wetterlund, Minneapolis

CANCER DATA DELAY

Handcuffed by politics

As a former employee of the state Department of Health who still holds leadership positions in the Minnesota Public Health Association and the American Public Health Association, I believe the commissioner of health has forgotten one of the principles of public health: "Public health institutions should act in a timely manner on the information they have within the resources and the mandate they have given to them by the public."

The failure to report the findings of a deadly cancer among Iron Range miners needs to be owned by the commissioner, not the Department of Health staff. Why? Because those staff are being held hostage to politics. I

Readers Write

have seen the agency's scientific integrity decline as staff, threatened by potential job loss or marginalization inside the department, failed to have the power to protect the public's health.

Once, not too many years ago, the Minnesota Department of Health was considered one of the strongest agencies in the country. The staff's scientific integrity was credited for not only protecting the public's health, but earning the public's trust by providing what the public needed to know to be healthy and safe.

The scientists inside the department are as qualified as ever, and are working toward the best interest of the public's health. The public needs to demand that they be given the freedom to do their work.

Tricia Todd, Minneapolis

Keeping public in dark

I'm neither shocked nor surprised that the state Department of Health withheld miners' cancer information.

For at least three years, Commissioner Dianne Mandernach and the MDH have lobbied against state legislation that would ensure mercury-free vaccines are used when available and require informed consent when mercury-containing vaccines are used. They testified to legislative committees that they did not want to inform the public, even pregnant <u>women</u>, of mercury's presence. They stated there's no science showing mercury in vaccines may be harmful, and ignored the hundreds of scientific studies connecting the dangers.

Last week, in the federal vaccine injury compensation proceedings, scientist after scientist testified with these exact studies for the nearly 5,000 families of children with autism. With almost 10,000 Minnesota schoolchildren having autism and the Minnesota Department of Health toeing the line of scientific misconduct time and time again, I've got just one question: Where are the headlines?

Heather O'Brien, White Bear Lake

Cut the grandstanding

What a lost opportunity regarding the preposterous delay in releasing cancer victim statistics. Instead of emphasizing the additional statistics as scientific proof of causative relationship to a horrific health issue, the DFL contingent and labor unions chose the photo/media option of politics and threat of criminal prosecution. Any wonder why the "common-sense" middle has had it with both ends of the political spectrum?

Greg Hoban, New Brighton

CHAOS IN GAZA

Hamas' central goal

I thought I'd heard and seen it all until I read the June 21 commentary regarding the chaos in Gaza by a presumed human rights advocate who claims that the problems in Gaza are the result of Israeli and the West "meddling in our democratically elected choice." That choice, of course, is <u>Hamas</u>.

As has been widely publicized, <u>Hamas'</u> central goal is to destroy Israel and murder its citizens, or as its literature states, push them into the sea. That such a leadership could be elected in the first place speaks volumes for the Palestinians' true desire for peace. I would suggest that any country so threatened by a neighbor ought to be doing a lot more than "meddling" to protect itself.

Time and time again, opportunities to lay down the sword and participate in peace negotiations have been ignored and subverted. As a former Israeli foreign minister once opined, "The Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

J.A. Herman, Eden Prairie

Readers Write

MNDOT SKIPS THE FAIR

Traffic jam on a stick?

Since the Minnesota Department of Transportation will not be at the State Fair this year (Star Tribune, June 21), let's all support its decision by driving (single-occupancy, if possible) to the fairgrounds. I'm sure there won't be a parking problem of any kind. Mass transit and light rail are so last year.

Terry Carlson, Minneapolis

CODDLING U.S. CARMAKERS

Lift the fuel standards

Auto industry executives claim that increased fuel economy standards will crush the auto industry. My question is: Will these standards crush the auto industry or will they crush the current U.S. auto industry?

Last time I checked, the overseas auto industry had no complaints about the prospect of increased fuel economy standards. No one argues that Americans will stop purchasing vehicles - the fear is that U.S. automakers lack the capability of making fuel-efficient vehicles that can compete with the vehicles produced by overseas automakers.

But the entire nation cannot be held hostage to the incompetence of the U.S. auto industry. I am confident that with America's great power of innovation, increased fuel economy standards will result in the emergence of new and better American automobile manufacturers.

John Munger, Minneapolis

LETTER OF THE DAY

Welcome to church? How welcome is that?

Each Saturday there are ads in the Star Tribune inviting people to worship. Everyone is welcome, proclaimed one ad last week. The church sending out that welcome is a huge downtown cathedral. At one time it filled its pews with people, but now there are many pews empty each Sunday morning. Each week it advertises hoping to fill all those pews once again.

As a parent with a gay son, I wonder about truth in advertising. Do these congregations truly welcome my son? Do they welcome him to just support their church with his time and money, or do they welcome him all the way to the altar to marry his partner? Do they welcome my gay son to simply sit in their pews or do they welcome him all the way to the pulpit if he feels called by God to serve as a pastor?

Do they truly mean "everyone"? Or do they really mean all straight people? A welcome to God's House cannot come with boundaries drawn, but must be open and affirming to all people - gay and straight.

Sunday is Pride Sunday. It is a day churches should really think about what their welcome means. Too many people have been hurt by a welcome that truly wasn't meant for them.

It is a gift and a great honor to proclaim everyone is welcome as Christ taught us to do, but you must be ready to live those words in all honesty before you boldly proclaim them.

Randi Reitan, Eden Prairie

Load-Date: June 22, 2007



Every day he clings on, the damage gets worse

The Independent (London)

December 21, 2006 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 34

Length: 781 words

Byline: ADRIAN HAMILTON

Body

Out of the mouth of babes, and babblers comes the truth. Britain, declared its Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett, in her rambling interview on the Today programme this week, may have lost influence in the Arab street because of Iraq, but its influence with "governments" was still great.

So, with a casual complacency, are dismissed all the hopes and beliefs of a government that once talked of an "ethical foreign policy" appealing to the aspirations and wishes of people over the heads of their corrupt and authoritarian leaders.

Of all the damaging effects of Tony Blair's decision to go along with the invasion of Iraq, not the least has been the betrayal of his own ideals and the hopes of so many in his own party, Margaret Beckett included. Of course he still talks of an "ethical" foreign policy, of "shared values" and the hopes of ordinary people. But the reality is all too depressingly apparent. The Prime Minister talks of democracy in the United Arab Emirates, where an election of an advisory council this month was limited to just 1 per cent of the population. He talks of an "arc of moderation" against Iran, when what he means is an association of the unreformed Arab states of Egypt and the Gulf.

He declares his support for the Iraqi government, only to have the country's vice-president, Tariq al-Hashemi, accuse him of going back on everything he'd been told by the British premier - "brainwashed", the Iraqi Sunni leader presumed, by Bush. He says he is supporting the peoples of the Middle East, and then backs the attempts of Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, to reverse the democratic election of a *Hamas* government. Even the Turkish prime minister, with whom Blair started his Middle East tour, has criticised his stance on Palestine.

As he set off on his travels last week, the British Prime Minister was making a mockery of all his rhetoric of ethics and corruption by intervening to stop the inquiry into Saudi arms sales on the grounds of "security". And he ended it pleading for major new arms contracts for British manufacturers in the Emirates. This is not just a litany of hypocrisy. Were it so, it could be dismissed as just the normal deceit the West goes in for in the Middle East. It is the betrayal of our own ideals which makes it so bitter. For New Labour was right when it called for a different approach to foreign policy, and it was getting somewhere when, with Robin Cook as Foreign Secretary, it pursued the theme in terms of practical policy.

Every day he clings on, the damage gets worse

All over the Middle East, and indeed elsewhere, there are stirrings of change, a newer, better educated generation that is no longer satisfied with the old patriarchal, tribal ways of doing things, newly empowered <u>women</u> who are not prepared to accept traditional hierarchies.

You only have to look at Iran, to the recent municipal elections and the protests in the universities, to see the mood of change. It's there in Egypt and much of North Africa. It's there in the Gulf. The tragedy is that Iraq and the so-called "war on terror" have taken us backwards into supporting the very regimes that we were supposed to be distancing ourselves from - the Saudis, Egyptians, the Gulf states, and the Israel of the right. And in doing so we are only making it more difficult for the forces of moderation and reform which we claim to espouse.

The object of the Prime Minister's latest trip, said the briefing papers, was not to produce immediate results but to "listen". But "listen" is exactly what he didn't do, certainly not to the street, the public who could have told him precisely what Iraq had done to their hopes and their views of Britain.

That's the legacy of Iraq. Because of it, Blair can no longer see the world as it is and as it is developing. Instead, he has to see it in terms that justify his decision to hitch his wagon to the American star. And the more he is pushed on to the defensive, the more messianic his rhetoric becomes.

Iran, fundamentalism, <u>Hamas</u>, Iraqi insurgents and the Taliban become the apogees of evil not just because it suits Blair and Bush's Manichaean view of the world post-9/11, but because seeing them in more complex terms involves understanding, and understanding is the one thing the British Prime Minister cannot countenance, for fear of what he would then have to admit.

He has to go. From a domestic point of view, he can toddle on. The civil service machine has moved to support Gordon Brown, and Blair has little real room for manouevre other than making speeches. But abroad, each day he goes on, he inflicts more damage - to the world at large and reputation and ideals of his own country. New Year's day would not be too soon to announce his departure.

Load-Date: December 21, 2006



Mid-East Christians keep faith despite exodus

The Irish Times

December 21, 2006 Thursday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 12

Length: 832 words

Body

MIDDLE EAST: Bethlehem, site of Jesus's birth, is not alone in its shifting religious patterns, writes Michael Jansen

The cash-strapped <u>Hamas</u> government has allocated \$50,000 (EUR 38,000) for Christmas commemorations in Bethlehem, and Israel has pledged to facili- tate the transit of 18,000 pilgrims to the Church of the Nativity for the feast. But few of the little town's native Christians will be there to celebrate. In 1948, Bethlehem was 90 per cent Christian; now it is 65 per cent Muslim.

Christians have emigrated while Muslims from the neighbourhood have moved into Bethlehem, which is surrounded by Israel's colonies and wall complex and cut off from Jerusalem by a terminal on the border of the West Bank.

Israel's military occupation and settlement policies, which have displaced Muslims, have also squeezed Bethlehem economically so that few of its inhabitants can make a living by selling services and mementoes to pilgrims. When tourism was at its height, 100,000 visited each month; today that figure is 20,000. Most visitors are bused in for a few hours and spend little money.

The violence and upheaval of two Palestinian risings have also prompted Christians to leave. Although Christians participated in the first intifada (1987-93), they have been largely excluded from the second, which began in 2000. This revolt against Israel has been largely conducted by Muslim fundamentalists initially fostered by the West to counter the region's four secular nationalist movements - the Syrian Social National Party, the Arab Nationalists, the Baath, and the communists, all founded by Christians with a pan-Arab and anti-Israel agenda. When they failed to achieve these objectives, fundamentalists took over the struggle for unity and against Israel.

Hostile graffiti have been spray-painted on the walls of churches, threatening letters have been sent to Christians, and Christian properties have been confiscated by Israel and illegally appropriated by corrupt Palestinian officials. The fall of the secular Fatah movement from power and the formation of a government by <u>Hamas</u> has heightened Christian anxieties.

Tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians are also fleeing the chaos and violence unleashed by the 2003 US occupation. In 1990, before the imposition of sanctions and the 1991 US-led war, Christians numbered 600,000, about 3 per cent of the population.

Most Iraqi Christians are ethnic Assyrians and members of the ancient Assyrian, Chaldean and Syriac churches.

Sanctions and warfare have taken their toll: half a million have reportedly left. The outflow has increased since 2004 due to attacks on churches, merchants selling alcoholic drinks, and professors and teachers. Christian <u>women</u> have been forced to don the hijab, quit their jobs or studies and remain at home. Many Christian families have

Mid-East Christians keep faith despite exodus

emigrated to the Kurdish area, Jordan and Syria where there is a local Chaldean community which assists Iraqi refugees.

Syrian Christians comprise 6.5 per cent of the country's 17 million citizens. Syrian Orthodox and Catholic Christians enjoy a privileged position in secular Baathist Syria, where many joined the ranks of the ruling party. But some are leaving due to regional instability, the rise of fundamentalism and the fear that Iraq's instability could infect Syria.

Jordan's Christians, about 2 per cent of the population of six million, enjoy the protection and favour of the monarch and the establishment, and benefit from the kingdom's political stability. While some members of the Christian community are well-connected and wealthy, many remain poor and are eager to emigrate to lands where they feel they can make better lives for themselves and their children.

Many of Lebanon's Christians, who account for 35 per cent of the country's citizens, left during the civil war but flooded back to Beirut during the period of reconstruction. Encouraged by a business boom, they invested in hotels, manufacturing, and services.

But Israel's onslaught on the country's infrastructure during July and August dealt a severe blow to their confidence in the country, and the rumbling political crisis between the political establishment and Hizbullah is causing many to consider leaving for good.

Young Christians, in particular, argue that they have no future in Lebanon.

Many of those who have dual nationality have already departed, while others are trying to secure immigration visas.

In addition to the collapse of secular nationalism and the rise of Muslim fundamentalism, the clash of civilisations is another factor driving Christians from the lands where Christianity emerged and took root.

Western host countries make it easier for Christians than Muslims to emigrate.

Many Christians have relatives who are prepared to sponsor them in these distant countries.

If emigration continues at the current rate, there soon may be no Christians in the land of Jesus's birth, ministry and death. And only small pockets in countries where the church was originally established.

Load-Date: December 21, 2006



19 killed as Israel steps up Gaza air strikes

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

November 5, 2006 Sunday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 54

Length: 315 words

Byline: ADEL ZAANOUN GAZA STRIP

Body

NINETEEN Palestinians have been killed in the deadliest 24 hours in the Gaza Strip for months as Israel stepped up an offensive in the territory with multiple air strikes.

Eight were killed in night air attacks after 11 other people, including two <u>women</u>, were killed by Israeli fire, bringing the total Palestinian death toll to 35 in three days.

Faced with the bloodshed, Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas renewed calls for the international community to intervene to stop the bloodshed, as both Britain and France moved to express concern over the escalating troubles.

Of the eight killed in night air strikes at least five were armed men, including one from the military wing of the governing Islamist movement *Hamas*, killed in raids over the towns of Beit Hanun, Beit Lahiya, Jabaliya and Rafah.

A rescue worker also died and a colleague was wounded in a strike in Jabaliya on the third day of Operation Autumn Clouds, coming on top of four months of Israeli military operations in Gaza since a soldier was captured late in June.

A military spokesman confirmed at least five different night air strikes throughout the Gaza Strip, targeting suspected militants who were planting explosives or were behind rocket attacks on Israel.

The raids came just hours after gunmen escaped from a besieged mosque in a daring rescue bid mounted by heavily veiled <u>women</u> in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanun, which Israeli troops have been occupying since Wednesday.

Four protesters, including two <u>women</u>, were killed in the rescue of 15 militants from various groups who had been besieged in Al-Nasr mosque, seeking protection from one of the biggest Israeli operations of recent months.

Braving Israeli gunfire and tanks, about 200 <u>women</u> marched on and entered the mosque to collect the gunmen, shielding them in the midst of their ranks.

"We risked our lives to free our sons," said Um Mohammed, in her 40s.

Load-Date: June 20, 2007



Palestinian human shields give Israel pause

Christian Science Monitor November 20, 2006, Monday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 1

Length: 812 words

Byline: Joshua Mitnick Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: TEL AVIV

Body

In perhaps the most effective act of nonviolent protest in the six-year Palestinian uprising, hundreds of Gazans forced Israel over the weekend to call off airstrikes on the residence of a militant leader by swarming the house as human shields.

In recent months, Israeli security forces have used telephone calls to warn Palestinian militants and others near alleged militant safe houses and weapons caches, giving them up to a half hour to evacuate. When militia leader Mohammed Baroud got the call Saturday, he enlisted neighbors to protect his house from the Israeli military. They've now set up a system of shifts to protect the house around the clock.

Palestinian leaders are hailing this as a moral victory that will be replicated. If so, it may herald a significant tactical shift from attacks by tiny secretive militant groups to nonviolent civilian protest, a change that will force Israel to adjust its strategy. It also underscores the difficulty of fighting militant groups embedded in a civilian population - whether it be in Iraq, Afghanistan, or Gaza.

"The Palestinians are creative and this is something amazing," says Maher Miqqdad, a Fatah spokesman. "Maybe in the past six years of the intifada, the focus was on military resistance. But we shouldn't deny the importance of peaceful resistance. There is an importance in increasing the peaceful struggle."

An Israeli army spokesman who spoke on condition of anonymity said the attack was scrapped after the military realized that dozens of Palestinians were demonstrating on the roof of Mr. Baroud's home.

Having backed down, Israel's military might have to rethink its methods of striking at militant targets. Israel's army prefers attacking from the air to risking soldiers' lives by sending infantry and armored units on raids. And the advance warning of raids is meant to avoid civilian casualties, the Israeli military says.

But now, less than two weeks after the killing of at least 20 Palestinians in northern Gaza brought a storm of international criticism against Israel, this tactic may have backfired by creating the risk of even more innocent victims.

"This is definitely a problem," says the army spokesman. "The reason why we warn ahead is to avoid innocent injuries. Instead, they are using the warning to do what they did yesterday. We'll see how we can deal with it."

Palestinian human shields give Israel pause

Baroud is a member of the Popular Resistance Committee, a militia which participated in the abduction of Israel Cpl. Gilad Shalit and frequently fires Qassam missiles into southern Israel.

"It's a victory. They forced the army to change direction," says Sliman A-Shafi, a Gaza correspondent for Israel Channel 2 who said the Palestinians protested under the slogan "Either we live together or we die together."

The success of the mass protest is stirring nostalgia for the first Palestinian intifada of the late 1980s and early 1990s, a battle with Israel seen as a popular uprising fought with stones and Molotov cocktails rather than with missiles and suicide bombers.

Palestinians credit the first intifada as winning self-government and international recognition, while the economic hardship and anarchy accompanying the recent uprising has made it much more difficult to celebrate.

"People realize that we might go back to the popular resistance as we had in the first intifada," says Omar Shaban, a Gaza political analyst. "People are becoming convinced that the popular resistance is more effective than the military resistance."

But one human rights activist expressed reservations about the use of human shields to ward off the Israeli army.

"In principle, it's forbidden for militants to draft people to protect them," says Sarit Michaeli, a spokewoman for the Israeli human rights monitor B'tselem. "The idea of citizens coming to protect a house which is a military target is problematic, to say the least."

And yet, Ms. Michaeli says that whether or not the human shield protest constitutes a human rights breach depends on whether the protesters participated willingly or were coerced, whether minors were involved, and whether the house was a genuine military target.

On Sunday, 10 Palestinians were injured in a botched Israeli strike on <u>Hamas</u> operatives accused of being involved in manufacturing rockets. To be sure, under constant pressure from Israel's campaign against militants, many Gazans are unlikely to disavow the role of fighters who retaliate against the attacks.

"This kind of [peaceful] resistance cannot replace the rocket resistance," says Jamila Shanti, a <u>female</u> member of <u>Hamas</u> who helped organize a permanent presence of <u>female</u> human shields around the house. "The popular resistance is to protect the people from the bombing. The rocket resistance is to confront the Israeli machinery."

- * Safwat al-Kahlout contributed to this report from Gaza City.
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Load-Date: November 19, 2006



GOVT ASKED NOT TO HAVE ANY RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

The Nation (AsiaNet)
October 20, 2006 Friday

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Length: 315 words

Body

ISLAMABAD - Condemning the Israeli barbarism on innocent Palestinians and Lebanese people, Tehrike-Islami Pakistan, Al-Quds Committee and Imamia Students Organisation (ISO) jointly staged a protest demonstration here on Friday. The rally was attended by a large number of people including male and <u>female</u>. The protesters were holding placards and banners inscribed with slogans "Down with USA and Down with Israel", "Recognition of Israel, Not Acceptable" and "Jihad would continue ".

The protest was held at Abpara Chowk on the eve of Juma-tul-Wida being observed as "Youm-e-Quds". The protest rally was started from Markazi Jama-e-Masjid Shia Asnaa Ashari, G-6/2 and culminated at Abpara Chowk. MMA MNA Mian Mohammad Aslam, MMA Punjad Leader Maulana Abdul Jalil Naqvi, former MPA Mustafa Haider Sherazi, ISO President Islamabad and Maulana Asad Bukhari spoke on the occasion.

The angry protesters also set ablaze effigy of US President George W Bush and flags of the US and Israel on the occasion. They also passed a resolution on the occasion in which the participants of the rally asked the government not to recognise the Israeli and avoid keeping any diplomatic relations with Israel. They also condemned the sectarian terrorism in the country and unprecedented price hike in the country.

Protesters demanded of the government immediately curtail the prices. Speaking on the occasion, Main Aslam asked Musmlim Ummah to unite and make struggle for the strengthening of Islam. Hizbollah and <u>Hamas</u> will achieve success in their struggles against Israel, he added. Alama Abdul Jalil Naqvi said the present government is following US agenda and the people have completely rejected these polices. Terming the present regime as unelected government, he said that 'un-elected' governments are condemnable even it is the Musharraf Regime or is the US's backed government in Afghanistan..

Load-Date: December 6, 2006



Weekend: 'I TRY TO FORGET - BUT I CAN'T': She was the 12-year-old girl filmed crying alongside her father and siblings as they lay dying - victims of an explosion at a family picnic. But what happened to Huda Ghalia next?

Rory McCarthy meets the shy, teased girl who became a symbol of Palestinian despair

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Section: GUARDIAN WEEKEND PAGES; Pg. 34

Length: 5065 words **Byline:** Rory McCarthy

Body

It was a Friday afternoon in June. The sky over Gaza was a broad wash of purple blue, and along the seafront the surf was breaking into small whitecaps. Ali Ghalia was on a day off from his work as a farmer and decided to take his family for lunch on the beach at Beit Lahiya, a few minutes' drive from their home. The beach on the Mediterranean, with its rolling dunes and dry grasses, is a rare delight in a stretch of land ground down by poverty, overcrowding, militancy and decades of military occupation. It is free to the public and barely touched by development - just a few half-built hotels are dotted along the 25-mile coastline, the shadow of a tourist industry that never was.

Ghalia had two wives, as is still sometimes the custom in the Palestinian territories, and both were with him on the beach that day, along with their dozen children and their beach kit: several plastic armchairs, plates of food and cooking pots, flasks of tea, plastic toys, blankets to sit on and a small cot for the baby. They ate lunch and lazed in the sunshine, and were still on the beach shortly after 4.30pm.

Although it was a Friday afternoon, others in Gaza were still at work, among them Zakariah Abu Harbeed, 37, a cameraman with Ramattan, the leading Palestinian news agency. He is based at the agency's 10th-floor offices in Gaza City, ready to report breaking stories. Often in Gaza that means covering the conflict - dozens of times he has filmed the dead and the dying, and he has been shot at and wounded in the process.

That Friday, Abu Harbeed had been to Beit Hanoun, a town close to the northern border of the strip, to film the scene of an Israeli attack on a group of suspected militants. On his way back, he ran into another story. The Israeli military had just destroyed a car that they also suspected was carrying militants. He filmed that scene, too, and went to the hospital to get footage of the injured. It was, for him, an ordinary day's work. It was shortly after 4.30pm.

Then he took a call from a contact in the ambulance service: the Israeli military were shelling the beach at Beit Lahiya and there were casualties. He called his driver and they jumped into the car.

That afternoon at the beach, Abu Harbeed shot about 10 minutes of film for which he later won two awards. He arrived just in time to record the aftermath of a terrible explosion that had killed most of the Ghalia family. Seven were dead: Ali Ghalia, 49, and one of his wives, Ra'eesa, 35, together with five children: Haitham, five months old;

Hanadi, 18 months; Sabreen, four; Ilham, 15; and Aliya, 17. Several others were injured, some severely, including more children from the family.

Much of the film Abu Harbeed made that day is so graphic it would never be broadcast on television in the west. One clip, however, was broadcast repeatedly that day and in the days that followed. It showed Huda Ghalia, aged 12, distraught and sobbing by the body of her dead father. It was an image distilling Palestinian despair, one that recalled the film of Mohammad al-Dura, the 12-year-old boy who died in his father's arms in Gaza in a hail of gunfire six years ago, at the start of the intifada.

Abu Harbeed talked me through the footage in a cramped video editing suite at the Ramattan offices. It begins as they drive up to the beach, the film shot from the passenger seat through a cracked windscreen with the blare of a siren in the background. There is one ambulance, its back door open, and half a dozen men shouting and panicked. Between them they uncover one limp body after another, dragging them out quickly and either placing them on a stretcher or running with them to the ambulance. They don't have time to notice that several of the bodies they are carrying are dead, the wounds horrific, impossible to survive. One of the men reaches for a girl, grabs her black clothes at the shoulder and places her on a green canvas stretcher. Her left arm has been blown off just above the elbow. She is pale, unconscious and looks dead, but in fact she survives. I learned later that her name is Amani. Somewhere among the bodies is her sister, Ayhaam. She, too, is badly injured but survives.

As this was going on, Abu Harbeed just stood still and filmed. He is a professional just doing his job, and methodical. "You can see I'm not getting close to the bodies," he said, "that's too much for the audience. I'm getting the wide picture. But then I felt there was someone alive nearby, as if there was some life coming out of this death. Suddenly Huda imposed herself on this massacre."

Huda is at the corner of the screen, watching the men remove the bodies. She stands still, her arms by her side. She is in a blue T-shirt, her black hair curled down to her shoulders. As the last body is removed, Huda turns around and starts to run, her hands reach forward, the fingers splayed. Abu Harbeed follows her with his camera. "I couldn't tell where she was going. I just followed her." Huda reaches a dune, stops running and clasps her arms across her chest. She begins to scream: "Oh father, oh father", and the screaming continues even as she throws herself into the sand. The camera pans back to show her lying next to the body of her father, Ali Ghalia, broad-shouldered with a grey moustache and lying on his back. His mouth and eyes are open, but he is dead, his pupils rolled up under his eyelids. Huda is still screaming.

By now Abu Harbeed was quietly crying in the editing suite. After a minute he looked up. "I don't like to see these pictures. They make me suffer," he said simply. "I wanted people to see that this is a family that did nothing to anyone. There are no weapons, no military uniforms, just a picnic."

Beit Lahiya is a poor neighbourhood in the far north of the Gaza Strip. Many of the householders used to work as labourers in Israel, but since a clampdown on permits for work that income has dried up. Most now make a living farming the fields that lie just to the north, between the town and the concrete wall and steel fence that marks the border with Israel. But Gaza's farming industry is also struggling, thanks to Israel's repeated closure of the major crossing points out of the strip. Those closures have so damaged farm exports that many no longer bother investing in the seeds to plant cash crops such as strawberries and cherry tomatoes in the first place. Israel says the closures are justified on grounds of security. In effect it means that poverty levels have risen (unemployment in Gaza is running at 40%, according to the UN) and many families, like the Ghalias, have run up credit at local grocery stores which they hope to pay off in the future.

The Ghalia family house is unexceptional: a two-storey breeze block structure that looks at least partly homemade. It has a red-tin door, and next to it a spindly cactus that rises up to the height of the first floor and bows under the weight of the family washing line. Outside, there is a constant noise of children playing and the occasional donkey-drawn cart that passes by: the first has a boy with a loud-hailer advertising his tray of freshly caught fish; a few minutes later another cart goes by with baskets of live chickens. The family live on the ground floor, in a couple of

empty rooms furnished only with mattresses and blankets that are rolled up and stacked against the wall each morning. Huda shares a bare bedroom with her two younger sisters, Hadeel, eight, and Latifa, seven.

In the months after the explosion on the beach, I went to visit Huda and her family many times, to listen to the story of a household struck by a tragedy, a family that captured the headlines and then dropped from sight. I ate with them, went to school with them, drove with them to see relatives and visited their injured in hospital.

The first time I met the Ghalias, they were sitting on plastic chairs in the sunshine outside the front door of the house. Ayham, 20, the oldest son, receives visitors. He is quiet and surly, and like most of the men in the family he smokes, though not in front of his mother or uncles. Since his father's death, he has become responsible for taking a lead in family decisions. He also works as a part-time guard at a local UN office and has begun a two-year secretarial diploma at the Islamic University in Gaza City. The university is affiliated to <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic militant movement elected into power a year ago, and the course is to be paid for by <u>Hamas</u>: one of a small number of official contributions made to the family since what they call simply "the incident".

After a while, Huda appeared. She was barefoot and dressed in a black cloak with a white veil on her head. A gold bracelet hung from her wrist. She was quiet and monosyllabic: still visibly affected by what had happened. Huda and her two younger sisters have started at a new school, a *Hamas*-run girls' school in Gaza City, their tuition another gift from *Hamas*. She said she preferred the new school. "I have new friends now," she said. "I don't see the old friends any more." She had just returned from a visit that she, her two sisters, her mother and her aunt made to the United Arab Emirates. "It was fine," she said. It was her first time out of Gaza.

Some weeks later, Huda produced a photo album of that trip. The visit the family described to me was part political and part medical. Huda's mother, Hamdiya, 41, who had been badly injured in the right hand, was treated in hospital, as were Latifa and Hadeel. The film of Huda on the beach turned her into such a symbolic figure that many Arab officials queued up to see her. One photograph shows Huda standing with her fingers in a V for victory salute, in front of a poster of Abbas and the late Yasser Arafat. Another shows her sitting on a sofa in a pink dress and wide-brimmed hat, talking to the deputy prime minister of the Emirates. But the pictures the children most enjoy show them incongruously dressed in red ski outfits and helmets, holding plastic sleds at a vast indoor ski centre in Dubai.

In Gaza, Huda had already met Ismail Haniyeh, the <u>Hamas</u> prime minister, and Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president. Both spoke of adopting her, as did other dignitaries she met. They meant that loosely - not taking her into their families to bring up as their own, but offering her moral and financial support. They were public gestures, singling out a girl suffering a private grief.

On their return from the Emirates, Huda crossed back into Gaza through Israel with a special VIP pass. Her mother and the rest of the family had to cross from Egypt, through the Rafah crossing, which is frequently closed and always overcrowded. They had no special passes. With so much attention paid to the young girl, it is perhaps not surprising that the family began to feel a degree of frustration.

For one thing, their neighbours presumed that this political attention, international travel and talk of adoption would translate into great financial wealth for the Ghalias. *Hamas* stepped forward to pay for the children's education, and a Qatari charity paid for the rebuilding of a house for Amani, the eldest daughter, married with two children, who lost most of her left arm in the incident. President Abbas provided around £1,000 and there appears to be the promise of money from the Emirates to pay to rebuild the family house - although eight months on from the incident, no work has begun. But there has been no more than that. Only after some time did it become clear to the neighbourhood that the Ghalias were still living as precariously as everyone around them.

Secondly, there was the extraordinary attention Huda received. Although she featured prominently in the footage shot on the beach, she was only lightly injured. The family was upset by the iconic status she had been given and angry that the others, who suffered much more serious physical wounds, had been overlooked. Huda's younger brother, Adham, 10, suffered serious shrapnel wounds to his stomach and mouth, and was eventually transferred to the US for treatment. He is still living there, looked after by a series of expatriate Palestinian families who ensure he

receives the medical care he needs and that he is attending school. He calls home several times a week. Huda's two elder sisters, Amani and Ayhaam, who were the most seriously injured, have been in and out of hospital, and still have months of serious operations ahead of them.

"Huda was seen on television, that's all," said Hassan Ghalia. "But it is not only Huda, believe me. She is the one who saw everything and was seen by the world, but other people lost so much and nobody saw them." Hassan, 33, is one of Huda's uncles, the thinner and younger brother of her dead father, Ali. Of the several uncles who live nearby and take care of the family, Hassan is perhaps the most mature. He, too, is a farmer, but can't afford to plant this year and has no other work. He is carefully spoken and always points out that though he blames the Israeli military for the explosion, he does not blame the Israeli people, with whom he hopes the Palestinians will one day find peace. He told me, "The Palestinians firing rockets at Israel are doing it out of ideology. The Israeli military who fire at us are doing it out of ideology. And we are just crushed in the middle."

In the months ahead, it was Hassan who volunteered to look after his niece, Ayhaam, accompanying her on the trips to hospital in Israel and taking care of her physiotherapy on her return. And after all, he said, this was not the first crisis to hit the family. A year and a half earlier, in January 2005, several of his nephews were involved in another, equally traumatic incident: seven children, all under the age of 18, were killed, and seven other people, including five more children, were severely injured when they were hit by Israeli tank shells. The children, most from the Ghaben family, were in farmland just north of Beit Lahiya, picking strawberries. Witnesses said militants had been firing mortars from the fields over the border into Israel that morning, but disappeared as the Israeli shelling began. The Israeli military said it targeted a group of masked men preparing to fire more mortars. Three of the children lost both their legs - including Issa Ghalia, now 15, who is a regular visitor to Huda's family. He was treated in Israel and later in Iran. He was fitted with a pair of prosthetic legs, but prefers not to use them and instead would swing through the gate, up the steps and on to a chair using his arms alone. "The legs are good, but sometimes I just get tired of them," he said one day as he sat listening to the family's news. It is attacks such as these that have discouraged farmers in northern Gaza from going anywhere near their fields by the border.

On a Saturday morning I went to Huda's new school, the Dar al-Arqam, which is large, clean and imposing. Three newly-painted buildings stand on three sides of a large concrete playground. It has been open since August 2003 and around 1,500 children, aged between five and 15, study here. Nearly all are girls, although there are temporarily a small number of boys, too, because their school was damaged in recent fighting. All the teachers are <u>women</u>. "It is our kingdom," the deputy head, Eman Nassar, 34, told me. She took a degree in biochemistry at an Egyptian university and spent six years as a kindergarten teacher in Gaza before coming to the school.

Around a third of the children are loosely termed "orphans", meaning one or both of their parents have either died during the conflict or are among the 10,000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails. Like Huda and her sisters, they do not pay school fees. In addition, any child in the fourth grade or above who scores more than 95% in their end of year exams is exempt from school fees, which range up to 320 Jordanian dinars (£240) a year.

The school is openly affiliated to *Hamas* - although the teachers are at pains to insist that does not make them signed-up members of the movement - and there is a strong religious element to the teaching. Qur'anic learning is a key part of the children's curriculum, as are Arabic, English, science, maths, geography and history, all taught from government textbooks. Almost all the girls wear a uniform of a black cloak and a white veil over their hair. At home I noticed Huda now almost always veiled her hair, though her hair was not veiled that day at the beach.

"We work for God, not for <u>Hamas</u> or Islamic Jihad or anyone else," said Nassar. "We work for God and we want our children to be the best." The children themselves are not all from <u>Hamas</u>-supporting families - the Ghalias, for example, are almost wholly divorced from politics and show no particular loyalty to any of Gaza's political factions.

Nassar said the goal of the school is to teach the children to think, not to prepare them for any set role as <u>women</u> or in politics. "Everyone has to learn. But how you use that knowledge, that's what's important," she said. The teachers are all well-educated and the school is in far better condition than government schools in the area. The school day is longer, and the class sizes smaller. Huda, with her government school background, found herself well

behind other girls of her age. Her English was particularly poor and she was extremely reluctant to speak up in class. It didn't help that she was teased a lot by the other children, and even now in between classes she plays with her sisters more than her classmates. "The other children would run after her saying, 'Huda Ghalia, Huda Ghalia', and, 'Oh father, oh father', just like they'd seen on television," said her teacher, Nadia Shurafa, 25. "Her response was to be shy and not talk to anyone. She tried to forget about what happened, but no one lets her forget. She just wants to be normal."

The conflict in Gaza has such a huge impact on all the children's lives that the school does its own psychological work. There are several others like Huda who have seen members of their families killed in front of them. Sometimes it is a matter of stepping in to prevent fighting in the playground. "They fight very easily," said Nassar. "They form themselves into different militia groups and act out what they've seen. Or they play 'I'm a Jew, you're a Palestinian'. You have to keep your eyes on them and try to get them to talk about what they feel. And sometimes you just have to accept what they do."

One teacher, Asma'a Obaid, 24, runs one-on-one sessions for the most traumatised children, including Huda. She encourages them to talk through their experiences and to draw scenes from the incidents they have been through. Obaid flicked through some of the most recent paintings on her desk. They show pictures of dead children, helicopters firing missiles into buildings and key events in recent Gazan history, including the killing of the <u>Hamas</u> spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. "Sometimes the children say they want to kill the person who killed their father, or brother, or whoever it was," Obaid said. "We tell them it's better to educate themselves."

She often asks the children to draw a happier picture than the violence all around them ,and she produced one painting drawn by Huda that showed a large, multicoloured house next to a row of trees, with flowers and seven people in the garden and a smiling sun in the sky. "A specialist psychologist visited the school and saw this and said this represents where Huda wants to be, this place of stability and sunshine," Obaid said.

Huda's days are spent at school, or playing with brothers, sisters and cousins at home or the house of one of two uncles, Hassan and Yahya, who both live across the street. Every few weeks she is driven down to the south, to a house in the sand dunes near Khan Yunis, to see the woman she knows as her grandmother, who for 20 years has acted as a spiritual healer.

I went with her once and watched as the old woman talked to Huda, reading to her from the Qur'an and feeding her a sweet-smelling juice made of amber and musk, a potion rumoured to have special remedial properties.

"This helps to push out the fear," said the 70-year-old woman, Um Khalid, the mother of Ali Ghalia's second wife, Ra'eesa, who was Huda's stepmother and who was also killed in the beach explosion. "Thanks to God and this liquid, everyone gets better. I have a connection with God, you see. I just make the treatment and it all comes out of her. She calms down and she has really improved over time. They will forget eventually."

One afternoon, Huda was standing on the roof terrace of her family house in Beit Lahiya, picking passion fruit off a vine with her mother and younger sisters. The terrace looks over the back garden, which is small but full of trees: figs, oranges, lemon, a date palm and a banana tree that needs cutting back. It was several months after the incident on the beach and Huda was slowly beginning to open up. She was still shy, but less withdrawn than when I first met her. We talked about the new school, which she seemed to prefer. She talked about perhaps being a lawyer in future - this is what Sheikh Hamdan, the deputy prime minister in the Emirates, had suggested: "Become a lawyer, defend your rights." She talked about the television - the footage of her still reappears occasionally on the Arabic news channels. "We don't have a television and I won't go to any house that does have a television," she said. Her teachers say she is too frightened to look at any photographs of herself. "I remember that day and what happened." Huda said. "I can't forget it and sometimes I dream of it. I am trying to forget, but I can't."

As is often the case in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the cause of the explosion that afternoon on the beach is much disputed. The Ghalia family and others hold the Israeli military responsible for the blast, saying an artillery shell hit the family. The Israeli military had fired thousands of shells into Gaza in the preceding weeks, aimed at preventing Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli towns, and admitted firing a number of shells from the sea and the

land on that Friday. But the Israel Defence Force denied responsibility at the time and, in a written response for this article, said the explosion that killed the Ghalias was "without a doubt, not caused by the IDF". This conclusion was based on "intelligence analysis, Palestinian claims, media coverage of the incident and IDF filmed footage that documented all IDF activity during that day". It admitted the Israeli military had fired six artillery shells: the IDF could account for where five of those shells landed, but not the first shell, which it said was fired at 4.30pm. "The possibility that this shell landed in the area of the incident is close to zero," it said. The IDF concluded, based on clips of video footage, that the blast happened some minutes later and not before 4.57pm. The IDF also said that two pieces of shrapnel taken from two of the people injured at the scene did not come from 155mm IDF artillery shells. In its written response, the IDF offered no other possible cause for the blast, though in the days after the incident it suggested there had been a coincidental separate explosion on the beach at that time in the afternoon, caused either by a buried old shell or a mine planted by *Hamas*.

Several human rights groups and press reports at the time raised points of difference with the IDF account. In particular, a detailed article by the Guardian's Chris McGreal on June 17 showed that the timings noted in hospital records, and by a doctor and an ambulance driver, indicated that the blast happened some minutes earlier than the IDF maintains - so challenging the IDF's central claim that its shelling had stopped by the time the Ghalias were killed. The article also cited a former Pentagon battlefield analyst working for Human Rights Watch who believed that the crater size, shrapnel, types of injuries and their location on the victims' bodies (particularly to the head and torso) pointed to a shell dropping from the sky, not explosives under the sand. Witnesses spoke of hearing other blasts at the time, consistent with a pattern of shells falling at the beach.

I thappens quite frequently that severely ill or injured patients in Gaza who cannot get adequate treatment in the strip's hospitals are allowed to cross into Israel. And so it was with Huda's two elder sisters, Amani and Ayhaam: shortly after the incident, both were taken to hospitals in Israel. Amani, 23, whose left arm had to be amputated above the elbow, was taken to hospital in Be'er Sheva and travels back and forth from Gaza on a regular basis. Ayhaam, 17, suffered severe injuries to her shoulders, chest, throat and legs, and for many months was confined to a wheelchair. Of all those on the beach that day, she was perhaps the worst injured.

Six months after the incident, Ayhaam was back in hospital in Israel, sitting on a metal-framed chair in a third-floor room at the Assaf Harofeh Medical Centre, near Ramla. With her was her uncle Hassan, who spent every day and every night in the ward at his niece's bedside. It was his first time in Israel since 1993. He spoke little Hebrew, the doctors spoke little Arabic, but he could talk to the cleaners, most of whom were Arab Israelis. He found many of the Jewish families in the hospital welcoming. "It's more human than political," he said as we sat together in the ward. "Most people we've met are compassionate. Their reaction is: 'We suffer in the same way you suffer.'"

It was Ayhaam's third time at this hospital, and when she had arrived about two weeks earlier, the doctors had been deeply concerned and advised an urgent operation. The problem was with her windpipe, which had narrowed so much that she was having difficulty breathing. It wasn't clear to the doctors whether the narrowing was caused by a shrapnel injury, or was the result of a long intubation in another hospital, or whether a small opening in the windpipe had become infected. Whichever, Dr Ilan Bar, one of Israel's leading cardio-thoracic surgeons, concluded that he needed to cut away the narrowed section of the trachea and then reconnect the remaining ends.

In a small office off the wards, Bar opened his textbook to show me the procedure. "You pray to God that it doesn't disrupt," he said. "It is very rare and very risky."

For the first few hours after the operation, it appeared to have been successful. Then, when Bar was out at a Saturday night football match at his Tel Aviv local club, he was called back to the hospital: Ayhaam's condition had seriously deteriorated.

"That Saturday night the doctor told me there wasn't anything more they could do," Hassan said. "We were just waiting for her to die." But by the Sunday morning Ayhaam had recovered. "For now I can say the procedural technique was successful," said Bar. "Now I want to take care of all the other problems she has, like walking and

movement, clearing her lungs, healing her bladder. Our procedure was life-saving; now let's deal with the other problems that can make her life whole."

On the Tuesday after her operation, Ayhaam was sitting up, alert, in her room. Her feet, sunk in a pair of pink slippers, had been gently taped to a simple pedal machine to begin the first stages of physiotherapy. Bar, on his morning rounds, seemed pleased with her condition. "Today for the first time I saw her smiling," he said. "Before, she used to just lie on the bed like a sack of potatoes."

I asked him about the politics of the case, but he was dismissive. It was not the first time he has treated Palestinian patients: seriously injured children are quite often sent to his hospital and he has once visited Gaza to meet doctors there.

Two weeks later, Hassan and Ayhaam travelled back to Gaza by ambulance. The driver stopped at a hospital in Be'er Sheva to pick up another Palestinian patient, an elderly <u>women</u> in the final stages of cancer who was heading back to Gaza to die at her family's side. But the woman was sicker than the doctors had thought and she died in the ambulance. The driver had no choice but to carry on his journey. They passed quickly through the Erez crossing into northern Gaza. At that point, Hassan noticed, the driver suddenly speeded up and took a corner too quickly. The ambulance lurched over and toppled on to its side, throwing Hassan, Ayhaam and the dead woman on top of each other across the vehicle. The pair were bruised but not badly hurt, and as he told the story later, Hassan shrugged as if this sort of bad fortune was something they had come to expect.

The last time I saw them, Ayhaam was sitting on the porch of Hassan's house, warming herself in the afternoon sun. Most of the rest of the family were around her, apart from Adham, who was still in the US. Huda, who had just finished her end-of-term exams, was there, along with her younger sisters and her mother, as well as Amani, back briefly from hospital in Israel and soon to be fitted with a prosthetic arm. Her husband and their two children were with her. The family were laughing among themselves, and it was the first time I had seen them like this. They were happy to have the two elder girls home, and celebrating the news that another of Huda's uncles, Yahya, 38, had finally got himself a job working as a gardener for the municipal authority. It was to pay him just 1,000 shekels a month, but this was the first time he'd had work for many months. Yahya, who is always quick to make light of their lives, joked that he was so important at work, he'd soon be able to supply bags of flour and food for the family. "Ask God not to fire him," said Hassan, feigning a look of despair. He talked about Ayhaam and her slow recovery, and finding suitable medical care for her in Gaza, which has now become his main responsibility.

As the family chatted, there was no mention of the day on the beach last summer. I asked Hassan what he felt now about that day. "Eight months have gone by and nothing has changed," he said. "I know life goes on, but the scars are still deep." Ayhaam was soon to start physiotherapy, and to demonstrate her recovery she took a dozen uncertain and uncomfortable steps across the courtyard, supported by Hassan. Huda walked alongside, holding Ayhaam by her fingertips. *

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Talk of revenge as Palestinians bury their dead

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Byline: Rory McCarthy in Beit Hanoun

Body

MIDDLE EAST: Thousands of Palestinians crowded the streets of Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza yesterday, some firing guns into the air, as they buried 18 members of a single family who died in an Israeli artillery strike.

As ambulances brought the dead from hospital morgues into the town, one distraught man carried in the air the body of a small child wrapped in white cloth. The child's head hung exposed as he walked through the chanting crowd.

In Jerusalem, the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, said a "technical failure" was to blame for the strike before dawn on Wednesday in which several artillery shells hit houses in a residential street in Beit Hanoun.

The deaths, all from the extended Athamna family and among them 14 <u>women</u> and children, provoked a wave of international condemnation and renewed threats of violence from Palestinian militant groups.

"It was not a planned attack," Mr Olmert told a business conference. "It was a technical failure of the Israeli artillery. I checked it, and I verified it." He expressed regret but went on to say that military operations would continue in Gaza as long as Palestinian militants fired rockets at Israeli towns.

The explanation was of little comfort to some in the town yesterday who spoke in terms of violent revenge. "The reaction should be even harder than the attack," said Hijam Basyani (40), standing at the spot where the shells had struck. Three of her cousin's sons died in the incident. "You cannot imagine our feeling when we see this blood, these children killed. You feel ready to explode."

"We have to fight Israel," said Islam Odwan (19), a student from Gaza's Islamic University, who was in the procession. "When they leave us alone, then we will stop." Posters appeared yesterday morning on walls across the town with photographs of some of the men, mostly militants, who died in battles with Israeli troops during a six-day operation in the town that ended a day before the artillery strike. Residents had been confined to their houses and several buildings had been damaged and orchard gardens torn up by tanks and bulldozers. Israel said it had been trying to halt the firing of crude Qassam rockets into Israeli territory and that it had uncovered a large number of weapons and hit some rocket launching cells.

Muhammad Ramadan, an Arabic language professor at the Islamic University, described how Israeli soldiers blew a hole in the wall of his bedroom and took up positions in his house for a day during last week's operation. "We need to respond and it has to be a military action. This is for our honour," he said.

Talk of revenge as Palestinians bury their dead

Gaza's militant factions have used the incident to call for an increase in attacks on Israel and the Israeli authorities said yesterday there had been a marked rise in threat warnings. A gay pride march scheduled to take place today in Jerusalem was cancelled and the event confined to a sports stadium because police said they were overstretched.

Ismail Radwan, a spokesman for <u>Hamas</u>, which won Palestinian elections early this year, said militant groups had to respond. "The Palestinian military groups are ready to respond." Asked if that meant a return to suicide bombing, he said: "The military wing of <u>Hamas</u> can choose and decide what is the right way to respond."

Others, however, were more moderate and said there should be a return to negotiations. "We want peace, but we want an equal and fair peace," said Khalil Masri (65), who runs a private health clinic in Beit Hanoun. He said he opposed a return to the campaign of suicide bombing. "Violence only creates violence. The Palestinians and Israelis are both living here. We need two states living side by side and that day will come, I am sure of that." As he spoke, the bodies of the dead were lowered into graves dug into a sandy expanse of land on the outskirts of town. The graves were marked with palm fronds.

In the Israeli press there was criticism of the military, with the left-leaning Ha'aretz newspaper describing the attack as an "atrocity" and a "fearsome and senseless killing" for which Israel was responsible. But Ephraim Sneh, the deputy defence minister, told the Jerusalem Post that the "moral responsibility" for the deaths lay with militants who operate from within civilian areas.

Others were more forthright. "When you fire rockets, shells fall. When one of them strays it is a shame, it is disastrous, it is bad, but that is how it is," wrote journalist Ben Caspit in the popular Ma'ariv newspaper. "Every other method has been tried, and failed. With scoundrels you behave like a scoundrel, and with murderous, bloodthirsty terrorism that wants to wipe you off the map, you have to respond accordingly: wipe it out."

Load-Date: November 10, 2006



Playing war games with innocents is cowardly

Ottawa Citizen

November 10, 2006 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A14; John Robson

Length: 804 words

Byline: John Robson, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

There is clear, uncontested evidence of war crimes in the latest Israeli incursion into Gaza. I expect arrest warrants for the *Hamas* leadership any day now.

Oh, dear. Did I interrupt your chants of "Down with Israel"? But you must have seen news stories about the Israeli Defence Force besieging a group of "militants" hiding in a mosque in Beit Hanoun to lure the infidels into desecrating a religious building. These "militants" were under attack because they'd been firing rockets at Israeli civilians. And Article 51, Clause 2, of the 1977 Protocol I to the Geneva Convention says: "The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited." It is difficult to detect significant ambiguity in that language. (The 18 Beit Hanoun civilians just tragically killed by errant Israeli shells are also the legal and moral responsibility of those who fire rockets at civilians from civilian areas.) But wait. There's more.

News accounts clearly state that in response to an appeal by a <u>Hamas</u> legislator, a group of veiled <u>women</u> deliberately put themselves between the combatants in the mosque siege, some carrying extra garments so the brave strong "militants" could, disguised as <u>women</u>, run away from the weak and cowardly Jews. But under international law it is illegal to use civilians as human shields for combat operations (and under Geneva Convention I, Article 2 if these rules are not binding on the Palestinian Authority they are not binding on Israel either). So the people responsible for this outrage ought to be arrested.

These terrorists should also be held in contempt. To dress in <u>women</u>'s clothing to sneak off because you don't dare stand and fight like a man, in a bloody battle you've spent months calling for, ought to inspire scorn not only in their adversaries but among their supporters. I also suspect these cowards should be sent to hell: I cannot believe God loves a man who will drag a woman between himself and enemy gunfire so he can scurry off to kill other <u>women</u> and their children. But in the here and now, the "international community" I keep hearing about should surely set about enforcing this "international law" I keep hearing about and arrest the perpetrators of what is, beyond rational debate, a war crime.

When I say beyond rational debate, an important caveat is in order. Back in 2003, a number of people and some governments declared the invasion of Iraq illegal. I wasn't sure what they meant at the time, and it hasn't become clearer since. Liberals seem very keen on international law understood as "we are truly superior human beings," but less enthusiastic about it as "something actually written on a relevant piece of paper."

Playing war games with innocents is cowardly

No one ever tried to arrest George Bush or any American lawmakers such as Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts who voted to authorize the war. And it wasn't even clear to me which law wasn't being enforced, unless it was the conveniently foggy Everything Liberals Dislike Is Illegal Act of 2003. You know, the one under which you can't intern unsavoury persons caught fighting in civilian clothes in Guantanamo Bay, although Geneva Convention III, Article 4.2, specifies that irregular fighters get prisoner of war status only if they "fulfil the following conditions: (a) that of being commanded by a person responsible for his subordinates; (b) that of having a fixed distinctive sign recognizable at a distance; (c) that of carrying arms openly; (d) that of conducting their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war." The Guantanamo internees are 0-for-4 on that score.

If we're going to have "international law" in the abstract, we must have actual international laws and care about what they say. For instance, Geneva Convention IV, Article 28: "The presence of a protected person may not be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations." And Article 51, Clause 7, of the 1977 Protocol I adds: "The presence or movements of the civilian population or individual civilians shall not be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations, in particular in attempts to shield military objectives from attacks or to shield, favour or impede military operations. The Parties to the conflict shall not direct the movement of the civilian population or individual civilians in order to attempt to shield military objectives from attacks or to shield military operations."

What part of that is unclear? Trying to get civilian <u>women</u> killed to save your sorry hide and score a propaganda coup is not merely damnable cowardice. It is also illegal. And we have eyewitness testimony.

Somebody call the cops.

John Robson's column appears weekly.

Load-Date: November 10, 2006



Rape charges against leader dropped

The Advertiser (Australia)

June 29, 2007 Friday

State Edition

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 35

Length: 343 words

Byline: MATTI FRIEDMAN, JERUSALEM

Body

ISRAELI authorities had decided to drop plans to pursue rape charges against Israeli President Moshe Katsav in a surprising plea bargain, Israeli media said yesterday.

Mr Katsav, who faces allegations of raping and sexually assaulting several of his <u>female</u> workers, would admit only to minor harassment charges and avoid any jail time, the reports said.

No official confirmation was available pending an official announcement expected late last night. In January, Attorney General Meni Mazuz notified Mr Katsav he intended to press charges of rape, sexual assault and fraud based on allegations by four **women** who used to work for him.

His accusers worked with him either in the president's office or when he was tourism minister in the late 1990s. At least one has said he threatened to make sure she never got another job if she refused to have sex with him in his office.

An admission of guilt, however minor, would mark a turnaround for Mr Katsav, who has denied all charges and repeatedly claimed he was being framed. But escaping the more serious allegations and avoiding prison time would be a victory for him.

Kinneret Barashi, a lawyer for one of the complainants against Mr Katsav, slammed the reported deal.

The plea bargain is a "message to the public, which says something simple: As long as you're a public figure, and you're suspected of sex crimes, your road is open and the State Attorney's office will give up on doing justice in the case," Mr Barashi told Israeli television.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops yesterday imposed a curfew on downtown Nablus and clashed with Fatah militants as activities moved from Gaza to the West Bank.

The Nablus raid, which Palestinian witnesses said was the largest in several months, was an indication that Israel would not stop fighting militants linked to President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement.

This even though Israel is supporting Mr Abbas in his struggle against *Hamas*, the Islamic group that seized control of the Gaza Strip two weeks ago.

Five Israeli soldiers were wounded by bombs set off by Fatah militants.

Load-Date: June 28, 2007



NEWS IN BRIEF

Hobart Mercury (Australia)
July 3, 2007 Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 14

Length: 348 words

Body

Japan A-bomb furore

JAPANESE PM Shinzo Abe reprimanded Defence Minister Fumio Kyuma yesterday for saying in a university speech that the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were an inevitable way of ending World War II, and asked him to refrain from making similar comments. Kyuma's remarks were quickly criticised by bomb victims and Opposition MPs.

Mexican 'blackmail'

THE Mexican government says it is the victim of "a perverse blackmail attempt" after receiving a letter from the lawyer for a drug suspect, Chinese-born businessman Zhenli Ye Gon, alleging that \$243 million in US \$100 notes seized at his home in March were illegal ruling party campaign funds.

Kiwi soldier wins VC

NEW Zealand SAS corporal Bill Apiata, 35, who saved a badly wounded colleague by carrying him 70m across an open field during a raging battle in Afghanistan in 2004, has been awarded the Victoria Cross -- the country's first since World War II.

NZ pressure on Fiji

NEW Zealand has introduced harsher sanctions to punish Fiji's military regime for expelling diplomat Michael Green. PM Helen Clark said coup supporters, Fijian officials and sporting teams would be barred from entering NZ. Fiji's police chief yesterday fired six top officers on corruption claims.

Palestinian pay day

ISRAEL yesterday transferred \$139.7 million in tax funds to the new Palestinian government, allowing it to pay its labourers in full for the first time in a year while skipping those working for the Islamic *Hamas* in Gaza.

Attack tycoon jailed

A SEOUL court has jailed South Korean billionaire Kim Seung-youn for 18 months over an attack against bar workers who had scuffled with his son. Kim attacked the staff with his feet, fists, a steel pipe and a stun gun.

Holy relic melts

NEWS IN BRIEF

AN icy stalagmite in a cave 4115m above sea level in Amarnath, Indian Kashmir, which is worshipped by Hindus as a reincarnation of god Lord Shiva and draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims a year, has melted.

Madam cleans up

FORMER Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss is diversifying, opening a laundromat in Nevada and planning a legal brothel for <u>women</u>.

Load-Date: July 3, 2007



A Young Woman's Wish, Entombed in Gaza's Isolation

The New York Times

January 17, 2007 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section B; Column 1; Metropolitan Desk; Education Page; Pg. 7; ON EDUCATION

Length: 1299 words

Byline: By SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN

E-mail: sgfreedman@nytimes.com

Body

During the midnight air raids over Gaza last summer, when the shock waves shattered the terrace windows and woke her little brother shrieking, Eman Albelbeisi reached beside her bed for the comfort of her stack of college catalogues.

She lingered over the booklets from Harvard and Yale and Georgetown, even Kentucky State in some faraway town called Frankfort, until she found one particular photograph. It showed two young <u>women</u> seated on the beds in their dorm room, each tapping away at her laptop. Eman imagined those students as herself and her best friend, Haifa El Rekhawi, living their dream of a college education in America.

Even in those terrifying moments of July and August, amid the war between Israel and <u>Hamas</u>, Eman, 18, had reason to believe her fantasy would come to fruition. By September, her dozen years of diligent schoolwork and obsession with learning English from television had earned her a scholarship to the College of Roanoke in Virginia, beginning in the, hopefully, better year of 2007.

The scholarship offer was a delicate jigsaw puzzle of an arrangement, pieced together by an elderly Palestinian-American scholar, Fahim Qubain. In his own childhood before World War II, Mr. Qubain had attended the Friends School in Ramallah, and gone on to college and graduate school in the United States. He became a Quaker, a pacifist who combined fervent Palestinian nationalism with equal devotion to a peaceful two-state solution.

Mr. Qubain was essentially retired from a career in universities and research centers when he read an article in the late 1990s by the journalist and author Geraldine Brooks. It described her relationship with a Palestinian boy whom she met after he threw a rock at her car while she was covering the first intifada. Fascinated and touched by his ambition to study medicine, and by his fatalism that he would become a terrorist instead, she paid for him to attend college in Bethlehem.

To Mr. Qubain, saving one life was admirable but painfully limited. He and his wife, Nancy, who has a master's degree in Middle East studies from Harvard, formed a nonprofit group, the Hope Fund. Putting in about \$30,000 a year of their own money and services, they set about identifying worthy students in Palestinian refugee camps and linking them to scholarships at American colleges, starting with those in the Qubain family's home state of Virginia.

Starting just weeks after the Sept 11. attacks, the work was never less than arduous. Seeking to protect itself from suicide bombers, Israel largely throttled all the border crossings out of Gaza, making it virtually impossible for Hope Fund candidates to get to visa interviews at the American diplomatic stations in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. And in 2003, Palestinian militants bombed a convoy of American embassy officials entering Gaza in part to interview applicants for Fulbright and Hope Fund scholarships.

But by the end of the 2005-6 academic year, Mr. Qubain had helped 10 Palestinian students get to the United States, persuading colleges to put forward more than \$2 million in financial aid. The day Mr. Qubain picked up one of them, Mohamed Haroun, at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, the young man was surprised to drive three hours toward Bridgewater College in Virginia without being stopped at a single checkpoint.

No place was harder to crack than Gaza, and no place needed cracking more. A stronghold of Islamist sentiment, Gaza had answered Israel's unilateral withdrawal in August 2005 with missiles aimed at civilian communities. Almost a year later, Palestinian guerillas seized an Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, across the border, and Israeli retaliation and reoccupation propelled the limitless cycle of blood, grievance and vengeance.

A few months earlier, one of Mr. Qubain's talent scouts in Gaza, Anees Abu Hashem, brought Eman to the Hope Fund's attention. She had an average well into the 90s in high school, and had taught herself English by watching CNN and writing down every word she did not understand. Her notion of American college, so alluring, came from a videotape of "Legally Blonde." To that fanciful version, Mr. Abu Hashem added some actual catalogues.

Eman and her friend Haifa both applied for the one new scholarship that had been earmarked for a <u>female</u> from Gaza. Eman scored higher on the TOEFL, a standardized test for English fluency, and she said the girls' friendship ended late last summer with the realization there was room only for one dream.

Or, as Eman came to realize, early last fall, maybe not even for one. In the previous few years, with entry into Israel through the Erez checkpoint extremely difficult, Mr. Abu Hashem had advised Hope Fund applicants to try to exit at Rafah into Egypt and have their required visa interview at the American Embassy in Cairo. Even so, the wait could take weeks or months, followed by an equal amount of waiting in Cairo.

By the time Eman received confirmation of her offer -- travel expenses from the Hope Fund, annual tuition worth \$21,000 from the College of Roanoke, and \$9,000 yearly for room, board, and health insurance from Sam Rasoul, a Palestinian-American executive -- the war between Israel and *Hamas* had all but sealed Rafah entirely.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported in December that in the preceding month, just when Eman needed to leave, the Rafah gate was open for a total of 36 hours. (Since the summer of 2005, the border crossing has been controlled by Egypt, the Palestinian Authority and the European Union.) Gaza, as Haaretz put it, was "the most closed-off strip of land in the world -- after North Korea."

Inside Gaza, meanwhile, Eman also had to persuade her father, Omar Albelbeisi, to let her go. A dentist in a public hospital, Mr. Albelbeisi had no money to help her go to Egypt, having gone months himself without being paid because of the Western economic embargo against the <u>Hamas</u> government. He feared that if he accompanied her to Cairo, he might be stranded there and would lose his job entirely. His wife, returning from a visit to her brother in Germany, had been marooned in Egypt for six weeks last summer.

Beyond all that, Eman said in a recent telephone interview, her father had more personal objections to the American scholarship offer, insisting she was too young and incapable of taking care of herself, especially outside a Muslim society. E-mail messages from Mr. Qubain and Mr. Abu Hashem show they were beseeching Eman's father to meet with or speak to them so they could reassure him. In the end, they did not succeed.

By late December, administrators at the College of Roanoke had to reassign the dorm space that would have been Eman's, where she might have sat on her bed, tapping on a laptop, in her version of Reese Witherspoon at Harvard.

A Young Woman's Wish, Entombed in Gaza's Isolation

One vanished opportunity in a part of the world with far more grandiose tragedies -- what does it matter? One might ask Mr. Haroun, now in his junior year at Bridgewater College. He has been playing intramural soccer, tutoring classmates in physics, and serving in the student government.

"It's changed me," he said by telephone recently. "I'm much more open-minded now. Much more willing to work for peace. Most people in Gaza see Americans as immoral. And that's changed dramatically for me. That's changed big-time."

As for Eman, she said she cried "for days and nights" when the calendar neared Jan. 15, 2007, the date on which she was supposed to start college. "I'm mad at myself for spending six months dreaming about building my life," she said. "I was thinking of how I'm going to comb my hair at college. I was thinking of how I'm going to spend every minute. I hate Gaza. I hate everything around me. I can't believe I am losing my dream."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Drawing (Drawing by David Suter)

Load-Date: January 17, 2007



An Islamic reformation would be devastating

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

August 23, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A9

Length: 845 words

Byline: DIANA MUIR, Washington Post

Body

Salman Rushdie, Thomas Friedman, Nicholas Kristof and Mansour al-Nogaidan are among the well-intentioned people who have called for an Islamic Reformation. They should be careful what they wish for.

The Protestant Reformation did precede the things these men admire about modernity in the West, including <u>women</u>'s emancipation, political liberty, scientific breakthroughs, the wealth and opportunity created by the Industrial Revolution, and permission to think freely regarding God. But all this came later, and the Reformation was only part of what brought them about.

The Reformation was a time of intense focus on God and what He requires of people. As a movement, it was enthusiastic, narrow and far from tolerant. It and the Counter-Reformation brought two centuries of repression, war and massacre to the West. It's unlikely that anyone who lived through it would consider wishing a Reformation on Muslims.

And yet, even as some hope for such a turn of events -- presuming, it seems, a certain conclusion -- a reformation is sweeping through the Muslim world. Westerners are generally aware that the Shiite and Sunni sects of Islam are struggling for dominance in Iraq. But more broadly, the words and doctrine promoted by the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafis or Wahhabists are eerily similar to those of our 16th-century forebears.

Like the followers of Martin Luther and John Calvin, Islamic reformers reject the interpretations of generations of scholars in favour of seeking the word of God directly in scripture. Normative Islam follows one or another school of interpretation of scripture, known as a Madhab. Careful study leads students to understand that God's word is often nuanced. Nuance is not the stuff of reform.

Salafi reformers argue that Muslims should ignore generations of sages, read the Qu'ran and Hadith for themselves, and act on the truth they find. A popular Salafi quote from the early Islamic jurist Abu Hanifa reads: When a passage (Hadith) is found to be authentic (saheeh) then that is my path (Madhab).

As Luther put it: Sola scriptura (Scripture alone). This is heady stuff. The conviction of having the Word direct from God can empower individuals to rebuke, to command and even to kill in His name.

Protestant determination to follow the word of God straight from the Bible was accompanied by a desire to purify Christianity by emulating the beliefs and practices of the early church. Hassan al Banna, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood; Sayyid Qutb, a leading Muslim Brotherhood thinker; and Ibn Wahab, the founder of modern Salafi, or

An Islamic reformation would be devastating

Wahhabist, Islam, call upon Muslims to return to the uncorrupted beliefs and practices of early Islam and to become as pure as Salafis, or the first three generations of Muslims. To become, as it were, Puritans.

The call to purity appeals in part because in the Muslim world today corrupt holders of wealth and power resist moderate attempts at reform, much as the corrupt holders of wealth and power in the church and states in Luther's Europe resisted moderate reform.

Western pundits have debated whether Arabs who voted for <u>Hamas</u> or the Muslim Brotherhood in the Palestinian and Egyptian parliamentary elections were voting for the Islamist religious program or voting against corruption. Surely it was a two-for-one deal. To vote for the Muslim Brotherhood or <u>Hamas</u> is to vote against corruption and for returning to the purity of the days of the prophet Muhammad. This was a compelling idea when preached by Calvin. It is compelling still.

There are, of course, differences between the Protestant and Islamic reformations. In Islam today it is usually radical reformers who have reached first for the sword. In the European Reformation, things became tense when a determined minority demanded reform, but in general it was those church and state officials who held power who first resorted to violence.

In some European countries, the Reformation or the Counter-Reformation produced a rigid orthodoxy that stifled development for generations. In other countries the wars of religion were followed by the Enlightenment.

Muslims might not follow a European course. They will choose whether they prefer societies shaped by Sayyid Qutb, who advocated closing the Islamic mind to everything but the ancient texts, or Ibn Rushd (also known as Averroes), who preferred the open embrace of all knowledge.

In the near term, though, an Islamic reformation will divide Muslim society as the Reformation divided Europe. A fervent minority in many countries is already pressing for narrow interpretations on issues such as veiling, whether to listen to music and replacing secular laws with religious codes. As we have seen in Europe and more recently in Afghanistan, we are likely to see Muslim Puritans take over communities where they are far from being the majority. Meanwhile, the majority has yet to construct an effective ideological defence of moderation.

Diana Muir is working on a book about the history of nations and nationalism. She is the author of Bullough's Pond; Economy and Ecosystem in New England.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS, Iraqi men pray at a mosque in Baghdad at the beginning of Ramadan last year.

Load-Date: August 23, 2007



The New York Times
August 13, 2007 Monday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 906 words

Body

China Drills for RichesIn Impoverished Chad

The Chinese have bought the rights to a vast exploration zone in Chad, making one of Africa's poorest countries the latest frontier for their oil industry and increasingly global ambitions. A1

Colleges Receive PerksFrom International Study

More than 200,000 American students flock to foreign universities each year, and an industry has emerged, offering colleges generous perks for signing up students. The system parallels practices in the student loan industry, in which lenders gave colleges incentives to get on their preferred lender lists. A1

On New York Sports Fields, Grass Is Endangered

As the demand for recreational space across New York City continues to increase, parks officials rely more on synthetic turf to reclaim bleak asphalt yards or extend the life of scraggly fields. Some cite the cheaper maintenance costs of turf fields, while others say grass fields are worth saving. A18

INTERNATIONAL A3-9

Maliki to Meet With Parties

Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki said he would meet as early as this week with leaders from all the major political parties of Iraq in the hope of forging a grand compromise among the warring factions. A8

The recent orphaning of a 9-month-old child, whose parents were probably killed by death squads, demonstrates the toll of the continued sectarian violence. A8

Iraqi and American officials think that Iraq's ailing economy could get a kick-start from American consumers interested in giving Iraqi-made clothes as Christmas presents. A8 Militant Support in Pakistan

Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the president of Pakistan, made a rare admission before Pakistani and Afghan delegates at a grand tribal assembly in Kabul, saying that support for militants emanating from Pakistan had caused problems for Afghanistan. A6 Iran Concludes Spy Inquiry

A senior judiciary official said Iran had finished its investigation into two Iranian-American academics who were arrested in May on espionage charges. The official did not disclose the conclusions of the investigation. A6

Are *Hamas* and Fatah Talking?

A <u>Hamas</u> official in Gaza said his organization was holding unofficial talks with representatives from the Fatah movement. Fatah officials denied that any such dialogue was taking place. A4 Art on Life in Burmese Prison

The more than 300 paintings and 1,000 illustrations that Htein Lin, an artist and onetime political prisoner in Burma, smuggled out offer a rare vision of prison life in Myanmar, formerly Burma, one of the world's most closed nations. A3 NATIONAL A10-17

Big-City Lives in Small Towns

As technology enables people to live and work wherever they want, urban migrants are creating hybrid communities in places like Steamboat Springs, Colo., implanting urban incomes, tastes, careers, ambitions, cultural activities and networking opportunities in resort towns. A1 Runner-Up at Iowa Straw Poll

Mike Huckabee, the Arkansas Republican seeking the presidency with an underdog campaign, is receiving fresh attention after building on an appeal to conservative Christians and managing to come in second, behind Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, in the Iowa Straw Poll. A1 Clinton Fund-Raising Data

Since Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign announced that she had raised \$26 million, more than any other presidential candidate in the first quarter of the year, it has had to subtract hundreds of thousands of dollars from its first-quarter total because of a variety of problems. As a result, the total is now \$25.6 million. A16 House Foreclosure Epicenter

While people nationwide are being affected by troubles in the lending industry, Stockton, Calif., a city of about 285,000 some 90 miles east of San Francisco, has the country's highest foreclosure rate. A10 New Tactic in Mine Rescue

Emergency workers searching for six Utah coal miners trapped in a deep underground mine shaft, announced that they would begin drilling a third hole through the mountainside and using a faster digging technique to speed up the push through the collapsed mine's rubble. A10 NEW YORK/REGION A18-19

Closing a Language Gap

Since nearly half of the parents of New York City schoolchildren are not native English speakers, a unit was created to translate school documents into the eight foreign languages most commonly spoken in New York. The office surpasses the translation division at United Nations headquarters. A18

Harnessing Water Power

Despite a string of recent mishaps in an attempt to harness power from the East River, there is still enough optimism about tidal power to attract investments, and even some competition. A19

BUSINESS DAY C1-8 Funds Driven by Data

Bankers and investors say the computer-driven or quantitative investment methods some hedge funds employ tend not only to be duplicable but also broadly followed. One result is a pack-like tendency that has helped increase market volatility. C1 NBC and iVillage

NBC Universal's struggles with iVillage, the Web site focused on <u>women</u>, underscore the snags that can arise in trying to bolt a new media operation onto an old one. C1 Halo 3 to the Rescue?

Despite a severe manufacturing flaw that has caused breakdowns in the Microsoft Xbox 360 game console, Halo 3 -- the latest version of a violent space epic -- could redeem the company in the eyes of the device's owners. C1

Business Digest C2

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: August 13, 2007



Why the West is no nearer to a cure for raging fever of Muslim rage

Irish Independent July 6, 2007 Friday

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Independent.ie

Section: NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 811 words

Body

THE other day when he was asked to react to the attempted car-bomb attacks on London, the city's mayor, Ken Livingstone, called for tolerance.

Fair enough, you might say. But at whom was his call for tolerance directed? You are probably thinking, if you are a logical sort, that the call must have been directed at the fanatics who had come within an ace of killing and maiming possibly hundreds of people. But you would be mistaken.

Instead Ken directed his call at his fellow, non-Muslim, Englishmen. He said that in the past Jews, the Irish and gays had been persecuted in England and now it was the turn of Muslims. Ken is obviously the sort of fellow who, had he been mayor of London during the blitz, would have been blaming the Treaty of Versailles and not Hitler for the bombs raining down on his city.

The War on Terror, if that term can still be used, is revealing strange ideological fissures in Western societies. I came across these fissures in person last September when I took part in about eight radio discussions in the days after Pope Benedict had quoted the Byzantine emperor who had less-than-flattering things to say about Islam.

The line-up on those shows was me playing my usual role as the Catholic commentator, a Muslim representative, and frequently a representative of what I suppose we'll have to call the secular left.

On almost every one of these shows the secular left representative did his or her best to impersonate Ken Livingstone. First there was the usual ritualistic condemnation of the extremists, but this was then followed by a much more detailed discussion of why we are to blame for whatever Muslims extremists do to us.

To all intents and purposes this placed the secular leftist firmly on the side of the Muslim representative, several of whom had decidedly alarming ideas. At least one was a supporter of suicide bombings, sorry, 'martyrdom operations'. Another was in favour of the imposition of Sharia law in Ireland should the opportunity ever arise.

On yet another show the secular leftist thought it would be a very good idea if Muslims living in the West were allowed to live by Sharia law. Then there was the caller, a self-declared gay, who said the Pope deserved whatever he got because the Pope 'hates' homosexuals.

See what I mean about those "strange ideological fissures"? Essentially you had the guardians of tolerance siding with people who would crush homosexuals under walls if they could, and who would turn <u>women</u> into property given half a chance. And why this horrid sympathy? It is because the secular left's hatred of Western civilisation, and certainly Christianity, America and Israel, is such that they will side with anyone, no matter how unsavoury, who shares that hatred.

Needless to say, all of this is grist to the mill of those fanatics who would love to inflict a 9/11 on the West every day of the week. They tell us our civilisation is hateful and they hear an answering echo from the left who have decided that Muslims are a victim group whose acts of violence are simply proof of their victim status.

In The Irish Times the other day we had Vincent Browne calling for the West to give into virtually all of the demands of al-Qa'ida, *Hamas*, Hizbollah, the Iranians, and I suppose the Taliban as well. He imagines that if America pulled the plug on the Saudi royal family, if Turkey is allowed into the EU, if Israel returns to its pre-1967 borders, and if the West generally stops interfering in the affairs of Muslims countries, then all will be well. But he is dead wrong.

If all these things happen, Muslim rage would continue to burn because Browne, like the left in general, misdiagnoses the real cause of that rage. It is not Western foreign policy, although this undoubtedly adds fuel to the fire, the real cause is the terrible political, economic and social immobility of much of the Muslim world.

Even if Western foreign policy changes along the lines desired by a Vincent Browne or a Ken Livingstone, the root causes of Muslim rage and violence will remain much as they are, and so will the underlying realities of those countries. For example, the choice facing a Palestinian living on the West Bank or the Gaza Strip will still be either the fundamentalism of *Hamas* or the terrible corruption and authoritarianism of Fatah.

The choice facing a citizen of Saudi Arabia will still be the theocracy of the Saudi Royal Family or the even worse theocracy of al-Qa'ida and Osama bin Laden. The choice facing an Egyptian will remain the dictatorship of the present government or the theocracy of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Until such time as the political, economic and social choices available to Muslims, especially in the Arab world, increases, so long will Muslim anger burn and not all the self-loathing of the Western intelligentsia will change that fact one jota.

Load-Date: July 6, 2007



When Heroes Depart

New York Sun (Archive) June 28, 2007 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 11

Length: 851 words

Byline: DANIEL JOHNSON

Body

It is only when heroes depart that we miss them. The British thought they would be glad to see the back of Tony Blair. I miss him already. Mr. Blair's last day in office began, appropriately, with questions to the prime minister. As befitted the best parliamentary performer of his generation, Mr. Blair modestly declared that he had "never pretended to be a great House of Commons man." Yet it was he who crucially had persuaded that House to back his decision to go to war in 2003, defying two million demonstrators on the streets.

Yesterday there was little of the adversarial politics that usually makes the atmosphere so electric. However, while graciously acknowledging the congratulatory speeches, equally insincere on all sides, Mr. Blair managed to make the occasion memorable by a brief but spirited defense of his legacy in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He paid tribute to the latest British troops that have died, and told their comrades that he was "truly sorry about the dangers they face today." But he reminded the British public that their sacrifice was not in vain, and that their killers, whether backed by Iran or by Al Qaeda, are our enemies. His moral courage is a quality his countrymen soon will miss.

Then it was off to Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation to the Queen. This was a private meeting, the last of many hundreds over the past decade. When Winston Churchill, the first of Elizabeth II's prime ministers, resigned 52 years ago, he wore a frock coat and top hat.

In his time, Mr. Blair has abolished the last vestiges of Victorian tradition. The constitutional role of the monarchy, though, is not just a tradition. It means that no prime minister, however dominant, is above the law.

Mr. Blair may be the last prime minister to govern by the unwritten constitution that goes back at least 1,000 years. The European Union is already responsible for most of the legislation that governs Great Britain, and a new treaty marks another transfer of legislative, executive, and judicial powers to Brussels.

The flexibility that is the advantage of an unwritten constitution has, in practice, made it easier to erode the democratic rights of the British people. That is perhaps the worst of Mr. Blair's legacies, but his recent predecessors are all guilty, more or less, too.

What of his successor? Gordon Brown is the first prime minister to have one eye and no heart. He lost his eye in a school sports accident, but he was born heartless.

The only thing the British have to fear is fear itself - personified by Mr. Brown. He has reversed the old principle "No taxation without representation" to read: "No representation without overtaxation."

When Heroes Depart

The new prime minister is what Scots call a "son of the manse." His father, Reverend John Brown, was a "dominie" - a minister or teacher. The archetypal Scottish dominie was the great 16th-century reformer, John Knox, whose ferocious opposition to the idea of *women* ruling over men earned him the loathing of Elizabeth I.

Knox's "First Blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of <u>Women</u>" rails against the danger that "the foolishe, madde and phrenetike shal governe the discrete, and give counsel to such as be sober of mind."

Knox, of course, had <u>women</u> in mind. Remove the misogyny from this passage, however, and you might be listening to one of "Stalin" Brown's diatribes against his enemies, Mr. Blair included. Discretion and sobriety - these are the highest virtues in Brown's lexicon.

Brown would never echo his namesake Joe E. Brown's immortal line in the film "Some Like It Hot," "Nobody's perfect!" Britain's Brown is a perfectionist and something of a prohibitionist. No wonder he loves to vacation in New England - the pilgrim fathers would have been proud of him. Not that he is devout, though, his religion is politics.

At least the new prime minister won't have to worry about the old one peering over his shoulder. Mr. Blair, despite last-minute objections from the Kremlin, is off to the Middle East to be the quartet's new envoy.

This newspaper has voiced justifiable anxiety about this appointment. The last thing the Middle East needs is yet another meddlesome peace plan that will extract concessions from Israel and end by replenishing the arsenals of the terrorists.

But Mr. Blair gave a clue about his approach yesterday. He said that what the Palestinians needed, above all, is good governance. He has grasped one of the lessons of the <u>Hamas</u> coup in Gaza: that the Palestinians are not ready yet to run a state that can live in peace with its neighbors. He understands the impossibility of negotiating with <u>Hamas</u>, but he has no illusions about Fatah either. He is open to the idea that Egypt and Jordan might assume responsibility for Gaza and the West Bank.

The Middle East is a graveyard of reputations. But Mr. Blair has nothing more to lose. He stayed the course with President Bush. He did not think Israel's retaliation against Hezbollah was "disproportionate" and he said so. Those decisions cost him his job. If any envoy can be trusted not to do more harm than good to the people of Israel, it is this one.

Load-Date: June 28, 2007



Iragis find common ground - on a soccer field

Christian Science Monitor June 19, 2007, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 826 words **Byline:** Dan Murphy

Body

The new Iraq that America's "neocons" once dreamed of - undivided by sectarian animosities and proudly looking toward the future - was finally on display at a soccer match.

Flags waved amid a sea of Iraqis Saturday night. A middle-age Shiite shop-owner and the Rolex-wearing Sunni businessman sitting next to him joined the throng in the latest chant of "We'd give our blood so you can live, Iraq."

Hamid Shukri, a doctor from Baghdad, leaned over to me when he realized I'm an American. "Don't worry," he shouted above the din, grinning ear to ear. "There are no terrorists here."

I'm not worried, though not because I'm brave or a fool. Instead "here" is about 200 miles from the Iraqi border, in the Jordanian capital of Amman.

A soccer pitch in a foreign country is one of the few places that Iraqis can now find common ground and divert their attention from the relentless violence back home.

And it's not just the Iraqis who will be seeking solace in soccer this week. The Palestinian territories, Syria, Iran, and Lebanon are also lining up at the West Asian Football Federation Championships here, which is shaping up to be something of a World Cup for weakened - or at least threatened - states.

The Iraqis on Saturday night were making the most of it.

A fetching teenage girl with green stars representing the national flag spray-painted into her long black hair sat with two <u>women</u> in shapeless black abayas and head scarves. They all groaned in unison as Kirkuk-born striker, and national team heartthrob, Younis Mahmoud missed one of Iraq's best chances of the match.

At least 700,000 Iraqi refugees have fled their homeland to this city of 2 million. So, for the Iraqi national soccer team, Amman is what Los Angeles is for Mexico's: Their favorite home away from home.

International soccer matches inside Iraq are of course, for the moment, impossible.

The fans efforts weren't enough to push the shabab, or boys, over the top in a lackluster 0-0 draw with Iran in the opening round of the West Asian Football Federation's championship, but no one really seemed to mind.

They chanted, they beat on drums, they chattered animatedly among themselves during breaks in the action, without seeming to have a care in the world.

Iragis find common ground - on a soccer field

But Mr. Shukri, a 31-year-old who grew up in Baghdad's upscale Mansour district, which has become a playground for kidnappers and sectarian death squads in the past two years, frowns briefly when I ask him what caused him to flee the country.

"Let's not talk about that today," he says. "That's not why we're here."

Indeed, the ongoing tournament here is a rare and welcome source of entertainment for the exiled Iraqis. And while they fought a ruinous war with Iran for most of the 1980s, and many Iraqis believe Iran is responsible for at least some violence inside their country, there were no signs of the violent nationalism sometimes seen during matches between European football powers.

Here in Jordan, the Iraqis increasingly feel like unwanted guests, not allowed to work, unable to move on. Returning home would be a death sentence for many, and being accepted as a refugee by the rich countries of the West is an uncertain lottery; the United States will accept only 7,000 Iraqi refugees this year.

But on nights like Saturday, the exiles' shared common plight allows them to set aside whatever sectarian animosities that might linger below the surface and just be Iraqis. "Shiite, Sunni, no one cares here tonight," says Mohammed, who asked that his full name not be used. He is from just outside Baqubah, Iraq, which has been the scene of major sectarian cleansing in the past few years.

But Iraq's next match here is against the Palestinian team on Monday, a game which promises to have strong support for both sides, given the nearly 2 million Palestinian refugees who live here.

The Palestinian players are mostly based in Gaza, 100 miles east as the crow flies from Amman, but also a world away when it comes to peace and security. They couldn't drive to the tournament. Instead, they drove 200 miles west to Cairo, then flew back east to Amman.

But at least they got out of Gaza; the teeming strip has been sealed off by Israel since the Islamist movement <u>Hamas</u> routed the Fatah party in a violent struggle to control Gaza last week. With the Palestinians divided effectively for the moment into two fragments - the Gaza Strip of <u>Hamas</u> and the West Bank of Fatah - they will share similar distractions as their Iraqi opponents on Monday night.

But teams and fans face yet another test of whether they can put aside political and sectarian animosity.

Shortly before the Lebanese team departed for Amman, a car bomb that killed anti-Syrian member of parliament Walid Eido also claimed the lives of two professional soccer players heading home after a club match on June 13. Many Lebanese have since blamed Syria for the murders.

Lebanon's first- round opponent? Syria, of course.

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Load-Date: June 18, 2007



The New York Times

June 13, 2007 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 856 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-12 Palestinian Rivals Escalate Fighting Toward Civil War Gunmen of the rival Palestinian factions <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah sharply escalated their fight for supremacy, with <u>Hamas</u> taking over much of the northern Gaza Strip in what began to look increasingly like a civil war. A1 U.S. Benchmarks for Iraq Unmet Iraq's leaders have failed to agree on nearly every law that the Americans have demanded as benchmarks, despite heavy pressure, the White House and top military commanders said. Many Iraqi and American officials now question whether any substantive laws will pass before the end of the year. A1 Cricket Coach Was Not Killed The coach of the Pakistani cricket team, who was found unconscious in his hotel room in Jamaica in March after his team was ousted from the Cricket World Cup, was not murdered as the police had previously thought but had died of unspecified natural causes, the police said.

A12 Sudan to Allow Joint Peace Force After resisting for months, Sudan has agreed to a joint United Nations and African Union force of nearly 20,000 peacekeepers in Darfur, its western province and the site of one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, the African Union said. A3 Accidental U.S.-Afghan Clash American-led forces killed seven Afghan policemen and wounded five more in an exchange of fire that Afghan police officials said was a result of mistaken identity. A6 Europe Plans for Refugees Appeals by Malta and Sweden for help in sharing the burden of thousands of African and Iraqi refugees streaming into the European Union were rebuffed as the European Union's interior ministers clashed over how to solve the problem. A4 NATIONAL A13-19 Early Symptoms Found To Identify Ovarian Cancer Experts have identified a set of health problems that may be symptoms of ovarian cancer, and they are urging women who have the symptoms for more than a few weeks to see their doctors. The advice is the first official recognition that the disease does cause symptoms at earlier stages in many women. A1 Overseas Voting Problems Over the last six years, the Defense Department has spent more than \$30 million trying to find an efficient way for American soldiers and civilians living abroad to vote in elections back home. But the Pentagon's Web-based system remains slow, confusing and plagued with security and privacy problems. A19 Panel Denies III Workers A federal advisory panel recommended that workers at a former nuclear weapons plant be denied immediate government compensation for illnesses the workers say they suffer as a result of years of radiation exposure at the plant. A13 Pittsburgh Fire Kills Five Five young children from two families died in an early morning fire in Pittsburgh after their mothers left them in the home overnight with a teenage baby sitter who has not been found, the police said. A15 Bush Lobbies Republicans Trying to revive a crippled immigration bill, President Bush visited the Capitol to try to assure wary Senate Republicans that border security was a driving force behind the immigration law. A16 Ohio School Wins Reprieve An experimental public high school in Dayton that has had success in sending low-income students to college will become a charter school under the control of the University of Dayton, the school district said. A17 NEW YORK/REGION B1-8 City Spurs Big Jump On State Math Scores Math scores for students across New York State improved significantly in every grade this year,

powered by sizable gains in New York City, according to results of the annual state math exam released by state officials. A1 A Lightning Rod on Immigration Steve Levy, the Suffolk County executive, injects himself into the issue of illegal immigration often and aggressively, and has been called "arguably the most formidable elected official in Long Island history." A1 Budget Deal Offers Tax Break New York City taxpayers would get a larger-than-expected break on their property taxes under a \$59 billion budget deal that city leaders announced. The pact, which comes weeks earlier than usual, would also use a record \$4.4 billion surplus to eliminate taxes on clothing and shoes and increase library service to six days a week. B1 BUSINESS DAY C1-10 The Cost of Borrowing Rises The cost of borrowing headed higher and drove the stock market down sharply. Yields on the 10-year Treasury note hit a five-year high, climbing to 5.248 percent as investors sold off notes and bonds. C1 Business Digest C2 SPORTSWEDNESDAY D1-7 Spurs Close in on Championship The San Antonio Spurs seized a 75-72 victory in the most ragged game yet of the N.B.A. finals. Holding a 3-0 lead, the Spurs are a victory away from clinching their fourth N.B.A. title in nine years. D1 OBITUARIES B9 Don Herbert Television's Mr. Wizard, who unlocked the wonders of science for youngsters of the 1950s and '60s, he was 89. B9 EDITORIAL A20-21 Editorials: Silence in the Senate; good choice for the chiefs; watching your every move; a different Sudan. Columns: Thomas L. Friedman and Maureen Dowd. Crossword E2 TV Listings E11 Weather D8

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: June 13, 2007



Quotes: "Things they said this week"

The Gazette (Montreal)

March 24, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: SATURDAY EXTRA; Pg. B8

Length: 313 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

Saturday March 17

"We're not going to work with this government. This government does not recognize our existence"

Miri Eisin, a senior

Israeli government spokesperson, after a new Lebanese coalition cabinet, including <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah members, was sworn in.

Sunday March 18

"I love the crowd, they come to have a good time and it's the official beginning of spring, when everyone comes out."

Simon Rielly, who wore a coat sporting an impressive 84 Irish-themed buttons as he watched Montreal's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Monday March 19

"Let me tell you something. Someone who is running a cabane a sucre and is not serving ham will have a real tough time in life."

PQ leader Andre Boisclair, commenting on the controversy about a sugar shack owner who agreed to remove ham from pea soup at the request of a group of Muslim visitors.

Tuesday March 20

"What do we do.

We try to feed him the food he loves."

Michael Jacobs, owner of Mookie the cat who died of acute kidney failure after eating cat food Jacobs thinks was tainted.

Quotes: "Things they said this week"

Wednesday March 21

"You look all around us, you see Hummers, SUVs and everybody with their lights on at all hours of the night. That would indicate that the message hasn't got through yet."

Chris Winter of the Conservation Council of Ontario, after a poll showed educated Canadians are worried about global warming, but not enough to give up gas guzzlers.

Thursday March 22

"He decided to plead guilty because he did it."

Philip Schneider, lawyer for former Montreal police officer Benoit Guay, who pleaded guilty to 13 counts of sexually attacking eight girls and <u>women</u>.

Friday March 23

"It's a celebration of pride to be a Greek Canadian. Although many are Canadians of first, second and third generation, we still feel for the mother country."

Michael Paidoussis, Professor Emeritus at McGill University, named Greek of the Year for tomorrow's Greek Independence day parade.

Load-Date: March 28, 2007



A Ten-Point Plan for Fostering Arab Democracy; The strategic Interest

The Forward July 13, 2007

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Section: News; Pg. A9

Length: 862 words

Byline:

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

Body

Of all the Bush administration's failings in Iraq, the one neither officially acknowledged by the United States nor properly assessed by the international community is the fiasco of democratization. True, the administration appears to have abandoned its drive to democratize the Arab Middle East; Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice no longer lectures

Egyptian audiences about the lessons of integration in the American South. But few in Washington are talking about the failure of the democratization program, whether in Iraq or elsewhere in the Arab world.

The only lesson the administration appears to have learned from this fiasco is to attempt to undo its democratizing mistakes by force.

In recent weeks we have witnessed <u>Hamas</u>'s violent reaction in Gaza to an attempt by Fatah units trained and backed by the United States to remove the Islamists from power after they won an American sponsored and certified parliamentary election in January 2006. In Lebanon and Iraq, too, Washington is arming and training friendly forces to oppose unfriendly extremists that it helped get elected. In Lebanon, it's the army versus Hezbollah; in Iraq, it's the anti-Sadrist Shi'ites.

American efforts to foster democracy in the Arab world have backfired horribly. Unlike the occupation of Iraq, however, this was at least in principle a worthy cause albeit one abused out of ignorance and hubris.

For all the failing of Arab democratization to date, Arab democrats are courageous people who deserve support. There is nothing in the Arab DNA that contradicts the notion that if done right, genuine democratization can eventually succeed in Ramallah, Cairo and Damascus.

The next American president to try a hand at fostering Arab democracy would do well to heed the lessons of the Bush administration's many mistakes. Here are 10 preliminary thoughts on the lessons to be learned.

First, democracy is not a prerequisite to Israeli-Arab peace. Natan Sharansky, Benjamin Netanyahu and their neoconservative friends in America got it wrong. Israel has stable peace agreements with non-democratic Egypt and Jordan, and terrorism and mistrust with democratic Palestine and Lebanon. Next time, leave the Israeli angle out of the list of rationales for democratization.

A Ten-Point Plan for Fostering Arab Democracy The strategic Interest

Second, don't conquer a country in order to democratize it. Iraq is most decidedly not post-World War II Germany or Japan. The United States was right to give Kuwait back to its ruling family in 1991 without pressing its democratization demands too heavily. Yes, it took 15 years before the regime allowed <u>women</u> to vote, but the alternatives were simply worse.

Third, beware of expatriates with agendas. The Ahmed Chalabis of the Middle East are its scoundrels, not its saviors.

Fourth, don't expose true Arab or Iranian democrats to government abuse by too openly embracing and funding them. The Bush administration's appropriation of a relatively small amount of dollars to support dissidents in Iran has sparked a brutal crackdown there that has set back democracy and incarcerated good people.

Fifth, give priority to building civil society institutions rather than holding hasty elections. This would have been the preferred path in Iraq, where elections have merely enfranchised militias and entrenched religious and ethnic divides. This means a much more measured approach than that employed by the United States in Iraq perhaps something like European Union programs for building civil society in North Africa, however slow and cumbersome they seem.

Sixth, ban armed groups from elections. Of some 145 parties running in Iraq's last elections, all but one were associated with militias, and in Palestine both Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> have armed wings. This may mean keeping out of elections some friendly groups, such as the two main Kurdish parties in Iraq, but unless all participating groups forego arms, the elections could end up being counterproductive.

Seventh, have strong and loyal national security forces in place before democratizing. Iraq, again, is a negative case in point: The army was disbanded even as the American occupiers set about democratizing the country.

Eighth, build on locally accepted traditions and practices even if they are less than democratic rather than importing unfamiliar models. A historic monarchy might conceivably be a better way to start than turning an entire country into a single constituency, such as was done in Iraq. A Lebanese-style confessional system leaves a great dea to be desired, but it could be the most workable model in a multi-ethnic, multireligious polity.

Ninth, allow Islamists unarmed, with a proven commitment to democracy into the process. In the highly constrained parliaments of Morocco, Kuwait and Jordan, this appears to work. In Egypt it is more problematic, not the least because the Mubarak regime energetically suppresses secular as well as Islamist opponents.

Tenth, and most importantly, once Washington has really applied the lessons learned from the current democratization fiasco in the Middle East, it must respect the outcome.

Graphic

IMAGE

IMAGE; Getty Images

Load-Date: July 12, 2007



Town's residents eager to leave rockets behind

The International Herald Tribune
May 18, 2007 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 810 words

Byline: Isabel Kershner - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: SDEROT, Israel

Body

Displaying fear, anger and frayed nerves, almost 1,000 residents of this Israeli border town pushed their way onto buses Thursday, desperate for a short respite from the barrages of Qassam rockets that have been fired at the area from the nearby Gaza Strip in the past three days.

The 14 buses that left Sderot were provided by the Ministry of Defense, marking the first time that the Israeli government had organized any sort of evacuation from Sderot since the rockets started falling here six years ago.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert aimed indirect criticism at a Russian-Israeli billionaire, Arkadi Gaydamak, who provided buses to take about 400 people out of town for a few days of rest in hotels.

"I oppose population evacuations," Olmert said. "These are the exact pictures that <u>Hamas</u> has been waiting for, and I am not prepared to grant any victory to terrorism."

The residents leaving on Thursday were headed for recreational facilities belonging to the defense establishment near Netanya, a coastal city far to the north, where they were to spend the weekend before returning home.

Lying only about a mile away from the Gaza border, Sderot has been struck hardest by the Qassams. The continual rocket fire has severely traumatized the local population, and particularly the children, according to social services officials in the town.

At least 200 rockets have landed in the area since a shaky cease-fire came into effect last November, according to Sderot's mayor, Eli Moyal. That cease-fire collapsed when <u>Hamas</u>, one of the largest Palestinian factions, decided to resume rocket fire Tuesday. Since then, scores of rockets have been launched from Gaza, according to army officials. Of the 30 or more that have reached Israel, at least 17 have landed in built-up areas of Sderot, seriously wounding two residents and sending many into shock.

At about 9:30 a.m. Thursday, a rocket hit a classroom in a high school at the Sha'ar Hanegev educational complex on the edge of the town. The ceiling was blown open, and the desks and floor were covered in broken glass and debris. The eighth-graders would normally have been in geography class at the time, but they were out of the area on a class trip. Because of the rockets, the students have recently been using a safer classroom on a lower floor.

"I heard the rocket alert, saw kids running toward the protected rooms, and then I heard the boom," said Ilanit Asayag, 36, who works in the library nearby. She was taking photographs of the damage with her mobile phone.

The schools inside Sderot have been closed for two days.

The residents who gathered in a parking lot by the municipal swimming pool to wait for the Defense Ministry buses on Thursday morning did not know, or care, where they were going. "The main thing is to get far away from Sderot," said Avital Chen, 43, a single mother of two, who works in a local food factory.

Raziel Sasson, 12, waited for hours in the heat to leave with his mother and two siblings. His father and another two brothers planned to join them the next day. Raziel said that on Tuesday he had been traveling in a car with his parents when they heard an incoming rocket alert. They stopped the car and ran into a clump of trees, where they lay on the ground. The rocket whistled right above their heads and landed a few meters away. "It was the nightmare of my life," said Raziel. "It was my fourth near-miss from the rockets. I could have died."

Raziel's father, Moshe Sasson, who works for the prison service, said, "I have two traumatized children."

"We need to get away for a couple of days to calm down," he said, adding that he would leave Sderot permanently if he could only sell his house. "Everybody is running away. Nobody wants to come live here."

According to Moyal, the mayor, about 40 to 50 percent of the town's 24,000 residents have left. But he insists that most have not gone for good. "We are not evacuating the place," he said, speaking in his office in city hall. "People are not escaping. They just need to decompress for a while."

Late in the afternoon, about 30 residents who had been left off the buses came with their luggage to protest at his office. "I waited from 11 in the morning, then they told us there were no more places," said Angela Sitkilov, tears in her eyes. "They lied in our faces."

Limor Yashar, a social worker in the town, said that people were exhausted from not being able to sleep at night. "That magnifies all their other problems," she said.

Many of the stores in Sderot were closed Thursday, but there was a semblance of normalcy at the Chopin hair salon in a square near the city hall, where people lined up for haircuts.

"I thought there'd be less business today," said Shimon Buskeela, as he blow-dried a <u>female</u> customer's long, blond hair. "People are brave in Sderot. Life goes on."

Load-Date: May 18, 2007



Power struggle behind the scenes; Impasse has forced moderates into a corner

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

April 3, 2007 Tuesday

National Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. A14; Peter Goodspeed

Length: 851 words

Byline: Peter Goodspeed, National Post

Body

As the Iranian hostage crisis involving 15 British sailors and Marines stretches into its second week, there are indications it has become a power struggle between pragmatic moderates and religious radicals in Iran.

At its centre is the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, the elite military unit charged with defending the Islamic Revolution and a bastion for those opposing Western influence in the Middle East. Even as diplomats struggle to find a solution, radicals close to the Revolutionary Guards have been pressing their government to confront the West while insisting Tehran should reject demands to release the British servicemen.

On Sunday crowds of rock throwing youths affiliated with the Basiji volunteer militia, which is controlled by the Revolutionary Guards, attacked the British embassy in Tehran, shouting "Death to Britain" and "Death to America."

In an echo of the 1979 hostage crisis in which Revolutionary Guards occupied the U.S. embassy for 444 days, they tried to invade the British compound, demanding it be closed because it is "a den of spies."

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian President, evoked similar sentiments when he delivered a speech the same day to mark the 28th anniversary of the founding of the Islamic Republic, branding Britain and its allies as "arrogant and selfish" for not apologizing in the latest crisis.

"Arrogant powers will vanish like bubbles on water," said the former member of the Revolutionary Guards' Al Quds Brigade, who cut his political teeth in revolutionary Iran as one of the masterminds of the U.S. embassy takeover.

Ever since, hostage-taking has been a hallmark of Iran's foreign policy.

Tehran has backed Hezbollah militants who regularly kidnapped Westerners in Lebanon. It also trained and financed terrorists in *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad.

It's not surprising the latest hostage-taking rapidly turned into a test of wills, with hardline radicals determined to show Iran can withstand Western demands.

Now, as in 1979, the event has become a rallying point for a beleaguered regime.

Power struggle behind the scenes; Impasse has forced moderates into a corner

Just two months ago, Mr. Ahmadinejad's government faced mounting criticism for poor economic management and Iran was targeted with international economic sanctions for refusing to rein in its nuclear program.

The detention of the British servicemen, which came on the eve of a second round of UN sanctions, has been a useful distraction. It has forced Iranian moderates into a corner where they look weak and too willing to make concessions with the West if they seek to resolve the crisis.

The struggle within the government was evident last week when Manoucheher Mottaki, the Foreign Minister, indicated a quick end to the confrontation was possible and promised the release of the only <u>female</u> captive, Leading Seaman Faye Turney.

But within hours, the government torpedoed the idea, saying the release was postponed because of Britain's "bad behaviour."

Iran's negotiating stance now seems designed to force pragmatic strategists in Tehran into adopting a harder line against the West. With each day that passes, it is obvious the Revolutionary Guards' influence has begun to dominate Iran's domestic and foreign policy -- not that it is easy to gauge the relative strengths of competing factions in Iran's murky theocracy.

Created in 1979 by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as a counterweight to the police and regular army, the Guards are legendary for their loyalty to the Islamic Revolution and their fanaticism.

During the Iran-Iraq war they supplied tens of thousands of "human minesweepers" who sacrificed their lives to protect Iran's hard-pressed military.

The Basiji, who are controlled by the Guards, serve as "morality police," monitoring people's activities, enforcing shariah law, harassing *women* who wear too much makeup and reporting families who watch satellite television.

The generation of Revolutionary Guards who invaded the U.S. embassy now claim political power, having made Mr. Ahmadinejad President. They have also become MPs, state governors and local officials.

Mr. Ahmadinejad has liberally sprinkled his cabinet with former Guards and generously provides its economic units with government contracts.

The Guards play a crucial role in Iran's secretive domestic arms industry, including attempts to acquire nuclear weapons and its construction of advanced surface- to-surface missiles.

The 125,000 Revolutionary Guards are a military elite, with their own army, navy and air force, and report directly to supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The Al Quds Brigade has trained <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad operatives. It spies on Iran's dissidents overseas and trains Islamic fundamentalists bent on destabilizing Arab Gulf states.

U.S. officials claim Revolutionary Guards have provided Iraqi militias with roadside bombs.

Some experts believe they are more powerful now than at any time in the past.

It was no coincidence it was the Revolutionary Guards who captured the British servicemen on March 23, or that their top commanders led the list of Iranian officials targeted by UN economic sanctions a day later.

Pgoodspeed @nationalpost.com

Graphic

Power struggle behind the scenes; Impasse has forced moderates into a corner

Color Photo: Behrouz Mehri, AFP, Getty Images; An Iranian skewers chicken for grilling at a picnic in Tehran yesterday to mark the first day of the Persian solar calendar new year. Iran has been holding 15 British servicemen for almost two weeks in a protracted dispute over territorial waters.;

Load-Date: April 3, 2007



G2: Fighters, leaders and thinkers: Prominent Palestinian women

The Guardian - Final Edition
December 5, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: GUARDIAN FEATURES PAGES; Pg. 7

Length: 335 words

Byline: Rory McCarthy

Body

Although the Palestinian history of the conflict with Israel has long been dominated by men, there have been several high-profile **women** figures, often fighters and activists, and occasionally politicians and leaders.

The woman regarded as the first <u>female</u> Palestinian guerrilla fighter is Fatima Barnawi, who in October 1967 planted a bomb in a Jerusalem cinema that left dozens of Israelis injured. She was 28 and a member of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Perhaps the most iconic Palestinian woman was the hijacker Leila Khaled (below). In 1969, she took part in the hijacking of a TWA plane, flying it to Damascus before blowing it up. She had cosmetic surgery to disguise her looks and the next year made a failed attempt to hijack another plane as part of a wave of hijacks planned by the leftwing Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Nearly a decade later, Dalal Mughrabi landed with a group of other Palestinian fighters on an Israeli beach, killed an American photographer and seized a bus filled with passengers. After a gunbattle with Israeli soldiers, she blew up the bus, killing 36 people on board. Mughrabi and her fighters were also killed.

Other <u>women</u> became prominent without violence. Hanan Ashrawi, an academic and a Christian, emerged as one of the most articulate voices for the Palestinians. She became a government minister and today holds a seat in the Palestinian parliament. The most high-profile Palestinian woman today is probably Queen Rania of Jordan, who was born in Kuwait to Palestinian parents and has become an important supporter of charities.

Today, a new generation of <u>women</u> are taking part. Wafa Idris, a divorced paramedic, became the first Palestinian <u>female</u> suicide bomber in January 2002 when she detonated a bomb in Jerusalem, killing an elderly Israeli man. <u>Female</u> militants and politicians are now emerging from the Islamist groups, notably Maryam Farhat, known as Umm Nidal, who was elected a <u>Hamas</u> MP this year after three of her sons became suicide bombers.

Load-Date: December 5, 2006



GAZA IN THE GRIP OF GRIEF; SHELLING VICTIMS BURIED

Daily Record November 10, 2006, Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 332 words

Byline: By Jon Clements

Body

TENS of thousands of Palestinians yesterday joined the mass funeral of 18 civilians killed by Israeli artillery.

They carried the bodies, including seven children and four <u>women</u>, wrapped in the yellow flags of the Fatah party through the town of Beit Hanoun.

Mourners, flanked by masked militiamen firing guns into the air, chanted "God is Great" on their way to the cemetery.

Then, as gunfire continued to sound out, a Fatah official with a loud speaker swore vengeance on Israel.

Abdul Hakim Awad said: "The killers in Israel, you will never be able to defeat one Palestinian child.

"We say, an eye for an eye and a soul for a soul.

"There will be no security in Ashkelon, no security in Tel Aviv or Haifa, until our people in Beit Hanoun are secured."

The deaths happened when Israeli artillery missed its target - a site used by Palestinian militants to fire rockets - by half a mile.

More than 60 people were wounded when the shells rained down on a residential street on Wednesday.

Israel launched an investigation into the tragedy and suspended artillery operations but furious Palestinians vowed revenge.

<u>Hamas</u> leader Khaled Meshal, exiled in Damascus, Syria, urged retaliation and groups including Islamic Jihad threatened suicide bomb attacks.

Israel was criticised by world leaders, including Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett and European Union chiefs.

But America stopped short of reprimanding Israel, instead calling for restraint on both sides.

Meanwhile, French peace-keeping troops serving with the UN in Lebanon came within two seconds of shooting down an Israeli jet, it emerged yesterday.

Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie told MPs the fighter had provoked French positions with a "series of menacing low dives".

GAZA IN THE GRIP OF GRIEF SHELLING VICTIMS BURIED

She said: "Two seconds later there would have been a shot against it, but a catastrophe was avoided only thanks to the judiciousness of our troops."

Israeli jets routinely overfly Lebanese airspace, despite the UN ruling it violates the ceasefire agreed in August.

Graphic

DISTRAUGHT: A Palestinian weeps as he carries a one-year-old girl's body REUTERS

Load-Date: November 10, 2006



IN BRIEF

The Australian (Australia)
September 24, 2007 Monday
All-round Country Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 12

Length: 366 words

Body

MERKEL MEETS DALAI

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel was to hold a historic meeting with the Dalai Lama last night that has raised tensions with China and led Beijing to cancel at least one official event. Berlin has resisted pressure to withdraw the invitation to the meeting, which will be the first time Tibet's exiled spiritual leader is received at the chancellery.

FOR THE LOVE OF BEER

MUNICH: Six million people are expected to attend Oktoberfest this year, which was launched on Saturday and goes for 16 days. Munich Mayor Christian Ude ordered the tapping of the first beer barrel, the ritual kick-off for the 174th edition of the party.

STAR TO BE FREED

PARIS: France is preparing to release a rock star from prison just four years after he beat his actress girlfriend to death. A judge indicated on Saturday that good behaviour made Bertrand Cantat, lead singer of the cult band Noir Desir, eligible for early release halfway through his eight-year sentence for killing Marie Trintignant in 2003 during a row in a flat in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital.

ISRAEL ATTACKS FOILED

JERUSALEM: Israeli police found an explosives belt in a Tel Aviv apartment building yesterday and said they had averted a <u>Hamas</u> suicide bombing on the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. Police acted on information gathered during a three-day army raid in the Ein Beit Ilmeh refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus.

15 TRAPPED IN MINE

BEIJING: 15 miners remain trapped by a fire at a coalmine in northern China that has been burning since Wednesday. Rescuers at the mine in Shanxi province have found three bodies, though 18 people managed to escape.

VITAMIN C FIND

IN BRIEF

LONDON: Vitamin C is not only healthy for humans, it helps plants grow too. The discovery, by scientists from the University of Exeter, could lead to improved crop yields. The research identified an enzyme made by two genes which produces vitamin C in plants. By deactivating the genes, the scientists proved that vitamin C was essential for plant growth.

CALCIUM HEART RISK

WELLINGTON: <u>Women</u> over 70 have been advised to stop taking calcium supplements, often prescribed to avoid broken bones, because of a 40 per cent higher risk of heart attacks.

Load-Date: September 23, 2007



In Bethlehem, a sense of something lost; Violence has cut tourism on which biblical town depends.

The Philadelphia Inquirer
December 24, 2006 Sunday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 814 words

Byline: Ned Warwick, Inquirer Staff Writer

Body

In the handsomely laid-out atrium restaurant, Nat "King" Cole was singing softly "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Red poinsettias were everywhere, and, just outside in the lobby, the lights on a plump Christmas tree twinkled with holiday cheer: a perfect setting in a perfect city for a Christmas celebration.

Too bad the tables were empty, waiters were nowhere to be seen, and the smell of cooking was definitely not wafting across the room. Johnny Kattan, the general manager of the Jacir Palace, one of the West Bank's grandest hotels, admitted one recent day that, despite the hopeful preparations, not only was lunch going unappreciated, but also there were no reservations for dinner that night.

Like the rest of this storied city, where, the Bible says, Jesus was born, a wan melancholy pervades this hotel and this season. Built in the glowing aftermath of the Oslo accord, the Jacir Palace was intended to reap the benefits of peace and the arrival of a Palestinian state.

But the *intifadah* replaced the peace. The hotel, in the Ottoman-era former palace of a rich Palestinian merchant, was shut down shortly after it was opened in 2000 as bullets flew. Reopened in June 2005, the hotel, a short distance from the gray 30-foot-high wall that Israelis built as a security barrier, pines for customers.

"We are full for Christmas," Kattan said. "Other than that, we have extremely low occupancy, not more than 10 percent." During a walk around the sprawling and well-appointed five-star hotel, the only other people seen were two men who had come to check the fire extinguishers.

"We are losing money, and it is up to the owners to decide whether we will stay open," Kattan said. "We are yet to have our grand opening."

Bethlehem is a tourist destination for Christians; its economy depends on them. But the *intifadah* years, the construction of the wall, and the economic boycott imposed on the Palestinian territories by the West because of the *Hamas* government have sapped the city's spirit and reduced the number of visitors to a trickle. Once, as many

In Bethlehem, a sense of something lost Violence has cut tourism on which biblical town depends.

as 50,000 pilgrims a month came to Bethlehem. Fewer than half that do now. Last Christmas Eve, only 2,500 people braved the bitter, wet weather to be in Manger Square for the procession and midnight Mass.

"All the problems have broken our business," said Adnan Khalil Sobeh, 36, the owner of a souvenir shop just off Manger Square. "Bethlehem is a religious city. It must be open."

Sobeh's only sale in the last 10 days was to two Norwegians who spent \$50, he said. A taxi was parked outside his store; Sobeh drives it to supplement his income.

Out on the square, municipal workers were putting up Christmas lights. Otherwise, few Christmas decorations were in evidence. The <u>Hamas</u> government said it would contribute \$50,000 to buy more decorations to give the city a sparkle and a bit of a face-lift.

Few tourists were in the square, and there was no need to feel rushed inside the Church of the Nativity, built on the spot believed to be the birthplace of Jesus. A group of Palestinian Muslim <u>women</u> were on an outing from Hebron, foreigners clustered here and there, and there was the occasional Christian Arab.

One, Jack Hazbun, 31, a Bethlehem resident, said he visited the church six days a week.

"I like to light a candle, say a small prayer, and hope for our city," Hazbun said. Before the *intifadah*, the church was full at this time of year, he said. Sadly, the graphic designer said, Bethlehem "has come from being a city to being a village, as the wall has taken part of it."

The wall separates Bethlehem from Jerusalem. It also carves from Bethlehem and puts on the Israeli side Rachel's Tomb, a revered Jewish site that was the scene of confrontations during the *intifadah*. While foreign passport holders can pass freely through the wall's gates, Palestinians, including Christian Arabs, have a tougher time.

The Israelis built the wall to provide a defense against suicide bombers and gunmen trying to cross into Israel to attack civilian targets.

"The wall is the main cause of troubles in the city," said Bethlehem's Christian mayor, Victor Baterseh. "It has a bad effect on tourism. It is a hindrance to pilgrimage."

The sense of something lost is everywhere in Bethlehem. An exhibition of paintings in the gallery of a Lutheran center near Manger Square was devoid of visitors. Street vendors spiraled in from every direction when they spotted a tourist. And shop owners sat idly, enjoying this season's unusually warm and sunny weather.

Bethlehem has always prided itself as one of the few places left in the Mideast where East and West and different religions intersect in a spirit of harmony.

"We pray the star of the Nativity will shine on Bethlehem and guide all people of goodwill toward our little town to restore its former glory," Baterseh said.

Contact staff writer Ned Warwick at 215-854-2405 or foreign @phillynews.com.

Load-Date: December 24, 2006



OTV: TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER: SCREENGRABS

The Observer (London)
October 1, 2006

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The Observer

Section: OBSERVER TV AND RADIO; Pg. 10

Length: 325 words **Byline:** Sarah Hughes

Body

BBC₁

THE AMAZING MRS PRITCHARD

9PM

So there you are minding your own business as a supermarket manager, when suddenly you get so fed-up with watching local politicians grub around, lying for your vote outside the shop every day, that you think 'I could do that, and better', so you run as an independent candidate. This is the simple yet effective premise behind Sally Wainwright's new six-part drama which stars Jane Horrocks as the eponymous Mrs Pritchard, who discovers that the public like her straight-talking so much they vote her Purple Alliance party all the way to Number 10. Stronger than Wainwright's recent Jane Hall, this resembles nothing so much as her fantastic lottery drama At Home with the Braithwaites, combining sharp dialogue with just the right amount of whimsy.

BBC2

THIS WORLD: THE TEA BOY OF GAZA

9.50PM

Mahmood is an engagingly sharp-witted 12-year-old who supports his family by selling tea in Gaza's biggest hospital. Life in *Hamas*-governed Palestine is not easy and, for Mahmood, it is getting worse as a lack of international aid leaves doctors unpaid while trade barriers have doubled. A thoughtful and, at times heartbreaking, tale of strength in appalling circumstances.

ITV1

THE OUTSIDERS

9PM

OTV: TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER: SCREENGRABS

Utterly preposterous one-off ITV drama about a reclusive art detective/ secret agent hunting for a stolen Rubens on behalf of a mysterious organisation known only as The Establishment. Nigel Harman plays the art expert. This is all you really need

to know.

CHANNEL 4

THE DIARY OF

A MAIL ORDER BRIDE

10PM

Documentary following a group of Russian <u>women</u> seeking foreign husbands. Among those we meet are a 22-year-old from Siberia who is engaged to a man 24 years her senior with whom she has nothing, not even a language, in common. It's very well done, but the unequal relationship between the couples leaves you feeling very uneasy indeed.

FIVE

PEVSNER'S CITIES

7.15PM

Gavin Stamp heads to Oxford in the always interesting architecture show.

Load-Date: October 2, 2006



Grief turns to rage as Beit Hanoun buries its dead

Guardian.com

November 9, 2006

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theguardian

Length: 795 words

Highlight: Thousands of Palestinians crowded the streets of Beit Hanoun today as they buried 18 members of a single family who died in an Israeli artillery strike, which Ehud Olmert blamed on a 'technical failure'.

Body

Thousands of Palestinians crowded the streets of Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza today, some firing guns into the air, as they buried 18 members of a single family who died in an Israeli artillery strike.

As ambulances brought the dead from hospital morgues into the town, one distraught man carried in the air the body of a small child wrapped in white cloth. The child's head hung exposed as he walked through the chanting crowd.

In Jerusalem, the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, said a "technical failure" was to blame for the strike before dawn yesterday in which several artillery shells hit houses in a residential street in Beit Hanoun.

The deaths, all from the extended Athamna family and among them 14 <u>women</u> and children, provoked a wave of international condemnation and renewed threats of violence from Palestinian militant groups.

"It was not a planned attack," Mr Olmert told a business conference. "It was a technical failure of the Israeli artillery. I checked it, and I verified it." He expressed regret but went on to say that military operations would continue in Gaza as long as Palestinian militants fired rockets at Israeli towns.

The explanation was of little comfort to some in the town today who spoke in terms of violent revenge. "The reaction should be even harder than the attack," said Hijam Basyani, 40, standing at the spot where the shells had struck. Three of her cousin's sons died in the incident. "You cannot imagine our feeling when we see this blood, these children killed. You feel ready to explode."

"We have to fight Israel," said Islam Odwan, 19, a student from Gaza's Islamic University, who was in the procession. "When they leave us alone, then we will stop."

Posters appeared this morning on walls across the town with photographs of some of the men, mostly militants, who died in battles with Israeli troops during a six-day operation in the town that ended a day before the artillery strike. Residents had been confined to their houses and several buildings had been damaged and orchard gardens torn up by tanks and bulldozers. Israel said it had been trying to halt the firing of crude Qassam rockets into Israeli territory and that it had uncovered a large number of weapons and hit some rocket launching cells.

Grief turns to rage as Beit Hanoun buries its dead

Muhammad Ramadan, an Arabic language professor at the Islamic University, described how Israeli soldiers blew a hole in the wall of his bedroom and took up positions in his house for a day during last week's operation. "We need to respond and it has to be a military action. This is for our honour," he said. "How many attempts at negotiation have there been, and how many UN resolutions? But what happened? Nothing."

Gaza's militant factions have used the incident to call for an increase in attacks on Israel and the Israeli authorities said today there had been a marked rise in threat warnings. A gay pride march scheduled to take place today in Jerusalem was cancelled and the event confined to a sports stadium because police said they were overstretched.

Ismail Radwan, a spokesman for <u>Hamas</u>, which won Palestinian elections early this year, said militant groups had to respond. "The Palestinian military groups are ready to respond," he said. Asked if that meant a return to suicide bombing, he said: "The military wing of <u>Hamas</u> can choose and decide what is the right way to respond."

Others, however, were more moderate and said there should be a return to negotiations. "We want peace, but we want an equal and fair peace," said Khalil Masri, 65, who runs a private health clinic in Beit Hanoun. He said he opposed a return to the campaign of suicide bombing. "Violence only creates violence. The Palestinians and Israelis are both living here. We need two states living side by side and that day will come, I am sure of that."

As he spoke, the bodies of the dead were lowered into graves dug into a sandy expanse of land on the outskirts of town. The graves were marked with palm fronds.

In the Israeli press there was criticism of the military, with the left-leaning Ha'aretz newspaper describing the attack as an "atrocity" and a "fearsome and senseless killing" for which Israel was responsible. But Ephraim Sneh, the deputy defence minister, told the Jerusalem Post that the "moral responsibility" for the deaths lay with militants who operate from within civilian areas.

Others were more forthright. "When you fire rockets, shells fall. When one of them strays it is a shame, it is disastrous, it is bad, but that is how it is," wrote journalist Ben Caspit in the popular Ma'ariv newspaper. "Every other method has been tried, and failed. With scoundrels you behave like a scoundrel, and with murderous, bloodthirsty terrorism that wants to wipe you off the map, you have to respond accordingly: wipe it out."

Load-Date: November 9, 2006



Grief turns to rage as Beit Hanoun buries its dead: Militants call for revenge at funeral of 18 victims Olmert blames artillery strike on 'technical failure'

The Guardian - Final Edition

November 10, 2006 Friday

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Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 25

Length: 803 words

Byline: Rory McCarthy, Beit Hanoun

Body

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Grief turns to rage as Beit Hanoun buries its dead: Militants call for revenge at funeral of 18 victims Olmert blames artillery strike on 'technical failure'

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Jonathan Steele, page 35 >

Load-Date: November 10, 2006



Windsor Star (Ontario)

June 11, 2007 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B2; World report

Length: 1468 words

Byline: Compiled from Star News Services

Body

ASIA

N. KOREA'S KIM JONG IL REPORTEDLY HAS HEART WOES

BEIJING - Kim Jong II, North Korea's reclusive leader, has been so unwell that he could not walk more than 27 metres without a rest, Western governments have been told.

Diplomats in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, are increasingly convinced that the 65-year-old dictator needs heart surgery to restore his apparently flagging health. He has had to be accompanied by an assistant carrying a chair so that, wherever he goes, he can sit and catch his breath.

Speculation about the state of Kim's health was heightened when a team of six doctors from the German Heart Institute in Berlin flew to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, for eight days last month. Kim, who also suffers from diabetes, was believed by diplomats to have been among those on the list for treatment by the combined medical and surgical team.

But a spokesman for the German team said they had only treated three labourers, a nurse and a scientist.

Kim's public appearances have been curtailed this year and he has appeared in public only 23 times, compared with 42 times at the same point last year -- an indication, observers say, of his declining health.

APPARENT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON KARZAI FAILS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - The Taliban carried out an apparent attempt to assassinate Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Sunday, firing rockets that missed him by several hundred metres as he spoke to a group of elders.

No one was injured in the attack, and Karzai completed his speech.

But the incident underscored the threat the Taliban continues to pose 5 1/2 years after it was toppled from power in a U.S.-led invasion and three months into a major push by international forces to win back territory controlled by insurgents.

Sunday's attack occurred in the Andar district of Ghazni province, a hotly contested area about 161 kilometres south of Kabul. Karzai was in the middle of his speech when several rockets -- accounts varied from three to seven

-- landed nearby. Security sources said at least some of the rockets landed within 90 to 180 metres of the president, but a witness at the scene said they struck at least a half-mile away.

Abdul Jabar, a member of parliament who represents Ghazni, said the rockets never came close to Karzai, and he resumed his speech after taking a moment to quiet the crowd.

THATCHER HAS REGRETS OVER HONG KONG HANDOVER

LONDON - Former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher has voiced her regrets about the "impossible" situation Britain faced in the handover of Hong Kong to China, according to The Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

In her first interview for almost five years, Thatcher spoke of her sadness at not being able to persuade China's late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping to let Britain extend its lease on parts of the colony.

The baroness, 81, who was prime minister from 1979 to 1990, told BBC radio that she felt "very sad" about the 1997 handover. Sovereignty talks opened between her government and Beijing in 1982.

Hong Kong returned to Chinese control after 155 years. Britain's 99-year lease on the New Territories area ran out in 1997, prompting the negotiations which led to Britain handing over all of its Hong Kong possessions.

MIDEAST

SIX KILLED IN FACTIONAL GUN BATTLES IN GAZA

GAZA - Masked gunmen from rival Palestinian factions streamed onto the streets to fight their most intense battles in weeks on Sunday in the Gaza Strip, with the weekend toll rising to six dead and 59 wounded.

Among the victims was a pro-<u>Hamas</u> Islamic cleric pulled from his home and shot several times in the street after a guard from the rival Fatah movement was shot and thrown to his death from a high building in Gaza City, officials said.

Witnesses said masked gunmen from both Islamist <u>Hamas</u> and secular Fatah set up roadblocks and barriers to stop cars and check identification papers, and abducted rival supporters from vehicles and houses.

Main roads were paralyzed by the fighting. Shops and businesses closed early.

The latest round of fighting, the worst since an Egyptian-brokered truce was declared in mid-May, began on Saturday night in the town of Rafah, where hundreds of rival gunmen took up positions on street corners and rooftops.

<u>Hamas</u> and Fatah pounded each other with rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns in Rafah, said witnesses who took shelter indoors as the rivals fought block by block.

14 INJURED IN EXPLOSION OUTSIDE MCDONALD'S

ISTANBUL - At least 14 people were injured Sunday by a low-level explosion outside a McDonald's fast-food restaurant in Istanbul, police said.

Istanbul police chief Celalettin Cerrah said most of them were injured by shards of glass, when the device went off outside a McDonald's outlet in the Bakirkoy district on the European side of Istanbul.

Although police did not immediately disclose the nature of the bomb, a source said it appeared to be the sort of home-made device -- designed to shock rather than kill -- favoured in the past by radical left-wing groups.

According to the Anatolia news agency, the device was placed under a bench.

A different Istanbul outlet of the U.S. fast-food giant had been targeted by a home-made device in 2004. That explosion injured six people and was blamed on a nationalist group.

EUROPE

NAPOLEON'S SABRE FETCHES RECORD US\$6.4 MILLION

PARIS - A gold-encrusted sabre carried by the French emperor Napoleon at the battle of Marengo in 1800 fetched an unexpected US\$6.4 million at an auction on Sunday.

"It's a world record for a souvenir of the emperor, for a sword and for a weapon in general," Bernard Croissy a spokesman for the auctioneers, Osenat, told AFP.

The sword, classed by France as a historical monument, was sold by a descendant of Napoleon's brother Jerome. It was bought by another branch of the family.

Napoleon ousted the Austrian army from Italy at the Battle of Marengo in June 1800, before he became emperor.

NIGERIAN REFUSED JOB INTERVIEW BECAUSE OF DOG

BRUSSELS - The head of a Belgian wrought-iron business turned away a Nigerian from a job interview, claiming that the man's labrador -- named Blacky -- might bite him because the dog is racist, Belgian media reported Saturday.

After struggling to find a welder for more than a year, Bruno Rampelberg thought the local job agency had found the perfect candidate on Thursday, the French-language daily La Derniere Heure said.

But when Peter Adedayo Adelanwa, a 53-year-old Nigerian who has been living in Belgium more than 30 years, turned up for a job interview, Rampelberg sent him away because Blacky began barking aggressively.

While FGTB-Metal union said that it was clearly an incident of racism, Rampelberg defended himself saying that it was the dog that was racist.

"I can't do anything against the fact that my dog is aggressive towards coloured people," the private television station RTL reported him as saying. "My dog was traumatized."

Rampelberg told La Derniere Heure that Adelanwa had filed a complaint against him for racism.

HUNGARIANS RECONQUER WORLD RECORD FOR KISSING

BUDAPEST - Hungarians broke the world record for simultaneous kissing on Saturday when more than 6,400 couples joined lips for a few seconds at a party outside the country's parliament, the organizers said.

Hungary has been engaged in a kissing duel with the Philippines since 2004, when 5,327 couples kissed in Manila, followed by new records in Budapest in 2005 and 6,124 couples in Manila again this February.

"The news came a few months ago that Filipinos had overtaken us, we became defiant and said we would take it back again," journalist Ferenc Pallagi who organized the Kissing Party, told Reuters.

One young couple who identified themselves as Orsi and Pityu started kissing during the rock concert half an hour before the official record attempt.

"That's the least we can do for the nation," Pityu said.

CARIBBEAN

1ST WOMAN EPISCOPAL BISHOP IN CUBA ORDAINED

HAVANA - The Episcopal Church broke new ground in Cuba Sunday by ordaining its first woman bishop in the developing world at a ceremony that mixed incense with rhythmic Caribbean music.

The Rev. Nerva Cot said she will bring a feminine touch to leadership of her church's small but growing congregation in communist Cuba, where religious worship was freed a decade ago.

A dozen bishops from North, Central and South America and Europe attended the consecration of Cot and Ulises Aguero as suffragan, or auxiliary, bishops at Havana's Episcopal Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

The Cuban church is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion.

"This is an important date for the Anglican Communion because there are so few <u>women</u> bishops among us, only 11," said Canada's Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, who headed the ceremony. "There is a vitality and a deep enthusiasm in Cuba that is an important gift to a church that has too often been very conservative," he said.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Kim Jong II;

Colour Photo: Margaret Thatcher;

Load-Date: June 11, 2007



Scrutiny Increases for a Group Advocating for Muslims in U.S.

The New York Times

March 14, 2007 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; National Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 1673 words

Byline: By NEIL MacFARQUHAR; David Johnston contributed reporting.

Body

With violence across the Middle East fixing Islam smack at the center of the American political debate, an organization partly financed by donors closely identified with wealthy Persian Gulf governments has emerged as the most vocal advocate for American Muslims -- and an object of wide suspicion.

The group, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, defines its mission as spreading the understanding of Islam and protecting civil liberties. Its officers appear frequently on television and are often quoted in newspapers, and its director has met with President Bush. Some 500,000 people receive the group's daily e-mail newsletter.

Yet a debate rages behind the scenes in Washington about the group, commonly known as CAIR, its financing and its motives. A small band of critics have made a determined but unsuccessful effort to link it to <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah, which have been designated as terrorist organizations by the State Department, and have gone so far as calling the group an American front for the two.

In the latest confrontation yesterday, CAIR held a panel discussion on Islam and the West in a Capitol meeting room despite demands by House Republicans that Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, not allow the event. The Republicans called its members "terrorist apologists."

Caley Gray, a spokesman for Representative Bill Pascrell Jr., a New Jersey Democrat who helped book the room, rejected that label in a phone interview and said CAIR held similar meetings when Congress was controlled by Republicans. Still, Mr. Gray called back to specify that Mr. Pascrell did not endorse all of the group's positions.

Last fall, Senator Barbara Boxer of California issued a routine Certificate of Appreciation to the organization representative in Sacramento, but she quickly revoked it when critics assailed her on the Web under headlines like "Senators for Terror."

"There are things there I don't want to be associated with," Ms. Boxer said later of the revocation, explaining that her California office had not vetted the group sufficiently.

CAIR and its supporters say its accusers are a small band of people who hate Muslims and deal in half-truths. Ms. Boxer's decision to revoke the Sacramento commendation provoked an outcry from organizations that vouch for the group's advocacy, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the California Council of Churches.

Scrutiny Increases for a Group Advocating for Muslims in U.S.

"They have been a leading organization that has advocated for civil rights and civil liberties in the face of fear and intolerance, in the face of religious and ethnic profiling," said Maya Harris, the executive director of the A.C.L.U. of Northern California.

Government officials in Washington said they were not aware of any criminal investigation of the group. More than one described the standards used by critics to link CAIR to terrorism as akin to McCarthyism, essentially guilt by association.

"Of all the groups, there is probably more suspicion about CAIR, but when you ask people for cold hard facts, you get blank stares," said Michael Rolince, a retired F.B.I. official who directed counterterrorism in the Washington field office from 2002 to 2005.

Outreach to all Muslims via groups they support is an important aspect of ensuring that extremists cannot get a foothold here as they have in Europe, Mr. Rolince said.

The cloud kicked up by the constant scrutiny is such that spokesmen at several federal agencies refused to comment about the group and some spoke only on the condition of anonymity.

After a brief interview, Ms. Boxer declined to answer additional questions about the commendation to the Sacramento representative, Basim Elkarra. A spokeswoman, Natalie Ravitz, said in an e-mail message that the senator had decided "to put this entire incident behind her."

Joe Kaufman, who Ms. Boxer's office said first drew her attention to CAIR's reputation, is the founder of a Web site that tracks what he calls the group's extremism, cairwatch.com. Other critics include the Investigative Project, a conservative group that tries to identify terrorist organizations, and the Middle East Forum, a conservative research center that says its goal is to promote American interests in the region.

"You can't fight a war on terrorism directly when you are acting with a terror front," said Mr. Kaufman, who advocates shutting down the organization.

Founded in 1994, CAIR had eight chapters at the time of the Sept. 11 attacks, said Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the group, but has grown to some 30 chapters as American Muslims have felt unjustly scrutinized ever since.

Broadly summarized, critics accuse CAIR of pursuing an extreme Islamist political agenda and say at least five figures with ties to the group or its leadership have either been convicted or deported for links to terrorist groups. They include Mousa Abu Marzook, a <u>Hamas</u> leader deported in 1997 after the United States failed to produce any evidence directly linking him to any attacks.

There were no charges linked to CAIR in any of the cases involved, and law enforcement officials said that in the current climate, any hint of suspicious behavior would have resulted in a racketeering charge.

The group's officials say the accusations are rooted in its refusal to endorse the American government's blanket condemnations of Hezbollah and *Hamas*, although it has criticized *Hamas* for civilian deaths.

Several federal officials said CAIR's Washington office frequently issued controversial statements that made it hard for senior government figures to be associated with the group, particularly since some pro-Israeli lobbyists have created what one official called a "cottage industry" of attacking the group and anyone dealing with it.

Last summer, the group urged a halt to weapons shipments to Israel as civilian casualties in Lebanon swelled. In September, it held a dinner for former President Mohamed Khatami of Iran at a time when much of official Washington had ostracized that Islamic republic. In November, the group sponsored a panel discussion by two prominent academics who argue that the pro-Israeli lobby exercises detrimental influence on United States policy on the Middle East.

Scrutiny Increases for a Group Advocating for Muslims in U.S.

"Traditionally within the government there is only one point of view that is acceptable, which is the pro-Israel line," said Nihad Awad, a founder of CAIR and its executive director. "Another enlightened perspective on the conflict is not there, and it causes some discomfort."

When Mr. Bush visited a Washington mosque in 2001, Mr. Awad was among the Muslim leaders he met. But Dana M. Perino, a White House spokeswoman, said Mr. Awad had not been invited to any recent iftars, annual dinners to break the fast during the holy month of Ramadan. She offered no explanation.

This year, when Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales met with the leaders of half a dozen Muslim and Arab-American organizations in his office, no representative from CAIR was invited.

When Karen P. Hughes, the close adviser to Mr. Bush and under secretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs, started interacting with the group, she was criticized as dealing with "Wahhabis," shorthand for Saudinspired religious extremists, a State Department spokesman said.

CAIR has raised some suspicion by accepting large donations from individuals or foundations closely identified with Arab governments. It has an annual operating budget of around \$3 million, and the group said it solicited major donations for special projects, like \$500,000 from Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia to help distribute the Koran and other books about Islam in the United States, some of which generated controversy.

The donations are a source of contention within CAIR itself. Several branch directors said they had avoided foreign financing and had criticized the national office for it.

Officials at other Arab-American and Muslim organizations said there was a decided split between how the national office operated and how the branches did. The branch offices, which raise their own money and operate largely as franchises, concentrate on local civil rights problems and hence develop close working relationships with law enforcement.

When the Southern California chapter threw itself a birthday party last November, nearly 2,000 people packed the Anaheim Hilton's ballroom to hear guests of honor praise the organization, including J. Stephen Tidwell, the director of the F.B.I.'s Los Angeles office.

"I am very excited to be here," Mr. Tidwell told a reporter covering the fund-raiser for an Arab-American television news channel, calling CAIR "an important bridge for the F.B.I. into the Muslim, Arab-American community."

The Washington office, the officials at the other Arab-American and Muslim groups said, tends to fight more image battles because its main staff members have backgrounds in public relations. Still, they said, CAIR's contrarian image helps with fund-raising both in the American Muslim community and among Arab governments because both believe that the federal government is biased against them.

Some Muslims, particularly the secular, find CAIR overly influenced by Saudi religious interpretations, criticizing it for stating in news releases, for example, that all Muslim <u>women</u> are required to veil their hair when the matter is openly debated.

But they still support its civil rights work and endorse the idea of anyone working to make American Islam a more integral part of society. One Arab-American advocate compared CAIR to "the tough cousin who curses at anyone who speaks badly about the family."

Some activists and academics view the controversy surrounding the group as typical of why Washington fails so often in the Middle East, while extremism mushrooms.

"How far are we going to keep going in this endless circle: 'You are a terrorist!' 'No, you are a terrorist!'? " said Souleiman Ghali, one of the founders of a moderate San Francisco mosque. "People are paying a price for that."

Graphic

Photo: Basim Elkarra of the Council on American-Islamic Relations with Certificate of Appreciation from Senator Barbara Boxer that she revoked. (Photo by Jim Wilson/The New York Times)(pg. A17)Chart: "Chronology of a Souring Relationship"When Senator Barbara Boxer gave an award to a Muslim advocate and then took it back, relations between Ms. Boxer and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) became strained.NOV. 11, 2006Ms. Boxer gives a Certificate of Achievement for "outstanding service" to Basim Elkarra, the executive director of CAIR's Sacramento Valley office. DEC. 18CAIR issues a news release about Mr. Elkarra's receipt of the award. Joe Kaufman publishes an article called "Senators for Terror" on frontpagemag.com, claiming that both CAIR and Mr. Elkarra are connected to Islamic extremism.DEC. 21Mr. Elkarra is informed by reporters calling from Washington that the award has been rescinded.DEC. 22Mr. Kaufman issues a news release that "appreciates" Ms. Boxer's decision to rescind the award.JAN. 5, 2007CAIR's chairman, Parvez Ahmed, writes on his blog that Ms. Boxer "got caught up in our nation's rising tide of Islamophobia." JAN. 8Ms. Boxer issues a news release explaining her reasons for rescinding the award.JAN. 23Representatives of CAIR from California meet with Ms. Boxer in Washington. "They didn't ask one question about our response to the allegations, to our response to the myths and lies about CAIR, which I found strange," said Omar Zaki, a public relations consultant who attended the meetings.JAN. 24CAIR issues a news release saying all issues resulting from the award controversy have been resolved. Ms. Boxer, however, refuses to restore the award.FEB. 23A spokeswoman for Ms. Boxer says in an email message to a reporter, " Senator Boxer made the decision a few weeks ago to put this entire incident behind her and to decline any further interviews on the matter."(Sources by Council on American-Islamic Relations

Senator Barbara Boxer

frontpagemag.com

americansagainsthate.org)(pg. A17)

Load-Date: March 14, 2007



We should be defending things ethnic minorities value

Bath Chronicle

June 19, 2007 Tuesday

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Section: Pg. 10

Length: 377 words

Body

Something recruiters from Respect (Letters, June 15) haven't figured out yet is that ethnic minorities only have respect for you when you defend the values that brought them here in the first place and which are sadly lacking in, for example, virtually all Islamic states.

Look at the bitter Arab on Arab killing going on in Palestine. It will continue until <u>Hamas</u> declares victory, becomes an Iranian-backed Islamic state, simultaneously bans democracy and imposes the veil on <u>women</u>.

As a fully paid up member of the Shilpa Shetty fan club, ethnicity or race isn't a factor in my personal contempt for the mysogeny and religious bigotry practised by some Islamists.

Most Sikhs and Hindus are from similar ethnic backgrounds to many of those young British Muslim men who have been allowed by British public sector policymakers to learn their radicalism in UK ghettos and their terrorism in Pakistan but they aren't blowing up aeroplanes and ranting about killing those who don't share their beliefs.

I speak from the experience of having lived in Islamic countries for many years. In some of those countries, <u>women</u> have had freedom of choice in dress code but where a Muslim woman wears a face mask, it is because she is deemed inferior and man's possession. Respect has nothing to do with it.

Nor has God. When you experience banning of Christmas celebrations by the (late) Amir of Kuwait or read of the Saudi Arabian Morality (sic) police raiding a primary school nativity play and arresting the head teacher, you learn respect for our own tolerant culture. That culture should be protected.

Recently, I found a newspaper cutting that I had kept of a letter that I had written to 'he Independent in 1992. I warned of problems to come in the UK if government continued to ignore immigrant communities where no attempt is made at integration. Few were listening and in fact one of my public sector colleagues accused me of racialism. The legacy from our handwringing public sector policymakers for being multicultural and 'terribly nice' hasn't just been race riots, honour killings and electoral fraud but 9/11

and the London July bombings.

Wise up Respect members. I'm sure you are all 'terribly nice' people but you are equally naive.

IAN GAYNOR

Oldfield Park

Bath

Load-Date: June 20, 2007



The Daily Telegraph (Australia)

July 5, 2007 Thursday

State Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 30

Length: 897 words

Body

Wilde act

THEATRE

- * Wilde Tales
- * Riverside Theatres, cnr Church and Market Sts, Parramatta
- * Today 2.15pm and 6.30pm, until July 7
- * Adult \$30, conc \$24, under 30 \$20, under 16 \$15
- * 88393399, riversideparramatta.com.au

Oscar Wilde was, and still is, famous for his wit. But his fairytales revealed a darker, sadder side to the famous 19th century writer. Wilde Tales is a complete re-working of his heartbreaking short fables, using a variety of theatrical styles.

The play was written by Joshua Lobb and is performed by State of Play, an independent theatre company, set up seven years ago in Sydney, which uses improvisation to develop the script for this show. After being staged at the Belvoir St Downstairs in 2004, Wilde Tales is back by popular demand.

State of Play is also taking the performance on a regional tour -- after the run at Riverside Theatres, the troupe embarks on a seven-week trip throughout country NSW. There are five tales in all which include The Nightingale And The Rose, The Fisherman And His Soul and

The Remarkable Rocket.

Director Julian Louis says the common thread seen through all of the stories is love: the pursuit of it, the beauty of it and the distrust of it. "It's like you're skipping towards someone in slow motion and then you smash your face into the wall," Louis says. "We've put a variety of theatrical styles in the one show. It goes from physical theatre to vaudeville style, to comedy."

CONCERT

Songbirds

The Basement.

29 Reiby Place, Circular Quay; tonight 7.30pm, \$27.50, 92512797, thebasement.com.au

Three of Australia's most successful <u>female</u> country singers join forces for tonight's concert, where they will share the stage as well as perform individual songs. Country music veteran Gina Jeffreys will be joined by acclaimed triple Golden Guitar winner Beccy Cole and Sara Storer.

COMEDY

Sydney Comedy Store

Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park; today 8.30pm until Saturday, adult \$20, conc \$15,

93571419, comedystore .com.au

Laugh your cares away with Aussie comedian Jonathan Atherton. The experienced trouper is a former Lonely Planet TV presenter and has many tales to tell. Supported by Simon Kennedy, Mat Kenneally and Justin Lodge.

NORTH

ART EXHIBITION

Aquatic, Glen Street Theatre, cnr Glen St and Blackbutts Rd, Belrose; today 9.30am-5pm, until July 26, 0418205063

Subtitled "Relating to or consisting of, or being in water", this is artist Christine Farkas's first solo exhibition. Her mixed media works are inspired by her Northern Beaches background. She uses acrylic paint and oil sticks to display the blue and green of the sea.

EAST

CONCERT

Mahler 6, Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay; today 1.30pm, from \$54, 82154600, www.sydneysymphony.com

There's little time left to hear the Sydney Symphony bring its powers to bear on Gustav Mahler's complex Sixth Symphony. After today the last two shows are tomorrow and Saturday at 8pm. The Czech born Mahler was unpopular during his lifetime but his work has gained prominence since his death in 1911.

WEST

THEATRE

Oh, What A Lovely War, Mate!, New Theatre, 542 King St, Newtown; tonight 8pm until July 7, adult \$27, conc \$22, 1300306776, mca-tix.com

Don't miss your chance to see this contemporary revision of an anti-war satire first written about World War I by Joan Littlewood. All the songs, dance and comedy skits of the original are revisited. Nick Enright has updated the text since the piece first appeared here in 1980.

SOUTH

MUSIC COMPETITION

Northies Idol, Northies Cronulla Hotel, cnr The Kingsway and Elouera Rd, Cronulla; tonight 7pm, until July 26, free, 9523 6866, northies.com.au

Do you have what it takes to steal the spotlight? Try your luck at singing and songwriting in this first week of the month-long talent quest. Local musician Dave White will host the event, which is sure to attract all genres of music. Call to register your entry before you turn up.

TELE TV

Spotlight on PM

Watch the unions' new ad, which attacks the PM using a Spotlight worker

Hamas 'kills Mickey'

A Hamas TV station is in strife over a show where an anti-Semite Mickey Mouse is killed off

State of Origin

We've got all the action from last night's third game in rugby league's showcase series

visit ... dailytelegraph.com.au

MOST CLICKED

1. Sexy country star: Drover Zoe Naylor's run to Footy Show

2. Customers do a runner: I was asked to foot the bill

3. Please think twice: Follow the new P-plate rules

4. Laughing at terror: Meet John Smeaton, Glasgow terror hero

5. Contamination fears: Sydney water quality scandal

visit ... dailytelegraph.com.au

LIVE ONLINE TODAY

JOIN OUR RESPECTED COLUMNISTS

TO DISCUSS TODAY'S NEWS

Kathy McCabe

How brilliant for artists to be threatened that, should they explore new ways of getting their music to their fans, retailers will ban them

visit ... dailytelegraph.com.au/blogs

MOST COMMENTS

1. Customers do a runner: I was asked to foot the bill

2. Sexy country star: Drover Zoe Naylor's run to Footy Show

3. Please think twice: Follow the new P-plate rules

4. Contamination fears: Sydney water quality scandal

5. Enemy within: Visa review as foreign doctors in terror link

visit ... dailytelegraph.com.au/yoursay

HOT ONLINE TODAY

The brainiac Big Brother evictee Jamie talks about his mauling by Gretel, amid calls from fans for her resignation, at 11am

dailytelegraph.com.au

If you have an event during the week send details to Briyah Paley, phone 9288 2631 or email paleyb@dailytelegraph.com.au

Load-Date: July 4, 2007



Sewage wave swamps village

Herald Sun (Australia)

March 29, 2007 Thursday

FIRST Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 38

Length: 387 words

Body

AP

GAZA -- Further deadly sewage floods are feared after a wave of stinking waste and mud from a collapsed septic pool inundated a Gaza village, killing five people, including two babies.

The collapse late on Tuesday has been blamed on residents stealing sand from an embankment.

The existing plant in northern Gaza stored incoming waste in seven holding basins.

But with the burgeoning population producing almost four times as much waste as the plant could treat, officials were forced to store the overflow in nearby dunes, creating a lake of sewage covering 45ha.

An embankment around one of the seven holding basins collapsed, sending a wall of sewage crashing into the neighbouring village of Umm Naser.

The wave killed two <u>women</u> in their 70s, two toddlers and a teenage girl, while 35 others were injured, hospital officials said. More than 200 homes were destroyed, health officials said.

"This is a human tragedy," said Public Works Minister Sameeh al-Abed.

Rescue crews and gunmen from the militant <u>Hamas</u> group searched for people feared buried under the filth and mud. Most residents fled or were evacuated.

Rescuers in wetsuits paddled boats through the layer of brown foam floating on the green-brown rivers of waste. Others waded up to the waist into the sewage.

Angry residents drove reporters out of the area and mobbed government officials. When Interior Minister Hani Kawasmeh arrived, his bodyguards fired in the air to disperse the crowd.

In one house, everything from the television to the sink was covered in muck. The town was filled with the noxious smell of waste and dead animals.

"We lost everything. Everything was covered by the flood. It's a disaster," said Amina Afif, 65, whose small shack was destroyed.

Sewage wave swamps village

The collapse will force officials to divert the waste into the other six basins, putting those in danger as well. Another collapse could send sewage flooding into Beit Lahiya, a far larger town nearby, local officials said.

Fadel Kawash, head of the Palestinian Water Authority, said the sewage level had risen in recent days, creeping up the earthen embankments.

Gaza City Mayor Majid Abu Ramadan, who leads a council of Gaza municipalities, blamed the collapse on endemic lawlessness.

He accused residents of stealing the dirt and selling it to building companies for 300 shekels (\$A86.80) a truckload.

Load-Date: March 28, 2007



Sewage 'tsunami' kills five in Gaza: Treatment facility was overworked

The Gazette (Montreal)

March 28, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A16

Length: 350 words

Byline: MAHMUD HAMS, AFP; CanWest News Service

Dateline: UMM AL-NASR, Gaza Strip

Body

At least five Palestinians, including two toddlers, drowned in a "sewage tsunami" yesterday when a water treatment reservoir burst, flooding a village in the northern Gaza Strip.

The deluge, triggered by the collapse of a septic system that aid organizations had long warned was dangerously overburdened, submerged dozens of homes in the Bedouin farming village of Umm al-Nasr under a pool of foul-smelling effluent.

Three <u>women</u>, one more than 70 years old, and two boys, ages one and 2, died in the flood. At least 15 people were injured and scores more are still missing, according to Palestinian medics.

Ziad Abu Thabet, the mayor of the shantytown described the area as "our own tsunami." He said 70 per cent of the village's mostly ramshackle homes had been buried in raw sewage. "The situation is very bad," he said.

Some Palestinian officials blamed the accident, which left several thousand people homeless, on international aid sanctions that were put in place after *Hamas* won power last year.

But as far back as January 2004, UN aid agencies in the Gaza Strip had warned the north Gaza sewage treatment facility was operating far beyond its capacity and posed a grave danger to nearby residents.

Designed to serve just 50,000 people, the plant at that time was handling waste from 190,000 Gaza residents.

Excess sewage had already flooded around 110 acres, and 50 per cent of children in Umm Al-Nasr had developed problems with their digestive systems, a UN report found.

Yesterday, children clung to wood doors floating on the putrid waters and rescuers paddled through the village in makeshift boats in search of victims. Frantic goats and cows, sustenance for the village of Bedouin shepherds, were also pulled to safety.

"We woke up at 10 this morning with sewage water pouring into our homes and covering everything," said resident Tawfir al-Bansh.

By late afternoon, receding flood waters had left a malodorous muck that further hampered rescue efforts.

Sewage 'tsunami' kills five in Gaza: Treatment facility was overworked

In Israel, Defence Minister Amir Peretz ordered the army to provide assistance to the victims if asked to do so by the Palestinian Authority.

Load-Date: March 28, 2007



Children lured into Pied Piper death cult

The Daily Telegraph (Australia)

May 15, 2007 Tuesday

State Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Opinion / Op Ed; Pg. 14

Length: 382 words

Byline: BREN CARLILL*

Body

MATP

WORLDWIDE headlines were generated last week when a <u>Hamas</u> TV station featured a giant mouse -- similar to Disney's Mickey -- encouraging children to martyr themselves.

The idea that Farfur the mouse is one of the most dangerous aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict might sound exaggerated.

But that mouse is all but guaranteeing the conflict will never be resolved.

By poisoning the minds of today's children, the Palestinian leadership is ensuring that the teenagers and adults of tomorrow not only believe Jews to be their eternal enemies but also that violence is a legitimate response.

When a child believes the greatest accomplishment he or she can achieve is to die while killing others, then that child's mind has been destroyed. With TV programming like that, it's little wonder that Reem Riyashi, a Palestinian woman who blew herself up aged 21, said in her farewell video that she had wanted to kill Jews since she was a little girl.

"I hoped my shredded limbs would be shrapnel, tearing the Zionists to pieces, knocking on Heaven's door with the skulls of Zionists," she said.

When Fatah was in power, its TV featured a talking bird warning children you can't trust Jews and that violence is always the preferred option.

Palestinian television doesn't aim to brainwash only children.

Sermons for adults delivered by members of the establishment call on Palestinians to kill Jews. A sermon televised on the government channel declared: "They are all liars. They must be butchered. Wherever you are, kill those Jews." Mothers expressing pride their children became suicide terrorists have appeared on Palestinian television, but not mothers expressing regret.

Sport stadiums and cultural events are named for terrorists. For example, a camp for 14-year-old girls was named in honour of a 16-year-old *female* suicide terrorist. That's powerful role modelling.

Children lured into Pied Piper death cult

Every single peace agreement the Palestinians have signed with Israel has included an obligation that they stop incitement. But it has never stopped.

Until Palestinian leaders start teaching its children to be doctors and lawyers, not bloodthirsty murderers in a death cult where martyrdom is the peak achievement, the conflict has no hope of ending.

* Bren Carlill is a policy analyst at the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council.

Load-Date: May 14, 2007



Headlines you might have missed this week

The Gazette (Montreal)
February 3, 2007 Saturday
Final Edition

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Section: SATURDAY EXTRA; Pg. B8

Length: 383 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

Herouxville Tops News

The small Mauricie town of Herouxville's list of rules for immigrants attracted worldwide attention this week, and other local towns were considering a similar charter. Herouxville warns that, in their town, boys and girls can use the same pool and **women** can drive, dance and sign cheques.

Me quit? forget it

Embattled Parti Quebecois leader Andre Boisclair was asked at a news conference whether he had thought about throwing in the towel. "Not for a second," he replied.

'Socialism or Death'

Venezuela's president, Hugo Chavez, was given sweeping legislative powers this week. "Fatherland, socialism or death," said National Assembly president Cilia Flores as she proclaimed the law.

Lapointe survives

Montreal's tourism chief, Charles Lapointe, survived a blistering attack by Mayor Gerald Tremblay after he warned Montreal's reputation is being hurt because it is seen as being dirty.

Pirates must pay

A federal civil court ordered two Montrealers to pay \$700,000 in punitive and statutory damages for pirating Microsoft products. Carmelo and Adam Cerrelli and their company,

Interplus Online, were sued by Microsoft after police seized pirated software in 1999 and 2000. They plan to appeal.

Israel Hit

The first suicide bomber in Israel in nine months hit the resort town of Eilat on Monday. Three died in the attack in a bakery. Meanwhile, rival groups *Hamas* and Fatah continued gun battles on the Gaza Strip.

Charles Can't Win

Headlines you might have missed this week

Prince Charles was in New York on Sunday to accept an award for his efforts on the environment and was promptly criticized by environmentalists for not using videoconferencing. The prince and his entourage arrived on a commercial flight instead of the usual private jet.

Week for Goaltenders

Canadiens fans celebrated and mourned two legendary goaltenders this week. The celebrations came Monday when Ken Dreyden's number 29 was retired. The mourning came on the weekend with the news that Lorne (Gump) Worsley had died at age 77.

Daycare Strike

Unionized workers at 25 non-profit daycare centres in Montreal and Laval have voted in favour of pressure tactics. It starts with a planned one-day strike Monday.

Two dead in 401 pileup

Highway 401 was closed Thursday in both directions near Cobourg, Ont., after two people were killed in a fiery chain-reaction pileup.

Load-Date: February 3, 2007



Daily Mail (London)

June 20, 2007 Wednesday

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Section: 1ST; Pg. 59 Length: 2615 words

Body

WHAT a terrible condemnation of undertakers Graeme Skidmore and Mark Eshelby over the disposal of a premature baby's body (Mail), which they cremated alongside that of an elderly woman after accidentally forgetting to put Benjamin Judson in his own coffin. In the circumstances, I feel they made the right decision.

Imagine the distress of the parents if they had interrupted the funeral to place Benjamin's body in the coffin. The funeral home employee Emma Barnes has a lot to answer for in speaking out years after the event. What did she hope to achieve notoriety? Many years ago, our little son died in Great Ormond Street. Not long afterwards, there was a great hue and cry regarding 'spare parts' being retained from bodies for research. But my husband was a priest and I am a Christian.

We simply accepted what had gone on: we knew that our son's soul was with Christ and that his body was only an empty shell.

In any case, Benjamin is probably far happier sharing a coffin than all by himself.

F. GEORGE, Maryport, Cumbria.

Smoking D-Day approaches THE three letters headed Tough On Crime made distressing reading but the poor victims should not despair.

From July 1, the real scum of our land will be swiftly dealt with anyone caught smoking in a prohibited area will be handed a fine of at least £50.

This will surely go a long way towards cleansing society as the 'proactive stance' adopted by the Smoking Cessation Enforcers in Scotland will surely be adopted in England with 'no backward steps taken'.

Lawyers often plead dependency on alcohol or drugs as an excuse for their clients' yobbish behaviour, but I have yet to know a case where tobacco has been blamed.

Smokers beware! You not motorists are now public enemy No. 1.

A. M. ANDREWS, Allda, Clacks.

The price of history

I CAN'T understand the fuss over entrance fees for museums. Free-admission museums are one reason why most people's taxes are astronomically high with many being expected to pay for things they don't themselves use.

We're only talking about maybe a flat £1 fee, yet the usual suspects are trotting out the 'it will hit the poorest and most vulnerable' claptrap. Who can't afford £1? And it would only be a onceyearly visit, if that.

My local museum has recently undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment and is very busy. Is this because it's free to get in? In a way, yes. But not because the general public are using it regularly: it's down to lazy and unimaginative teachers dumping their pupils there for a 'day of learning' which actually means the children running amok and frantically pressing any old button on the interactive displays, not to learn, but just because they're there.

TREVOR WILSON, Sheffield

Tuning in

FURTHER to the forthcoming changeover to digital transmission TV, claims that landfill sites will be clogged up with 'obsolete' TV sets without scart sockets (Mail) are wide of the mark.

My 14in colour portable, purchased around 1979, has no scart socket and is manually tuned. It's connected via the coaxial aerial socket to an on-digital freeview set-top box using an internal aerial and gives excellent pictures on all digital channels.

So before you throw your old set out, if it's giving good service, try this out.

ALAN GAUNTLETT, Birmingham.

Hunters are not so predatory TINA BROWN writes a compelling narrative about Diana, Charles and Camilla (Weekend), but when she claims <u>women</u> who love horses usually love sex and that hunting is an aphrodisiac, she's entering the realms of fantasy.

This is a typical urban person's view of those who ride and hunt. I can assure Tina that in matters of sexuality, hunting people are as much a cross-section as any other group.

I hunted all over these islands as a correspondent and on hired and borrowed horses, during my salad days in the 1960s and 1970s. I often went to hunt balls and private dances connected with hunting.

Personally, I found more excitement and satisfaction with girls who weren't hunt followers or riders.

There are many misconceptions about hunting, and to represent it as a more highly-charged sexual arena than any other is one of them. Other popular misconceptions have led directly to the ban on hunting.

JAMES LEWIS, Wembley, Middx.

Measuring up

I CAN see why the NHS is considering offering bra-fitting services to cut the number of <u>women</u> having breast reductions (Mail). The reason why so many (100 per cent of <u>women</u> in one survey) are wearing the wrong bra size is because they can't buy any that fit.

I went to one major High Street retailer and was told: 'I'm sorry, dear, we have nothing to fit you here,' when they couldn't shoe horn me into a 32G. I then had to travel 40 miles from my home to a specialist bra shop and pay £50 per bra.

Many <u>women</u> probably are forced to wear the wrong-size bra because the correct sizes are unavailable or expensive.

And, to be honest, I still had backache, skin tags and 'dented' shoulders even when I was in a correctly-fitting bra. I've now had breast reduction surgery on the NHS and it has changed my life.

I'm getting married in eight weeks, several sizes smaller since my surgery and probably without a bra on at all as it's no longer necessary. Before the operation, my breasts were terribly saggy and had been since I was 17, due to their weight. It took me ten years to pluck up the courage to have the operation and I'm so glad that I did. I hope the views of surgeons won't put off other <u>women</u> like me from having an operation which will change their lives for the better.

Name and address supplied.

Deal with Hamas, not Fatah

IT'S CURIOUS how virtually every Western commentator and Middle East political analyst seems to regard Fatah as relatively 'moderate' and appears relieved that Israel and the Quartet are willing to fund the new Emergency (West Bank)-based temporary government.

Contrary to this consensus, I believe Fatah represents all that is distasteful and corrupt in the Arab world, in particular its perpetuation of the 'status quo' under which a small, wealthy elite rule over a mass of the impoverished and often near-illiterate. The leaders of such regimes are totally untrustworthy and inherently unstable.

<u>Hamas</u>, on the other hand, represents a perspective on the world which is clear, uncompromising and inherently sincere. There's nothing wrong with fundamentalism provided the underlying beliefs are rooted in reality and the religious leaders are mature and welleducated.

But in the case of Islam, most of the world think this is not so, hence the West's reluctance to accept its doctrines.

Nevertheless, although reaching a peace agreement with <u>Hamas</u> will prove difficult, such an agreement is more likely to be honoured by <u>Hamas</u>'s current and future leadership than anything agreed by Fatah or the other secular Arab parties.

<u>Hamas</u>'s greatest strength is its religious conviction, and this can become part of the essential framework upon which lasting peace can be established.

The cynical will recognise that both groups have hate-filled murderers, but the West needs to choose carefully which group's motives and convictions will stand the test of time.

WARREN BRAHAM, Harrow, Middx.

Time to grow up, Dave

SO DAVE says he's going to listen to members of the public (hollow laugh) and value their input policy-wise (oh, yeah). I've tried repeatedly to get past his bodyguard of office rottweilers, trained to reply with excruciatingly polite letters while ensuring any points I raise are rigorously ignored.

I've asked specific questions such as: 'Do you find it acceptable or intolerable that 75 per cent of our legislation is decided in circumstances over which we have no control, little influence and only the merest semblance of democracy?' I've even given him tick boxes so he doesn't even have to construct a sentence in reply.

I tell him his pathetic policy towards Europe is unworkable. Brussels is not going to abandon 50 years of concentrated effort towards a federal state not when they are on the last lap just because Dave asks them to. He's going to be outflanked by the Berlin Declaration being turned into a treaty and passed during this Labour government's tenure, leaving him feebly blathering.

He doesn't even listen to his own party members or take note that three-quarters of the public polled would either like to quit the political/economic involvement, or leave the EU altogether.

He dismisses anyone who disagrees with him as 'delusional' or calls us names such as 'fruitcake'.

Dave grow up.

DON ANDERSON, London SW19.

Straight to the POINT I SEE they have a Thatcher Drive in Stanley, on the Falklands. I wonder if there'll ever be a Blair Boulevard in Baghdad? Mr J. DILLINSTONE, Houghton Regis, Beds.

NOW Blair has blown his chance of a peerage, why not celebrate his contribution to carbon emissions on his recent triumphant world tour by naming an airport after him? Any ideas? JOHN HAYNES, Welford, Northants.

AS WE rally round to reduce our individual carbon use, could someone please tell me about Formula 1's car racing 'carbon footprint'? Mr Z. REDDY, Northolt, Middx.

I'M SURE the painting bought by Sir Trevor Nunn was done by children and not by Damien Hirst (Mail).

Hirst has never done anything that good.

SANDRA PARSONS, Keston, Kent.

IF DAVID Cameron wants to be taken seriously, he should dump the tired jokes he treats us to at the weekly Prime Minister's Question Time. If I want comedy, I'll watch a professional like Ken Dodd.

TONY COOKE, Southend, Essex..

To be fair, just a few wrong 'uns I WAS horrified at the horse drowning in the River Eden (Mail). I've visited Appleby Horse Fair for several years, mainly to take photographs. My grandfather was a gipsy horse-dealer and is buried in Appleby churchyard, so I feel an affinity with the area and with the gipsy people.

This year, I took five rolls of film at the river, featuring some of the people who later tried to rescue the drowning horse, but I had already left before the incident.

That Friday was very busy at the river, with 30 to 50 horses being washed. I didn't see and have never seen any horse have its head forced under the water. It is often hectic, but the horses are skilfully handled. They're soaped in the shallows, then ridden through a deep pool to wash out the suds. They generally swim with their heads above water, the younger nervous horses following the more experienced ones.

There are aspects to the horse fair that disturb me the amount of litter for one, and this year it seemed particularly bad. There seems to be little respect for the beautiful area. It must require an enormous clean-up operation afterwards and I feel this is where much of the opposition to the event originates.

There is also a 'macho' quality towards the riding on the part of some of the young men; many of them seem to treat their horses like souped-up racing cars.

I've seen tiny ponies being clattered up and down the street by riders so big that their feet are barely inches off the ground, and bored children whipping a tethered pony just because they could but these people are in a minority.

Most treat their horses well and display genuine affection and compassion for the animals. Over the years, I've seen some fantastic horsemanship at the fair and have met some wonderful people.

The charter granted by James II in 1665 has protected this fair as one of the last ancient meeting places for gipsies. I hope there will be horses traded in Appleby for many years to come.

C. J. SWAILE, Shaftesbury, Dorset...

In the pink . .

I HAVE a personal insight into how Field Marshall Montgomery's dressing gown came to be pink (Mail) it didn't suffer from a run in the wash.

Just after the war, my husband, David Yockney, was adjutant to Montgomery, stationed in Malnitz, near Gross Glockner in Austria.

My friend Valerie Rishworthill and I were bored one afternoon, so we took it upon ourselves to bring a bit of colour back into the drab postwar world in which everything seemed to be either grey or white.

Venturing into town, we happened on a shop which had some fabric dye, in a fetching shade of pink. Back at our hotel, we set to work. Our batman filled the bath with water, we took all the laundry and sealed our fate.

Thinking, as a joke, to add our husbands' undies, it wasn't until we were wringing out the items that we realised that the Field Marshall's underwear and pyjamas were in the mix, too.

We were, of course, sent to Coventry for at least a week, but knowing that our menfolk and Monty himself were having to wear those pink underpinnings made it all worthwhile.

Mrs E. CRAVEN, Princes Risborough, Bucks..

Build NEW Spitfires THE Supermarine Spitfire is probably the most beautiful propeller-driven aeroplane ever made. To see one in flight is glorious, and the noise made by the Rolls-Royce Merlin engine sends shivers up my spine.

So it was with great sadness that I read of the tragic death of a Spitfire pilot at an air display (Mail). A brave pilot was killed and an historic aircraft destroyed. I love to see World War II aircraft in flight, few steady involving generally sometimes well aeroplane. time aeroplanes static 'important but the youngest of them is 60 years old and even meticulous maintenance can't protect them from mechanical failure.

The aeroplane in this accident suffered from a magneto malfunction. Fighter planes, such as the the Spitfire, were designed for a limited life probably no more than two years. They were expendable, and large numbers were shot down by the enemy. Any flying today are living on borrowed time.

At air displays over the past few years, there has been a steady spate of accidents involving historic aircraft, generally killing the pilot and sometimes even spectators as well as destroying the aeroplane. I wonder if it is now time to ground all these elderly aeroplanes and put them on static display in museums ('elf 'n safety you know!) People will say that it is important to see these aeroplanes in flight, and I agree talent shows just wholeheartedly. So I wonder whether somebody could make brand-new Spitfires from scratch.

I bet there are enough millionaires in the world who would want to buy Spitfire replicas to make the project viable. I have seen from the motorcycling press recently that a brand new '1952' Vincent Black Shadow motorcycle has been manufactured and registered, so how about a new Mk.

IX Spitfire? R. BENNETT, Cheltenham, Glos.

Are talent shows just a publicity stunt?

NO LORRAINE FELL'S experience of attending an X Factor audition with her daughter made sad reading (Letters), but it should not have surprised her. As Ben Elton says in his book Chart Throb, she only has to do the maths. With the sheer number of applicants, it would be physically impossible for them all to be given individual treatment in the time available, and it seems obvious to me that the initial sifting process has to be done en masse.

The chances of getting through this stage to perform in front of the main judges must be more down to luck than talent.

As for making them cheer and wave, how does she think these segments are obtained and recorded? DAVID HAMM, Chesterfield, Derbys.

YES LIKE Mrs Fell, I, too, attended The X Factor auditions with my granddaughter, against her parents' wishes.

I found the whole affair a time-wasting shambles from start to finish.

We both felt very much out of place when the gathering was being used as a put-up publicity stunt, with instructions to shout and cheer at nothing for the benefit of the cameras.

This carried on for hours before the actual auditions.

We both decided that the auditions at the Arsenal FC ground was not a place for us, being surrounded by large numbers of people we had no wish to mix with and the feeling of being used.

TERRY ROBERTS, Chelmsford.

Graphic

Tradition: Most of the gipsies who converge at the annual Appleby Horse Fair are skilful and experienced animal handlers

Load-Date: June 22, 2007



Syrian ambassador discusses frayed ties with U.S. with U. Florida audience

University Wire

October 3, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 Independent Florida Alligator via U-Wire

Length: 352 words

Byline: By Alex Tiegen, Independent Florida Alligator; SOURCE: U. Florida

Dateline: GAINESVILLE, Fla.

Body

The American government betrayed Syria when it invaded Iraq, the Syrian ambassador to the United States told a Gainesville, Fla., audience Monday night.

"We believe that occupation is evil," he said. "Nothing good will come of it."

Imad Moustapha spoke about Syria's relationship with America and other Arab countries during a speech in Emerson Alumni Hall. He also tried to counteract what he considers negative stereotypes of Syria.

He said his country was a new ally of the United States after the first Gulf War, but their honeymoon ended when America ignored Syria's warnings that an American invasion would destabilize the Middle East.

America opened a "Pandora's box of woe" on Syria and other Arab nations the day it invaded Iraq, he said.

"The situation there is in the realm of nightmares," he said. "And there is no exit strategy in the near future."

Every U.S. president since Richard Nixon visited Syria's capital, except Bush, he said.

Denying accusations that Syria let insurgents into Iraq after the U.S. invasion, he noted that Saddam Hussein was an enemy of Syria.

Annie Higgins, faculty adviser for the Arabic Cultural Association, said the ambassador showed guests a more positive side of Syria.

"Many Americans don't even think Syrians can write," Higgins said.

Moustapha told his audience that Syria's population is 20 percent Christian. And the country's vice president is *female*.

Higgins said the American media focus on wartime issues, such as the country's support of <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah, when covering Syria.

But Moustapha, a former administrator at Damascus University, said he will keep supporting those groups until a peaceful way to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict is found.

"Why do I believe that peace will form eventually?" he said. "Because there is no other alternative."

Syrian ambassador discusses frayed ties with U.S. with U. Florida audience

Israel doesn't have the resources to keep occupying the Golan Heights area bordering Syria, he said. When Israel retreats from the territory, Syria will offer peace.

The ambassador's visit was sponsored by UF's Arabic Cultural Association and the UF International Center.

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Load-Date: October 3, 2006



Light over Bethlehem a disco ball

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

December 25, 2006 Monday

Main Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

Length: 877 words

Byline: MARGARET COKER

Cox International Correspondent

Body

Bethlehem, West Bank --- The little town of Bethlehem, as the beloved carol says, lies still this Christmas, its dark streets lacking the hustle and bustle of the holiday synonymous with its name.

Yet in one small corner of this morose, decaying town, a bright light shines --- not the holy glow mentioned in the song, but the glittery shine of a disco ball.

Welcome to Cosmos, the West Bank's only nightclub and the favorite place for Palestinians to gather, drinks in hand, to forget their woes.

"Life is so hard for us each day. Here, we can pretend that life here is like life anywhere else," said Janette Khouri, a 25-year-old office assistant, taking a breather from the dance floor.

Bethlehem is not only the historic heart of the Palestinian Christian community, it's also renowned as a solidly middle-class and multicultural town whose colleges have produced an army of young professionals instead of militants.

The city's special status hasn't saved it or its residents from the hardships caused by Israel's military occupation, its separation barrier and the ongoing violence with Palestinian gunmen that together are responsible for the town's 30 percent unemployment rate.

During the last seven years, club owner Peter Hosh, a 31-year-old music aficionado and businessman, watched the social fabric of his hometown unravel.

Dozens of his friends, unemployed college graduates hoping for stability instead of onerous military curfews and war, became part of a steady exodus of young people from Bethlehem that has turned Christians into a minority here.

Light over Bethlehem a disco ball

Hosh, also a Christian, chose not to join the emigration rush. Instead, he decided to create a small pocket of normality closer to home.

"The Bethlehem that I grew up in was different," he said. "People were happy. People had hope. These days, it's a dying city. I thought it should be my job to change this, if I could."

His labor of love became Cosmos, a well-heeled club with an \$80,000, state-of-the-art sound system, blood-red walls covered in modern art and a crowded dance floor where well after midnight customers arrive to shake their hips to the latest Arabic pop and Western superstars like Shakira.

The club has an elitist feel that comes through in the expensive, well-cut clothes worn on the dance floor and the imported cigarettes --- Marlboros --- that customers seem to prefer.

But the atmosphere is decidedly more informal than pretentious.

Waiters in tight white T-shirts emblazoned with signs of the zodiac seat the steady flow of customers and shuffle bottles of whiskey and buckets of ice to tables on the edges of the circular room.

Hosh greets regulars by name as he stands behind the red-and-green neon decorated bar and pours drinks. His special Cosmos cocktail, a mix of four liquors that is set alight and drunk from a straw, is a favorite around Christmastime, he said.

Hosh's younger brother squeezes into the sound booth alongside an illuminated snowman and Christmas tree to spin tunes, to most of which the energetic dancers know all the words.

On Saturday night, the approximately 150 revelers hailed from a mix of backgrounds.

About half the crowd came from East Jerusalem's and Bethlehem's close-knit Christian communities, families who lived only minutes apart before Israel built the separation barrier between the two towns. Now, only around the holidays does Israel relax travel restrictions between the two cities to allow relatives and friends to see each other easily.

Another large group were Israeli Arabs who traveled 1 1/2 hours from Nazareth and crossed the large military checkpoint into Bethlehem to enjoy the mostly Arabic-language dance remixes for which the Hosh brothers are famous.

Muslims also dotted the club, but not in the same numbers as Christians, a situation Hosh attributes to the terrible economic straits.

Christians here traditionally enjoy upper-middle-class status, making it easier for them to afford Cosmos' \$8 entrance fee. Three drinks at the bar equal an average daily wage of \$25.

Israeli government spokesmen say friction between Muslims and Christians is the real reason for the Christian exodus from town, rather than the strictures of Israeli military policy.

Customers at Cosmos dismissed that as untrue, saying they fear no retribution for their public drinking or socializing with the somewhat scantily clad **women** at the club.

Hosh says he has no problem with Bethlehem's city council, which is run by <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic group that supports suicide bombings of Israelis.

"Everyone knows that we run a clean place here. People drink here to enjoy themselves, not to get drunk. There are no drugs. There is no sex. That makes it a great place, as far as both <u>Hamas</u> and I are concerned," Hosh said.

The Cosmos clientele becomes more predominately Muslim when Hosh hosts live performers. On New Year's Eve, all of his tables are reserved for a party to be headlined by two Muslim brothers from Bethlehem.

Light over Bethlehem a disco ball

For Ibrahim Giacaman, a 24-year-old hotel manager, Cosmos represents the best aspects of Palestinian society. The people who come are friendly and warm, and no one allows politics to stand in the way of a good life.

"We don't have peace on Earth, but we do have Cosmos," Giacaman said. "It's a special place. It's why I come back every week."

Graphic

Photo: CRAIG NELSON / SpecialMirror ball and all: Cosmos disco, the West Bank's only nightclub, is known for Arabic-language remixes of dance tunes./ImageData*

Load-Date: December 25, 2006



Campus 'emir' faces jail over terror attack files

The Evening Standard (London)
July 13, 2007 Friday

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Section: C; Pg. 24 Length: 399 words

Byline: PAUL CHESTON

Body

A MUSLIM cleric arrested at Luton airport with computer plans for a terrorist attack is set to be jailed at the Old Bailey.

Yassin Nassari's computer material included lessons on how to make the type of rocket-propelled missiles used by *Hamas* and information on landmines, TNT and nitroglycerine.

Nassari, 28, from Ealing, the self-styled "emir" of the Harrow campus of Westminster University, was convicted of possessing information likely to be useful to a potential terrorist. He was cleared of the more serious charge of possessing articles for terrorist purposes.

His wife Bouchra El-Hor was found not guilty of failing to disclose acts of terrorism. The court heard that she offered up her five-month-old son for martyrdom. Police found a letter from her praising Allah and saying she and their son would be proud to die for their cause. But Dutchborn El-Hor said it was a work of fiction she had written under pressure from her husband.

She claimed she wrote Islamic fiction set just after the death of the prophet Mohammed and insisted the letter should not be taken seriously.

She insisted she had no knowledge of what was on her husband's hard drive.

The couple were seized after landing on an easyJet flight from Amsterdam in May last year.

He claimed the computer plans had been placed there without his knowledge by a former friend.

While a student at the University of Westmin- ster Nassari would push his extreme beliefs on students in the canteen.

Campus 'emir' faces jail over terror attack files

He set up a stall to drum up recruits for Islamic meetings at the Harrow campus and handed out disturbing leaflets in the refectory.

Nassari disappeared from his course between 2002 and 2003 and returned wearing traditional Islamic dress and branded himself "the emir" of Muslims there.

On his arrest police found in their luggage files containing lessons on becoming a martyr and articles justifying the slaughter of *women*, children and the disabled in the name of jihad.

There were several articles from the Jihad Magazine including one headlined: "We are terrorists and terrorism is an obligation".

Other files included excerpts from the book "39 ways to serve and participate in jihad".

Police in Brisbane today dropped a request to extend the detention of an Indian doctor suspected of involvement in the failed London and Glasgow car bombings. But Mohammed Haneef, 27, was not likely to be released immediately and could still be charged..

Graphic

Accused: Yassin Nassari and his wife Bouchra El-Hor at the Old Bailey

Load-Date: July 15, 2007



Time to stop blame game

Herald Sun (Australia)
July 13, 2007 Friday
FIRST Edition

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Section: ED; Pg. 26 Length: 422 words

Byline: Moammar Mashni

Body

FEW topics seem to polarise people as much as the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

But the blame game is an exercise in futility. Until the facts are reported or exposed then, sadly, we are in for many more years of misery.

The Palestinians have endured 59 years of dispossession, occupation and colonisation. Israel, staunchly supported by the US and Australia, among other countries, has ignored more than 65 UN Security Council resolutions.

It has repeatedly breached the Fourth Geneva Convention in its responsibilities as an occupying power.

In 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel's concrete mega-wall was contrary to international law and should be torn down.

But despite these violations, Israel continues to be staunchly supported while Palestinian rights are swept under the carpet.

Israel's existence should not have priority over Palestine's existence.

The futures of both peoples are inextricably linked, and working on a solution that would allow the Palestinians to realise their right to self-determination is the best chance Israelis and Palestinians have of living in peace.

Why is Israel, the occupier and oppressor, able to use illegal measures to repress the Palestinians without censure, yet any resistance by Palestinians is called terrorism?

Resistance is an inalienable right of a people under occupation.

Israel, on the other hand, is conducting state-based terrorism against the civilian population of Palestine, yet argues it acts in self-defence.

DISPOSESSED and stateless Palestinians have no allowable means of self-defence other than total capitulation to Israel's demands.

The death counts that have resulted from 60 years of conflict have reached astronomical proportions.

Time to stop blame game

Since 2000, all monitoring agencies report almost identical figures: Palestinian fatalities outnumber Israeli fatalities by four to one.

There is a systematic process in place to ensure that Palestinians are contained, regardless of the death count.

To illustrate the enormity of this imbalance, 12 months ago, Cpl Gilad Shalit was captured by *Hamas* in Gaza.

Shalit is the only Israeli soldier in custody and was acting as a combatant with the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people.

Israel has more than 11,000 Palestinians incarcerated, many without charge. They include <u>women</u>, children, and democratically elected officials.

Even the language used in reporting this is biased. An Israeli is "kidnapped", but a Palestinian is "captured".

MOAMMAR MASHNI is a member of Australians for Palestine

Load-Date: July 12, 2007



Turkey shines as a model

The Straits Times (Singapore)
July 30, 2007 Monday

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Section: REVIEW - EDITORIAL

Length: 438 words

Body

THE impressive gain in popular vote by the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Turkey's parliamentary elections demonstrates how a modern, secular and economically progressive country can accommodate religion in politics. Its victory is a fitting riposte to the question whether Islam and democracy can co-exist. Indeed the question should not arise, for it is like asking if there is a place for Christian democratic parties in European countries or for Bible-quoting personalities in American politics. For all the worry over its Islamic nuances, the AKP government has in its previous tenure brought political and economic changes that bolstered human rights, reformed penal law, increased parliamentary oversight, clipped the military's political wings and revitalised the economy. It will return to power with 27 **women** parliamentarians, twice as many as in any other party.

It may admittedly be too early to speak of a Turkish model of modernisation. Countries with a big or predominant Muslim population do not necessarily share Turkey's tradition of secularism that its modern founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk entrenched, to the virtual exclusion of Islam in politics and even in wider society. For example, the first-round electoral victory of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria in 1992 frightened the ruling party and the military into cancelling the second round. It plunged the country into a decade-long civil war that killed 200,000 people. More recently, *Hamas*' electoral success unfortunately led to Palestinian disunity and violence, making an accommodation with Israel as unlikely as ever.

Political moderation and liberalism are crucial. In this regard, the AKP can be seen as adapting to rather than renouncing Ataturk's legacy. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan sounded the right celebratory note: 'Our joy cannot be, and should not be, the sorrow for those who do not think like us.' He has changed the national outlook, which is beginning to reach out beyond narrow 'Turkishness' to broach if not acknowledge the 1915-17 Armenian genocide and to embrace the minority Kurds. It is time for the European Union to rise above its provincialism and consider positively Mr Erdogan's strong representations for Turkey's membership. And the United States, too, would do well to welcome the AKP's victory and reaffirm its partnership with Turkey in sorting out the Iraq imbroglio and other issues in the region. As its new government finds a way to choose a compromise president and forestall intervention by the military, Turkey is offering realistic hope to some places fraught with divisiveness and distrust.

Load-Date: July 29, 2007



<u>UC-Berkeley-area coalition demands new plan for Middle East, Israel</u> negotiations

University Wire

August 16, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 Daily Californian via U-Wire

Length: 396 words

Byline: By Chang Cai, Daily Californian; SOURCE: UC-Berkeley

Dateline: BERKELEY, Calif.

Body

A Berkeley coalition of peace groups is distributing a petition to send to Congress calling for legislators to demand that the president form a new plan for negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

Members of the Middle East Peace Congress, a coalition made up of national and local organizations including Jewish Voice for Peace and Berkeley <u>Women</u> in Black, met Sunday to introduce the petition, meant to pressure President George W. Bush into hosting a new international conference aimed at resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, said Nabil Wahbeh, a member of the group.

"The Bush administration was doing nothing for the peace process in the Middle East," Wahbeh said

The goal of the meeting was to discuss ways to distribute the petition to organizations and individuals and to obtain enough signatures to gain attention from the U.S. government, said Gene Herman, a member of Progressive Democrats-East Bay who initiated the coalition.

"We need networking," Herman said.

Herman said Bush's current proposal to host an international conference cannot solve any of the problems facing Israel and Palestine because the conference would not include parties and governments that play important roles in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, such as the *Hamas* party and the Syrian and the Lebanese governments.

Bush's conference will take place this fall and will include Palestine's Fatah party and the governments of Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Herman said he hopes the petition will ensure that all affected parties take part in peace negotiations.

Uli Schamiloglu, chair of the Middle East Studies Program at University of Wisconsin at Madison, said Bush's proposal for a conference cannot resolve any problems because of the U.S. government's role as an occupational power in the Middle East and its non-neutral stance in the issue regarding Israel and Palestine.

"I don't think (the U.S. government) has much credibility left," he said.

Coalition members said citizens should become involved in helping to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because of the seriousness of the situation in the region.

UC- Berkeley -area coalition demands new plan for Middle East, Israel negotiations

Wahbeh, a Palestinian who came to the U.S. in 1970 as a result of the Arab-Israeli War in 1967, said he participated in the coalition to promote peace and justice in Israel.

"There is too much suffering in the Middle East," he said.

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Load-Date: August 16, 2007



Dave, we can see through this stunt; Platell's People

Daily Mail (London)
July 7, 2007 Saturday

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Section: 1ST; Pg. 17

Length: 366 words

Byline: amanda platell

Body

SAYEEDA WARSI is a Muslim mother who wants to engage with Islamic terrorists. She welcomes the election of *Hamas*, whose idea of democracy is to drag its political opponents into the street and shoot them in the head.

She insists we must not put pressure on British Muslims to root out bombers in their communities as it offends their sensibilities. And she says the Government's anti-terror laws 'are enough to tip any normal young man into the realms of a radicalised fanatic'.

So, has Warsi been shunned by mainstream society and earmarked as a potential threat to national unity? Nope. In response to the failed bomb plots that would have destroyed the lives of dozens of innocent Brits, she was parachuted into the House of Lords to fight terrorism. And the most startling fact of all is that Warsi is not some loony Left appointment, nor some limp LibDem gesture, but another cynical stunt from David Cameron.

On his blog, the Sunshine Kid triumphantly introduces Warsi as the first Muslim member of any Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet. 'History is being made right here in this very room,' he says of his newly-appointed Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion.

Well, forgive me if I don't join in the glad-handing. I first encountered Baroness Warsi nearly a decade ago when we both took part in a TV show simulating how people would respond if they were running the country at a Sir Salman and time of national crisis. Even back then, researchers on the show described her as one of the most ruthlessly ambitious <u>women</u> they had ever met. Ambitious to make a difference? No, ambitious to become a celebrity.

And now, Baroness Warsi will be just that, wheeled out on programmes such as this week's Question Time as a very visible statement about the inclusive nature of the Conservatives.

It didn't seem to bother Cameron that his new 'cohesion' guru's views on homosexuality have outraged gays. Or that she believes that failed asylum seekers should be free to stay and work in Britain. Or even that she found it impossible to secure a safe Tory seat.

No, Cameron's only concern was PR and as a Muslim mother, Warsi could convey a token message of change.

It's enough to make you want to change parties..

Load-Date: July 8, 2007



Woman smuggled three live crocs, strapped to her body; 50-cm reptiles, with jaws tied shut, hidden under woman's loose robe

The Times & Transcript (New Brunswick)

March 27, 2007 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. C10

Length: 394 words

Body

A woman with three crocodiles strapped to her waist was stopped at the Gaza-Egypt border crossing after guards noticed that she looked "strangely fat," officials said Monday.

The woman's shape raised suspicions at the Rafah terminal in southern Gaza, and a body search by a <u>female</u> border guard turned up the animals, each about 50 centimetres long, concealed underneath her loose robe, according to Maria Telleria, spokeswoman for the European observers who run the crossing.

"The woman looked strangely fat. Even though she was veiled and covered, even with so many clothes on there was something strange," Telleria said.

The incident, which took place on Thursday, sparked panic at the crossing.

"The policewoman screamed and ran out of the room, and then <u>women</u> began screaming and panicking when they heard," Telleria said. But when the hysteria died down, she said, "everybody was admiring a woman who is able to tie crocodiles to her body."

In her defence, the woman said she "was asked" to carry the crocodiles, said Wael Dahab, a spokesman for the Palestinian guards at the crossing.

The reptiles, which had their jaws tied shut with string, were returned to the Egyptian side of the border.

Dahab said the animals were likely meant for sale to Gaza's small zoo or to private owners. The crocodiles would fetch "good money," even in the impoverished territory, he said. In Gaza, the animals can fetch about \$580C - roughly two months' salary for a low-ranking policeman.

The woman was not the first to try to smuggle exotic wildlife through the Rafah crossing, Dahab said: Another woman tried to bring in a monkey tied to her chest, and other travellers tried to smuggle in exotic birds and a tiger cub. Border guards more frequently confiscate cigarettes, prescription drugs and car parts.

The crossing is the only way in and out of Gaza for residents of the crowded coastal strip.

Since Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005, the crossing has been subject to a complex system of control: Egypt and the Palestinians are responsible for the crossing, with European monitors are stationed at the terminal and Israeli inspectors watch from a distance over closed-circuit TV. Israel retains final say over whether the crossing can open,

Woman smuggled three live crocs, strapped to her body; 50-cm reptiles, with jaws tied shut, hidden under woman's loose robe

and has kept it closed over 80 per cent of the time since an Israeli soldier was captured by <u>Hamas</u>-linked militants in Gaza nine months ago.

Load-Date: March 27, 2007



THIS LIFE: Bob 'The Rock' Cooper World Rock, Paper, Scissors champion

The Observer (London)

December 31, 2006

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The Observer

Section: OBSERVER OBSERVER SPORT PAGES; Pg. 21

Length: 346 words

Body

How does it feel to be a world champion?

It feels good, thank you. Particularly as Britain has so few world champions at the moment.

It's a kiddies' game, right?

It can be played by all ages.

A game played by blokes down the pub, then?

Well, 20 per cent of the competitors at the world championship in Toronto were <u>women</u>. But I concede there was some social lubrication involved. And it was sponsored by a brewery.

But is it really sport?

It's just like poker: a game of strategies, percentages and psychology.

What's your winning strategy?

It's not about predicting what your opponent will throw; it's about predicting what your opponent predicts you'll throw.

Where does your nickname come from?

I'm quite solid with a beard and people think I might throw more rocks. Plus I show no emotion during a match.

When did you start playing RPS?

As a child, mostly as a way of settling disputes with my older sister, Katie. Now I play my flatmate for who goes down the shop for milk or loo rolls.

Sounds useful. Could politicians learn something from RPS?

THIS LIFE: Bob 'The Rock' Cooper World Rock, Paper, Scissors champion

Definitely. I'd like to think that in a world that's increasingly violent, there's a place for rock, paper, scissors to settle disputes. *Hamas* versus Ehud Olmert - but only if they agreed to abide by the result. There's a lot at stake, after all.

How long have you been at the top level?

About two years, after reading Graham Walker's Official Rock, Paper, Scissors Strategy Guide

Could it be an Olympic sport?

We're making representations to make it the home sport at 2012.

Are there RPS groupies?

After the world championships we went to a student party. Let's just say I had fun.

Do you limber up before a match?

[Cracks knuckles] That's about it. Although my good friend Neil - he's my mentor and coach - will say things about my opponents to psych me up.

Is it true that you were nominated for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year?

Yes indeed. I got several hundred votes on our website <u>www.rpschamp.co.uk</u>. But then a few comments were posted saying that it's not a real sport and it would be embarrassing if I won. Some people just don't get it.

Load-Date: January 2, 2007



Headlines you might have missed this week

The Gazette (Montreal)

December 16, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: SATURDAY EXTRA; Pg. B8

Length: 416 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

Pinochet Dead

Former dictator Augusto Pinochet, who died unrepentant for the mass torture and murder during his regime, was cremated Tuesday following a military funeral ceremony.

Chile's President, Michelle Bachelet, whose father was tortured and died during Pinochet's 1973-1990 regime, and who was tortured alongside her mother, denied Pinochet a state funeral.

He was never brought to trial for the 3,000 people killed during his regime. Mourners cheered when his grandson, Augusto Pinochet Molina, 33, praised his grandfather for overthrowing the Socialist government of Salvador Allende. The grandson was fired by the army for his remarks.

A New Man

Gerard Langevin, 65, left the Royal Victoria Hospital on Wednesday after becoming the first Canadian to receive a new type of mechanical heart that delivers blood in a continuous flow rather than in pulses. "I feel brand new," he said.

Vote for Senators

Prime Minister Stephen Harper promised Canadians a say in who gets to the Senate, tabling legislation Wednesday to consult voters. The government envisions Canadians completing a Senate ballot during federal elections.

Swift-Acting Murderer

Police in Suffolk in Eastern England were scrambling this week to catch a serial murderer who has killed five **women** in 10 days. The latest victim is Paula Clennell, 24, one of two prostitutes missing since last week in Ipswich, where three sex workers have been killed.

The case has evoked one of Britain's most notorious serial killers, east London's Jack the Ripper, who murdered five prostitutes in 1888. It also revived memories of "Yorkshire Ripper" Peter Sutcliffe, who murdererd 13 <u>women</u> between 1975 and 1980.

Grocery Gridlock Over

Headlines you might have missed this week

Long lineups at grocery stores on weekend evenings could be a thing of the past after the National Assembly passed a bill Wednesday that allows supermarkets more staffing. They had been allowed just four staffers after 5 p.m. since 1992, a move designed to protect depanneurs.

Tensions on Gaza

Tensions soared Thursday after Israel refused to let Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh enter Gaza from Egypt for six hours because he was carrying tens of millions of dollars that might be used to support terrorism. The stalemate ended when Israel and the Palestinian Authority agreed to let Haniyeh enter without the money. Haniyeh was halfway through what was to have been a month-long fundraising tour of Muslim nations because of fears tit-for-tat assassinations by <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah gunmen might spark a civil war.

Load-Date: December 16, 2006



<u>Arab voter apathy Long overdue indictment of the region's electoral</u> charades

Financial Times (London, England)
September 12, 2007 Wednesday
London Edition 1

Copyright 2007 The Financial Times Limited

Section: COMMENT; Pg. 16

Length: 424 words

Body

Most of the Middle East's autocrats are no longer even pretending to be interested in democracy, now that the US has all but abandoned its "freedom agenda" in the region. The spate of elections seen in 2005 has slowed. Where polls are still held in the Arab world, moreover, it is the voters who have stopped pretending. In a long overdue indictment of the political system, their message is that they will no longer waste their time - or their votes - on toothless parliaments and electoral charades. Nor will they allow regimes to use their votes just to legitimise their rule.

Last week's elections in Morocco, a country where the king holds the real power but allows parties to compete freely for a feeble parliament, tell the story: only 37 per cent of voters turned up to cast their ballots - a record low.

Voters in neighbouring Algeria, where power has shifted away from the military only to become concentrated in the presidency, are equally disenchanted. In the May legislative poll, only 35 per cent voted - again the lowest percentage in the country's history. Few Egyptians, meanwhile, bothered to turn up for the March constitutional referendum in which the regime of President Hosni Mubarak shamelessly called on voters to give it extra powers to repress. The official turnout was 27 per cent; the opposition estimated real turnout at about 10 per cent.

There are, of course, many reasons for voters' apathy, including widespread perceptions that much of the political class is co-opted, if not corrupt. Even Morocco's Islamist Justice and Development party, which campaigned on the promise of social justice and transparent government, failed to make a strong impression on voters. (It won only 46 seats in the 325-member assembly, coming in second to the traditional conservative Istiglal party).

The fundamental problem is that voters believe their voices do not matter. In Morocco, after all, King Mohammed VI ignored the results of the 2002 elections and named a prime minister who belonged to none of the winning parties. Voters across the region are also dismayed by western reaction when elections are fair - they watched Palestinians being punished for choosing the Islamist *Hamas*.

King Mohammed, the young Moroccan monarch, may have shown some reformist credentials, pushing through, for example, a personal status law that improved the rights of <u>women</u>. But the lesson he - and other rulers - should draw from the waning popular enthusiasm for polls is that voters want genuine change. A democratic facade will no longer do.

Load-Date: September 11, 2007



An eyewitness view of the new world war

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

December 30, 2006 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Opinion; Pg. 21

Length: 1499 words

Byline: PAUL SHEEHAN Alan Ramsey is on leave.

Body

Anyone who doubts that the Cold War has quickly given way to a hot war - World War III - would have their doubts sorely tested should they pay a visit to the Israel-Lebanonborder. Last week I visited border mark 105, the nondescript gully where the 2006 Lebanese war began. Only scorch marks on the ground remain from the death and violence that took place there.

The build-up took months to plan and execute. On or about July 5, a group of between 20 and 30 Hezbollah fighters infiltrated the Israeli border near the village of Aita Al-Shaab, barely 800 metres from the border fences. They set up camp on a thickly wooded slope above the Israeli patrol road. They pitched a small tent. They set up firing positions for two rocket-propelled grenade launchers. And then they waited.

It was not the first time Hezbollah had attempted to infiltrate a team into Israel this year. At least four other attempts had been thwarted. This was the first to succeed, because this section of the border was both densely wooded and in a blind spot between the Israel Defence Forces observation posts, where teams of soldiers, mostly young **women** on national service, monitor cameras day and night.

The site was also within range of rocket and mortar positions Hezbollah had set up around Aita Al-Shaab, part of a porcupine of minefields, gun emplacements, tunnels and bunkers it had secretly built along the border since Israel withdrew its forces from southern Lebanon in 2000. Most of this military build-up was funded by Iran.

On the morning of July 12, 2006, the infiltrators received the "go" signal. They touched the security fence at several points, triggering several Israeli patrols. Two Israeli Humvees were sent to border point 105.

At 9.05am, as the first Humvee slowed to negotiate a turn in the road just below the firing positions, it was hit by two rocket-propelled grenades.

The Humvee was destroyed. All three soldiers on board died. The second Humvee was hit, but was disabled rather than destroyed. The driver was killed but two other Israeli soldiers, believed to have been wounded based on bloodstains left at the scene, were dragged from the Humvee and carried towards the border.

The firing of the grenades was the signal for a co-ordinated response by Hezbollah along the border. Waves of rocket and mortar fire were sent across into Israel to confuse their defence and buy time for the infiltrators. When the Israelis realised where its patrol had been attacked, the Hezbollah team had already left the scene. A heavy tank was dispatched to border post 105. It crossed the border to occupy the high point and begin laying fire into the

An eyewitness view of the new world war

valley where the Hezbollah team was fleeing towards the nearby village. What the Israelis did not know, one of many unpleasant surprises to come, was that this response had been anticipated by Hezbollah.

"There was a huge mine," an Israeli major told me, pointing to the spot. "The tank only got 200 metres. Everybody was killed." Four tank crew died, along with four soldiers in the Humvees. The Hezbollah infiltrators escaped without casualties. The Israel Defence Forces were humiliated.

"They mined everything along the border," the Israeli major, who cannot be named, told me. "The extent of the tunnels, bunkers, mines was much greater than we had expected. One Hezbollah bunker was built within 15 metres of a UN observation post. What were they observing?"

The ambush and abduction, so long in the making, had been executed to perfection.

It was an act of war, yet no border disputes existed between Israel and Lebanon. (The disputed Shebaa Farms are claimed by Syria, a claim recognised by Lebanon, Israel and the United Nations.) The relationship between the governments of Jerusalem and Beirut were cordial. The Lebanese Prime Minister, Fouad Siniora, was a moderate, pro-Western reformer. The Lebanese economy had been rehabilitated, Beirut rebuilt, and tourism had begun to flourish again. This was not an of act of war between states but an act of jihad. It was driven by the Islamic theocracy in Iran, through its proxies in the Shiite Muslim state-within-a-state in southern Lebanon. Iran has been at war against the West for some time. It is at war with the United States in Iraq via its proxies in the Shiite militias. It is at war against Israel via Hezbollah in Lebanon, and via *Hamas* in Gaza and the West Bank.

"Iran is pushing <u>Hamas</u> to a more hardline position," says Walid Sadi, Jordan's former ambassador to Turkey and formerly chief editor of The Jordan Times. "The Palestinian internal disputes are increasingly resembling those between Hezbollah and the [moderate] camp in Lebanon. In both cases, the footprints of Iran are wide and clear and fit perfectly with Iran's designs for the region."

Those designs include nuclear weapons. This, in turn, has led the Sunni Muslim states in the region, led by Saudi Arabia, to consider a nuclear response. On December 10 the Gulf Cooperation Council, representing the six oil-rich Gulf states, met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and issued a statement that began: "The leaders commissioned a study to set up a common program in the area of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."

Like Iran's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

Long before the attack on border post 105, the military commander of <u>Hamas</u>, Khaled Mashaal, speaking at a mosque in Damascus, where he is based and protected, an address broadcast onAl-Jazeera television, warning not just Israel but the West of militant Islam's intent. It went far beyond the Palestinian cause: "We say this to the West, which does not act reasonably, and does not learn lessons: by Allah, you will be defeated. Tomorrow our nation [Islam] will sit on the throne of the world. This is not a figment of the imagination, but a fact. Tomorrow we will lead the world... Today, you are fighting the army of Allah. You are fighting against people for whom death for the sake of Allah, and for the sake of honour and glory, is preferable to life."

This is the language of "shahada". A "shahid" is to worship God and the Prophet Muhammad through a violent death in the cause of Islam. "A suicide bombing is not an act of desperation but a religious act," says Itamar Marcus, director of Palestinian Media Watch, during a briefing in Jerusalem. "When suicide bombers make videos they will sometimes talk about their 'weddings', referring to their suicide. Violence is put on a pedestal, even in preschool education. The videos talk about the sweetness of shahada."

During the past week the latest call to jihad and holy death has led to carnage and full-scale war between Islamic Somalia and Christian Ethiopia.

More than 1000 Islamist fighters, most of them teenagers, have died since they attacked Baidoa, the seat of the Somali provisional government, and Islamist leaders declared that Somalia was open to any Muslim around the world who wanted to wage a holy war against Ethiopia. The Ethiopians responded with invasion. Yesterday, its army had taken control of the capital, Mogadishu.

An eyewitness view of the new world war

Next week the war will flare somewhere else. The primary targets of al-Qaeda, now a virtual state within the Muslim diaspora, are the key moderate Muslim regimes in the Middle East, which are constantly being tested for weakness.

In the Jordanian capital, Amman, last weekend, I had to go through three security checks just to get back into my hotel, measures put in place since three Western hotels were bombed in aco-ordinated terrorism attack last year that killed 60 civilians.

In Sudan, genocide and mass rape have been used by Muslims to obliterate Christian and animist blacks in the south of the country around Darfur. Iraq and Afghanistan are engulfed in religious civil war and foreign occupation.

Hundreds of innocent civilians have been butchered as far afield as London, Madrid, Bali and Mumbai.

This is a hot war, fought on three continents. Its evolution has largely been funded by Saudi Arabia.

"The Saudis have spent \$US70 billion (\$93 billion) over the past 20 years funding Wahhabism," Yael Shahar told me last week. Shahar is on the faculty at the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Tel Aviv, the world's leading academic institute for counter-terrorism. Given that Wahhabism is the most rigid, and most aggressive form of Islam, it means that the West's appetite for oil and motor cars has fuelled not just global warming, but global jihad.

Jihad and shahada have been the common denominators of the otherwise unrelated bloodshed in Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and the violent arc of a dozen Islamic states from Pakistan to Morocco. It is the common denominator of bloodshed in Britain, France, Spain, Holland and the United States, all the scenes of terrorist attacks, and Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Italy, where growing Muslim threats and violence are part of what is now a global confrontation between Western values and medievalism.

World War III. Every indicator we have says that we should get used to the concept.

Graphic

DRAWING: John Shakespeare

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Israel 'asks victims to foot hospital bills'

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

November 20, 2006 Monday

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Section: NEWS; INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 16

Length: 438 words

Byline: TIM BUTCHER

Body

THE PALESTINIAN authorities have accused Israel of trying to profit from the Beit Hanoun massacre, where errant artillery killed 19 civilians, by demanding payment for treating eight survivors in Israeli hospitals.

While Israel accepted full responsibility for the Beit Hanoun shelling and promised to pay for medical treatment, authorities in Gaza are livid they were forced to provide financial guarantees to Israeli hospitals.

The Israeli authorities demanded written promises the Palestinian National Authority would cover 100 per cent of the costs.

The guarantees, several of which have been seen by The Daily Telegraph, were faxed to hospitals in Israel where the patients, all of whom were severely injured by shrapnel, were being treated.

Israel has not cancelled the guarantees, making the Palestinians suspect funds will eventually be taken for the hospital treatment.

They believe the money will be taken by Israel from tax revenues it is withholding from the Palestinians because of disagreements with the government of *Hamas*, the militant group that refuses to recognise Israel.

Attacks on Gaza are so common that there is an established process for moving victims to Israel, which has one of the best health services in the world, as hospitals inside the Gaza Strip lack resources.

Israel normally regards civilian casualties as collateral damage in legitimate military operations, and demands that the Palestinian National Authority guarantees all hospital costs.

But Israel accepted from the start that the Beit Hanoun incident on November 8 was a terrible accident, caused when a targeting system malfunctioned and fired a barrage of shells into a residential area.

Eighteen people, mostly <u>women</u> and children, were killed and a 19th died later. He was one of the eight patients moved to Israel.

Thirty five of the lightly wounded were referred to Egypt. Dr Shehadeh, director of foreign hospital referrals for the Palestinian National Authority, said the Egyptian authorities provided free medical help.

Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the Israeli authorities, admitted there was confusion at first in the way the wounded were moved to hospitals, with at least one Palestinian being asked to pay for an Israeli ambulance.

Israel 'asks victims to foot hospital bills'

He said the authorities would cover all the medical costs incurred by the eight patients brought to Israel.

"Israel made a terrible, terrible mistake at Beit Hanoun and we take full responsibility," he said.

But his assurance that Israel had not even asked for money was undermined by evidence the Israeli hospital had received a written financial guarantee from the Palestinians.

tim.butcher@telegraph.co.uk

Load-Date: November 20, 2006



These hard-hitting essays on Israel reveal a conflict of interest; The Monday Book

Independent Extra

July 30, 2007 Monday

First Edition

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Section: EXTRA; Pg. 2

Length: 408 words

Byline: JULIA PASCAL

Body

THE LAST RESISTANCE

By Jacqueline Rose

VERSO, £16.99.

Professor Rose, who teaches literature at Queen Mary College, London, proposed an academic boycott of Israel in 2005. The boycott is still hotly debated and, as civil war between *Hamas* and Fatah hits the headlines, this hard-hitting collection of essays is timely. Here Rose sets Israeli realpolitik against Jewish ethics, but there is no even debate.

Should the Jew be a light unto the nations? This is the simple question beneath a complex study. Rose is for the idea of the super-Jew, who abandons the reality of a Jewish state in Israel because it dispossesses the Palestinian. Whether she is for the dismantling of modern Israel is unclear, but she certainly seems to suggest it. To endorse her anti-Zionism, she finds support in Freud, Zweig and even the novels of the founder of the Irgun, Vladimir Jabotinsky.

One of Rose's best essays is on David Grossman. Her understanding of his despair of, and immense love for, his homeland troubles her. How much easier it is for a Jew in England to call for a boycott than an Israeli novelist. She quotes his central dilemma, to imagine "down to the smallest living detail, a truly democratic, pluralistic and egalitarian way of life in Israel". Grossman knows he doesn't want to be part of a Jewish minority in Israel, yet Rose fights for this. She admires Grossman's ambivalence, but has none herself.

I liked Rose's analysis of the psychology of oppression, and how the victim often takes their victimhood to other territories. She notes that Jabotinksy's first reaction to the pogrom was shame, and his answer militancy. In this way, she believes, the Israeli Jew has memorised rage against the Cossacks and transferred it to the Palestinians. She gives a poignant example of a Croatian Catholic who flees war with Bosnian Muslims to become an Israeli at war with Palestinian Muslims.

More shaky is Rose's analysis of suicide bombers. She writes that those seeking the 72 virgins in Paradise desire "more a sacred utopia, a late, exalted compensation for the wretched of the earth, than a second shot at worldly pleasures". Even though she is a Freudian, she desexualises the fantasy of a martyrs' paradise and romanticises

These hard-hitting essays on Israel reveal a conflict of interest The Monday Book

the young men who desire it. She does not ask what happens to the <u>women</u> who live under sharia law, or what Islamic heaven might be for <u>female</u> suicide bombers. She cannot ask these questions; it would threaten her whole thesis.

Load-Date: July 31, 2007



Fundamentalists: an act being cleaned up

Alberni Valley Times (British Columbia)

September 28, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: FAITH; Pg. B6 **Length:** 1070 words

Byline: Christopher Hitchens, Special to Alberni Valley Times

Body

A literary festival in the ancient capital city of Lombardy is as good a place as any other to survey the question of whether there is such a thing as "western civilization" and whether it is worth defending.

Here the poet Virgil was born. And here you can see the frescoes of Andrea Mantegna, painted for his feudal patrons the Gonzagas. But the great sacking of the city, which left Mantegna's work as almost the only surviving treasure, was undertaken by a Christian emperor. And it was here, in 1459, that Pope Pius II held a "diet" to proclaim yet another crusade -- this time against the Turks.

I had come here to defend atheism and secularism in general, but also to have a debate with Tariq Ramadan, an Islamist academic domiciled in Geneva, who has emerged as the most sinuous and dexterous of the "interpreters" of Muslim fundamentalism to the West. He eventually declined our original debate, but there was nothing to stop me from attending his event and trying to re-stage our cancelled confrontation from the floor.

French author Caroline Fourest has made an intensive study of Ramadan's discrepant appearances in Europe and in the Muslim world and has concluded that he speaks with a forked tongue and deliberately gives different impressions to different audiences.

Having listened to him, I would say that the problem is a slightly different one. He possesses a command of postmodern and sociological jargon (of the sort that you may easily recognize by its repetitive use of the terms "space" and "discourse" to delineate the arena of thinkable debate), and he has a smooth way with euphemism. Thus, he tells Egyptian television that the destruction of the Israeli state is for the moment "impossible" and in Mantua described the idea of stoning adulterous <u>women</u> as "unimplementable."

This is something less than a full condemnation, but he is quick to say that simple condemnation of such things would reduce his own "credibility" in the eyes of a Muslim audience that, or so he claims, he wants to modernize by stealth.

His day-to-day politics have the same surreptitious air to them. The donations he made to <u>Hamas</u> (donations that led to difficulties receiving a visa to teach at the University of Notre Dame, a position he eventually resigned) were small gifts directed to <u>Hamas</u>'s "humanitarian" and "relief" wing.

He did not actually say that there was no proof of Osama Bin Laden's involvement in the atrocities of Sept. 11, 2001; he only warned against a rush to judgment. He often criticizes the existing sharia regimes, such as that of

Fundamentalists: an act being cleaned up

Saudi Arabia, especially for their corruption, but such criticism is as often the symptom of a more decided Islamist alignment as it is a counter-indication of it.

In Mantua, he was trying to deal with the question of dual loyalty, as between allegiance to Islam and allegiance to the democratic secular European governments under which Muslim immigrants now choose to live. He redirected the question to South Africa, where, he said, under the apartheid system there was a moral duty not to obey the law.

After sitting through this and much else, I rose to ask him a few questions. Wasn't it true that the Muslim leadership in South Africa had actually endorsed the apartheid regime? Wasn't it evasive of him to discuss the headscarf in France rather than the more pressing question of the veil or niqab in Britain? Wasn't it true that imams in Denmark had solicited the intervention of foreign embassies to call for censorship of cartoons in Copenhagen?

And was it not the case that he owed his position as an informal cultural negotiator to the fact that his grandfather, Hassan al-Banna, had been the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, an extremist organization of which his father had also been a leader in Egypt?

He described my last question as too "offensive" to deserve an answer. He gave quite a good reply on the Danish point, saying that the imams in question had been a minority and should not have received support from foreign governments. He completely dodged the question of the veil in Britain, ignored my request that he give any reason to believe that <u>women</u> were wearing it voluntarily, and he admitted that the Deobandi Muslim leadership in South Africa had indeed been a pillar of the old regime.

On the other hand, he added, some Muslims had been anti-apartheid and these were the "real" ones. Indeed, on everything from stoning to suicide-murder to anti-Semitism, he argues that the problem is not with the "text" itself, or with Islam, but with misinterpretation of it. How convenient.

Ramadan often relies on the ignorance of his Western audiences. He maintained that there was no textual authority for the killing of those who abandon their fealty to Islam, whereas the Muslim hadith (the records of the sayings and practices of Muhammad), which have canonical authority, prescribe death as the punishment for apostasy in so many words.

When I went to Ramadan's event in the Palazzo d'Arco, I had just finished reading bin Laden's latest anniversary prose-poem. Here, too, there are signs of an act being cleaned up. He brags of the murders of Sept. 11, of course (thus inconveniencing all those who attribute them to Israel's Mossad or some mysterious other agency), but he does not forget to cite political activist Noam Chomsky, the CIA maverick Michael Scheuer and filmmaker Oliver Stone's theory of the JFK assassination.

He also exhibits concern for the global-warming crisis, the fate of American Indians and even the recent collapse of the subprime mortgage market. Everything he says about the war in Iraq, right up to the affected concern for the civilian and military casualties, is presented as if he had hired one of Michael Moore's screenwriters as a consultant.

Most unctuous of all, he reminds his audience that the Koran has a whole section in praise of the Virgin Mary, an ecumenical point that I had noticed before. (It is typical of monotheisms to plagiarize each other's worst features, from Abraham onward.)

I think that this pitch is probably too crude and crass to work, but it's exactly the crudeness and crassness of bin Laden that require the emergence of more "credible" middlemen to allay anxiety and offer reassurance. Only six years on, and already the soft mainstreaming of Islamic imperialism is under way.

Christopher Hitchens is a columnist for Vanity Fair and Slate Magazine, where this column originally appeared.

Load-Date: September 28, 2007



Muslim fundamentalists: Signs of an act being cleaned up

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)
September 24, 2007 Monday
Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A9; Christopher Hitchens

Length: 1071 words

Byline: Christopher Hitchens, Special to the Sun

Dateline: MANTUA, Italy

Body

A literary festival in the ancient capital city of Lombardy is as good a place as any other to survey the question of whether there is such a thing as "western civilization" and whether it is worth defending.

Here the poet Virgil was born. And here you can see the frescoes of Andrea Mantegna, painted for his feudal patrons the Gonzagas. But the great sacking of the city, which left Mantegna's work as almost the only surviving treasure, was undertaken by a Christian emperor. And it was here, in 1459, that Pope Pius II held a "diet" to proclaim yet another crusade -- this time against the Turks.

I had come here to defend atheism and secularism in general, but also to have a debate with Tariq Ramadan, an Islamist academic domiciled in Geneva, who has emerged as the most sinuous and dexterous of the "interpreters" of Muslim fundamentalism to the West. He eventually declined our original debate, but there was nothing to stop me from attending his event and trying to re-stage our cancelled confrontation from the floor.

French author Caroline Fourest has made an intensive study of Ramadan's discrepant appearances in Europe and in the Muslim world and has concluded that he speaks with a forked tongue and deliberately gives different impressions to different audiences. Having listened to him, I would say that the problem is a slightly different one. He possesses a command of postmodern and sociological jargon (of the sort that you may easily recognize by its repetitive use of the terms "space" and "discourse" to delineate the arena of thinkable debate), and he has a smooth way with euphemism. Thus, he tells Egyptian television that the destruction of the Israeli state is for the moment "impossible" and in Mantua described the idea of stoning adulterous <u>women</u> as "unimplementable."

This is something less than a full condemnation, but he is quick to say that simple condemnation of such things would reduce his own "credibility" in the eyes of a Muslim audience that, or so he claims, he wants to modernize by stealth. His day-to-day politics have the same surreptitious air to them. The donations he made to <u>Hamas</u> (donations that led to difficulties receiving a visa to teach at the University of Notre Dame, a position he eventually resigned) were small gifts directed to <u>Hamas</u>'s "humanitarian" and "relief" wing. He did not actually say that there was no proof of Osama Bin Laden's involvement in the atrocities of Sept. 11, 2001; he only warned against a rush to judgment. He often criticizes the existing sharia regimes, such as that of Saudi Arabia, especially for their corruption, but such criticism is as often the symptom of a more decided Islamist alignment as it is a counterindication of it.

In Mantua, he was trying to deal with the question of dual loyalty, as between allegiance to Islam and allegiance to the democratic secular European governments under which Muslim immigrants now choose to live. He redirected the question to South Africa, where, he said, under the apartheid system there was a moral duty not to obey the law.

After sitting through this and much else, I rose to ask him a few questions. Wasn't it true that the Muslim leadership in South Africa had actually endorsed the apartheid regime? Wasn't it evasive of him to discuss the headscarf in France rather than the more pressing question of the veil or niqab in Britain? Wasn't it true that imams in Denmark had solicited the intervention of foreign embassies to call for censorship of cartoons in Copenhagen? And was it not the case that he owed his position as an informal cultural negotiator to the fact that his grandfather, Hassan al-Banna, had been the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, an extremist organization of which his father had also been a leader in Egypt?

He described my last question as too "offensive" to deserve an answer. He gave quite a good reply on the Danish point, saying that the imams in question had been a minority and should not have received support from foreign governments. He completely dodged the question of the veil in Britain, ignored my request that he give any reason to believe that <u>women</u> were wearing it voluntarily, and he admitted that the Deobandi Muslim leadership in South Africa had indeed been a pillar of the old regime.

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Christopher Hitchens is a columnist for Vanity Fair and Slate Magazine, where this column originally appeared.

Load-Date: September 24, 2007



PM marks deaths of millions at ceremony; Grit MP Irwin Cotler criticizes Iran during gathering on Parliament Hill

Ottawa Citizen

April 16, 2007 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 423 words

Byline: Andrew Mayeda, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

Prime Minister Stephen Harper bore witness to the millions of Jews killed during the Holocaust in a memorial ceremony yesterday, vowing to oppose anyone who advocates the "destruction of Israel."

"It has been said that lies become truth if they are repeated often enough," Mr. Harper told about 200 people gathered on Parliament Hill to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

"That's why truth is so precious. That's why the truth must be repeated, over and over and over, to protect us from lies.

"So let us plainly state the awful, incontrovertible truth that brings us here today: Millions, including six million Jewish men, **women**, and children were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust."

Mr. Harper was joined at the rally by opposition MPs, senators, ambassadors and members of the Jewish community.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler had stern words for Iran, which recently held a conference to question whether the Holocaust took place. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called for Israel to be "wiped off the map."

"We are witnessing yet again -- in our own day, in Ahmadinejad's Iran -- the toxic convergence of the incitement of the most horrific of crimes, namely genocide, and ... the most virulent of hatreds, namely anti-Semitism, propelled by the publicly avowed intent to acquire nuclear weapons for that purpose," Mr. Cotler said.

Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada, said that any attempts by Iran or other countries to "resurrect" the designs of the Holocaust "must be firmly dealt with by all responsible nations and peoples of the world."

But Mr. Harper avoided mentioning Iran by name in his speech. At last year's ceremony, he singled out Iran and the Palestinian organization *Hamas*, warning that Canada would not ignore "signs of trouble" from either of them.

"Unfortunately, in some countries, hatred of the Jews is still preached from religious pulpits and still proclaimed from political podiums. There are still people who would perpetrate another Holocaust if they could," Mr. Harper said.

PM marks deaths of millions at ceremony; Grit MP Irwin Cotler criticizes Iran during gathering on Parliament Hill

"It's not good enough for politicians to stand before you and say they remember and mourn what happened over six decades ago. They must stand up to those who advocate the destruction of Israel and its people today.

"And they must be unequivocal in their condemnation of anti-Semitic despots, terrorists and fanatics."

After the speeches, Mr. Harper and other dignitaries laid wreaths at the Centennial Flame in front of the Parliament Buildings.

Holocaust Memorial Day, or Yom ha-Shoah, was established as a federal memorial day in 2003.

Load-Date: April 16, 2007



Wave of sewage kills five in Gaza; Village near Israeli border swamped, health woes feared

The Toronto Star

March 28, 2007 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 449 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, Associated Press

Dateline: UMM NASER, Gaza Strip

Body

A sewage reservoir in northern Gaza collapsed yesterday, killing five people in a frothing cascade of waste and mud that swamped a village and highlighted the desperate need to upgrade Gaza's overburdened infrastructure.

Rescue crews and <u>Hamas</u> gunmen rushed to the area to search for people feared buried. In wetsuits, they paddled boats through the layer of foam floating on the green and brown rivers of waste. Others waded up to their hips in the filthy water.

The stench of human waste and dead animals hung heavy.

Angry residents drove reporters away and mobbed government officials. When Interior Minister Hani Kawasmeh arrived to see the damage, his bodyguards fired into the air to disperse the crowd.

In one house, everything from TV to sink was covered in muck.

"We lost everything. Everything was covered by the flood. It's a disaster," said Amina Afif, 65, whose shack was destroyed.

Aid officials said plans to build a larger waste treatment operation had been held up for years by perpetual fighting in the area between Israel and Palestinians and donor concerns about political instability.

The treatment plant - a few hundred metres from the border with Israel - stores waste in seven holding basins. The population produces nearly four times as much waste as it can treat, so officials put overflow in nearby dunes, creating an open sewer over nearly 45 hectares, the United Nations said, where mosquitoes breed and water-borne diseases ferment.

Yesterday morning, an earth embankment around one of the seven basins collapsed, sending a wave of sewage into neighbouring Umm Naser, destroying more than 200 village homes.

It killed two women in their 70s, two toddlers and a teenage girl and injured 35 others, hospital officials said.

"This is a human tragedy," said Public Works Minister Sameeh al-Abed.

Wave of sewage kills five in Gaza Village near Israeli border swamped, health woes feared

It may be criminal, too. Gaza City Mayor Majid Abu Ramadan, who leads a council of Gaza municipalities, blamed the collapse on lawlessness, accusing residents of stealing the dirt and selling it to builders for \$70 (U.S.) a truckload.

The government sent bulldozers to build makeshift walls to push back the sewage. Crews will try to divert waste to the other holding basins. Another collapse could flood Beit Lahiya, a far larger town, officials said.

"We are doing all we can to prevent any disaster. But the solution is temporary," said government engineer Nidal Musalameh.

Many of the evacuated were in tents and other shelters nearby, rescue officials said. Officials fear a public health disaster.

"It is an extremely serious situation," said UN official Stuart Shepard, noting international funding for a new plant was secured, but building it could not proceed, given security risks.

Load-Date: March 28, 2007



Sewage flood brings more misery to Gaza

The Australian (Australia)
March 29, 2007 Thursday
All-round Country Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 432 words

Body

AΡ

UMM NASER, Gaza Strip: Further deadly sewage floods are feared after a wave of stinking waste and mud from a collapsed septic pool inundated a Gaza village, killing five people, including two babies.

The collapse yesterday has been blamed on residents stealing sand from an embankment.

It highlighted the desperate need to upgrade Gaza's overloaded, outdated infrastructure. Aid officials say construction of a modern sewage treatment plant has been held up by Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The Gaza City Mayor blamed locals for digging dirt from an earthen embankment around the structure and selling it to building contractors.

The plant in northern Gaza, a few hundred metres from the frontier with Israel, stored incoming waste in seven holding basins. But with the burgeoning population producing nearly four times as much waste as the plant could treat, the overflow was stored in nearby dunes, creating a lake of sewage covering nearly 45ha, according to the UN.

An embankment around one of the seven holding basins collapsed, sending a wall of sewage crashing into the neighbouring village of Umm Naser.

The wave killed two <u>women</u> in their 70s, two toddlers and a teenage girl and injured 35 others, hospital officials said. More than 200 homes were destroyed, health officials said.

"This is a human tragedy," said Public Works Minister Sameeh al-Abed.

Rescuers and <u>Hamas</u> gunmen searched for people feared buried under the sewage and mud. Most residents fled or were evacuated.

Rescuers in wetsuits paddled boats through brown foam floating on the green-brown rivers of waste. Others waded up to their hips in the sewage.

Angry residents drove journalists out of the area. When Interior Minister Hani Kawasmeh arrived, his bodyguards fired in the air to disperse the crowd.

Sewage flood brings more misery to Gaza

In one house, everything from the television to the sink was covered in muck. The town was filled with the noxious smell of waste and dead animals.

"We lost everything. Everything was covered by the flood. It's a disaster," said Amina Afif, 65, whose shack was destroyed.

The collapse will force officials to divert the waste into the other six basins, putting those in danger as well. Another collapse could send sewage flooding into the larger town of Beit Lahiya.

Gaza City Mayor Majid Abu Ramadan, who leads a council of Gaza municipalities, accused residents of stealing dirt and selling it to building companies for 300 shekels (\$86.80) a truckload.

A 2004 UN report warned that the sewage facility, built for a population of 50,000, was handling waste from 190,000 people. Flooding was inevitable, the report said.

Load-Date: March 28, 2007



Woman found with three crocodiles strapped to body at Gaza border crossing

Prince Rupert Daily News (British Columbia)

March 26, 2007 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 411 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- A woman with three crocodiles strapped to her waist was stopped at the Gaza-Egypt border crossing after guards noticed that she looked "strangely fat," officials said Monday.

The woman's shape raised suspicions at the Rafah terminal in southern Gaza, and a body search by a <u>female</u> border guard turned up the animals, each about 50 centimetres long, concealed underneath her loose robe, according to Maria Telleria, spokeswoman for the European observers who run the crossing.

"The woman looked strangely fat. Even though she was veiled and covered, even with so many clothes on there was something strange," Telleria said.

The incident, which took place on Thursday, sparked panic at the crossing.

"The policewoman screamed and ran out of the room, and then <u>women</u> began screaming and panicking when they heard," Telleria said. But when the hysteria died down, she said, "everybody was admiring a woman who is able to tie crocodiles to her body."

In her defence, the woman said she "was asked" to carry the crocodiles, said Wael Dahab, a spokesman for the Palestinian guards at the crossing.

The reptiles, which had their jaws tied shut with string, were returned to the Egyptian side of the border.

Dahab said the animals were likely meant for sale to Gaza's small zoo or to private owners. The crocodiles would fetch "good money," even in the impoverished territory, he said. In Gaza, the animals can fetch about \$580C -- roughly two months' salary for a low-ranking policeman.

The woman was not the first to try to smuggle exotic wildlife through the Rafah crossing, Dahab said: Another woman tried to bring in a monkey tied to her chest, and other travellers tried to smuggle in exotic birds and a tiger cub. Border guards more frequently confiscate cigarettes, prescription drugs and car parts.

The crossing is the only way in and out of Gaza for residents of the crowded coastal strip.

Woman found with three crocodiles strapped to body at Gaza border crossing

Since Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005, the crossing has been subject to a complex system of control: Egypt and the Palestinians are responsible for the crossing, with European monitors are stationed at the terminal and Israeli inspectors watch from a distance over closed-circuit TV.

Israel retains final say over whether the crossing can open, and has kept it closed over 80 per cent of the time since an Israeli soldier was captured by <u>Hamas</u>-linked militants in Gaza nine months ago, charging that the crossing is being used to smuggle money and weapons to militants.

Load-Date: March 26, 2007