

**Date and Time:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:40:00AM EEST

**Job Number:** 223498859

## Documents (100)

1. [\*Burgeoning Beirut bourgeois\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

2. [\*SENDING BLESSINGS OF WARMTH, CARING\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

3. [\*Bush 'optimistic' about Middle East conference\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

4. [\*Veteran politician Peres is sworn in as Israel's president\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

5. [\*Gunmen in Lebanese siege dig in for 'two-year battle'\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

6. [World datelines](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

7. [News Summary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

8. [Brown's team hailed](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

9. [A little light amid all the mayhem REVIEWS - PHOTOGRAPHY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

10. [Roadside bombings kill 7 U.S. soldiers, interpreter in Iraq](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

11. [\*Media: Press analysis: Why we have to let pictures tell the real story\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

12. [\*Hisbullah sworn in as EP Minister\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

13. [\*Gamal Mubarak defends Egypt 's position on Gaza, First Lady charts relief efforts\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

14. [\*Hamas threatens to kill Israeli leaders\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

15. [\*Out of the mouths of bombers\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

16. [\*Sons - and daughters - of the Land\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

17. [\*Americans hold our futures in their hands\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

18. [\*SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 11 IN MOSUL MILITARY SPOKESMAN: AL-QAIDA 'HIDES BEHIND INNOCENT IRAQIS'\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

19. [\*Keothavong dodges hostilities to enhance Wimbledon claims\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

20. [\*Al-Qaida No. 2 denounces Iran\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

21. [After the hatred, a glimpse of hope Beyond Terror and Martyrdom By Gilles Kepel HARVARD £18.95 \(328pp\) \(free p&p\) from 0870 079 8897](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

22. [Israeli youths opt out of army service](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

23. [Nagging turns Aussie immigrant to crime: court told](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

24. [ANTIQUITY UPDATED. Past and present merge in Damascus](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

25. [Israelis usher in Jewish New Year amid border tension, fresh attacks; West Bank and Gaza border closed for Jewish, Muslim holidays](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

26. [\*Livni's Rise Sparks Debate on Whether Orthodox Would Back a Woman\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

27. [\*The Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in democratic POLITICS-US: An Ocean Apart, Bush, McCain Play to Neo-Con Dreams\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

28. [\*Bush urges Arab world to confront threat from 'terrorism sponsor' Iran\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

29. [\*Seeds of Hate\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

30. [\*Government line on Gaza suggests we have forgotten our own history\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

31. [\*Israelis adopt besieged Sderot Zionists and allies rally to town living under storm of rockets\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

32. [\*Column: Reflecting upon the War on Terror\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

33. [\*Hurfeish guards the North and strives to succeed. Mayor hopes ORT 'Smart Classroom' will give boost to Druse town on 'the periphery of the periphery'\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

34. [\*DIGEST\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

35. [\*TZIPI LIVNI\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

36. [\*Peace advocates seem to have blinders on\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

37. [Israel's next big hope](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

38. [Letters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

39. [CAMERON: I'LL CURB MUSLIM FANATICS EXCLUSIVE Tories to get tough on UK extremists](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

40. [Prisoner exchange stalled; Israeli Soldier; Hamas insists on release of 1,400 Palestinians](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

41. [Caramel](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors



**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

42. [TODAY IN HISTORY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

43. [Burka issue goes deeper](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

44. [Sevendays](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

45. [Seven days](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

46. [Getting it down on paper is just the start FOCUS - THE DEFENCE DEBATE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

47. [Israeli President set to ask Livni to form new government](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

48. [Bloc, Liberals fight for swing voters; Two foreign-born women have each won the riding in the past two elections](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

49. [Israel agrees to free 150 Palestinians](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

50. [Lebanon as seen through a warped looking glass](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

51. [TODAY IN HISTORY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

52. [TODAY IN HISTORY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

53. [Peace movement hypocrisy](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

54. [Mute mufti told to speak up and lead](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

55. [Israel vote puts Barak on path to a comeback](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

56. [Digest](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

57. [Israel vote puts Barak on path to a comeback](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

58. [\*Mute mufti told to speak up and lead\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

59. [\*Militants killed as Lebanese tanks pound refugee camp\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

60. [\*HEAD OF IMF RESIGNING IN FALL\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

61. [\*World datelines\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

62. [\*Where does Australia stand on carnage in Gaza?\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

63. [\*Will Israeli army allow women on the battlefield?\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

64. [\*The end of peaceful Islam\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

65. [\*Guardian Weekly: Books: The colours of Allah\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

66. [\*Brown unveils sweeping changes; Only one British cabinet post unchanged\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

67. [\*OPP WALKS OUT OVER STUDENT'S MURDER\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

68. [\*Guardian Weekly: Israelis are choosing a bubble existence: After 60 years the song of peace has been muffled by cynicism and distance\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

69. [\*It seems almost absurdly exotic at this remove, but in the early 1980s there was at least one punk living in Tehran.\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

70. [\*Where is Israel 's satellite TV news channel?\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

71. [\*Israel mobilizes troops as assault widens\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

72. [\*Israel widens Gaza attack Death toll nears 300 as air offensive targets Hamas leaders\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

73. [Rockets are fired from Lebanon into north Israel Possibility of second front in war seen](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

74. [World datelines](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

75. [World Report](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

76. [Deadly gamble in Hamas rout](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

77. [Wounded Soldier: A Lebanon Casualty's Road to Recovery](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

78. [Comment & Debate: Gaza after a Hamas rout will be an even greater threat to Israel : Amid the rubble there would be a leadership vacuum, opening the door for Somali -style warlords or even al-Qaida](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

79. [INSIDE THE TIMES: January 5, 2009](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

80. [INSIDE THE TIMES: June 2, 2008](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

81. [Middle East violence deeper reality for some](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

82. [Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait , meets leaders](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009



83. [\*Italian peacekeepers tread softly in wounded land\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

84. [\*Motherly eyes in the sky. Two soldiers with babies are part of a growing number of females selected by the air force to serve in prestigious positions\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

85. [\*For Israel, it's about deterrence; Hamas 'still has the ability to launch 100 rockets a day,' but having them and not firing them may be good enough to allow Israel to declare victory in Gaza\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

86. [\*National: Iran : Riches galore, but president's wasteful ways leave country in economic mess: Rural support could win Ahmadinejad second term, despite his many critics\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

87. [\*Medical workers say death toll reaches 1,000\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

88. [\*Overwhelming force is the only way to fight terrorists\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

89. [\*Smoke Screen Israel 's cause is just but some of its tactics are self-defeating\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

90. [\*Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait , meets leaders\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

91. [\*Want the best president for Israel?\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

92. [\*Woman's bid to be Israel 's prime minister under fire\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

93. [\*Latest 'martyr' buried in Lebanon ; Political assassination fuels will to hold presidential vote\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

94. [Pathological culture kills](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

95. [CNN "\(EURO\)sÃ„Ã's Soledad O"\(EURO\)sÃ„Ã'Brien talks diversity on TV, behind the scenes and in our lives Oct. 14 at Langford](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

96. [Guardian Weekly: Reply: Attack on Gaza](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

97. [Bin laden calls for jihad as ceasefire pondered in Gaza; Death toll tops 1,000 as Egyptian truce proposal considered](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

98. [Keothavong courts danger Mark Hodgkinson meets the girl who earned a Wimbledon place by winning in the face of adversity](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

99. [Hamas failure to fight may be a trap](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

100. [Secular Israelis reclaim their heritage](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

## *Burgeoning Beirut bourgeois*

The Jerusalem Post

November 28, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 32

**Length:** 1734 words

**Byline:** SARAH MELTSNER

**Highlight:** An incognito American-Israeli writer plumbs the bowels of Beirut's nightlife and finds a mod mob of disaffected cosmopolitan 20-somethings biding their time till they leave Lebanon

### **Body**

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It's Friday night and we're piled into a SUV, headed toward Gemmayze - the uber-hip district of the moment in Beirut where young people go to party. My host sits in the passenger seat, a baseball cap perched on his brown hair, the bill tilted to the side. He leans over to his friend, who is driving, and asks him, his voice light as though he were telling the opening line of a joke, "How would you describe your political and cultural leanings?"

His friend snorts. "Do you have a cigarette?" He turns up the music - Portishead - and leans an elbow on the open window. Cool night air flows in.

"Can I quote you?" I quip.

"Sure," he says with a laugh. "My name is Mustafa." Everyone laughs then - his name is not Mustafa. But he knows he's talking to a journalist, knows I've come from Israel, so on-the-record names are off limits.

This is not what I intended. The plan was to come as an American tourist for a glimpse of Beirut's notorious nightlife. I had hoped to leave regional politics out of it.

We ride in silence for awhile, the conversation as idle as our car while we sit in bumper-to-bumper traffic, music blaring from the open windows.

Mustafa is smoking a cigarette when someone poses the question to him, "How do you feel about Israel?"

"I don't feel about Israel," he answers, a puff of smoke drifting from his mouth.

We pass a billboard with a large digital clock glowing red. Mustafa gestures towards it. "This tells how long it's been since the assassination." He's referring to the 2005 car explosion that killed Lebanon's former prime minister, Rafik Hariri.

As the city parts to reveal a sandstone-colored mosque capped by deep cerulean blue domes, Mustafa gestures again, "And this is where he's buried. It's like a tribute to him or something."

We're walking through Gemmayze - a blur of thickly- packed bars, restaurants, and clubs, traffic inching through narrow streets - when one of our group, a guy I'll refer to as B, tells me, "We're only about 20 minutes away from the complete and desolate poverty of the refugee camps."

## Burgeoning Beirut bourgeois

But you'd never know it in this picturesque section of Beirut with its burgeoning bourgeois scene. Buildings with well-maintained facades showing European architectural influences infused with Middle Eastern elements line the sidewalks packed with well-dressed Lebanese. The atmosphere is exhilarating. It's a place where the backdrop of Lebanon itself - a country rocked by instability - almost disappears.

Of the Beirut propensity to party, I think of my Lebanese friend - a young professional in her thirties, educated overseas that has spent a large part of her life abroad - who once told me it's simply that, "We love to have a good time."

"It has nothing to do with everything that goes on here?" I asked her.

She was silent for a moment, thoughtful. She spoke to me about her reaction to the events that occurred in May, when Hizbullah flexed its muscles throughout the country, Beirut included, "The day the fighting started, I was in my room, working, and I heard the gunshots. I thought, 'huh, that's weird,' but I figured it was fireworks or something. I came out of my room later and my mom was glued to the TV. She told me what was happening. But I didn't want to know what was going on."

My friend held her hands up to either side of her face, mimicking blinders. "My mother was watching the news all the time and I told her, 'if something really serious happens, tell me.' So what did I do? Every day I went to the beach and every night I went out." She says that the bars that stayed open during the fighting in May were overflowing.

Our first stop is Joe Pena's Cantina y Bar. There's a large mural of the Corona Extra logo painted on a wall. The bar is packed, and so are the tables - young Beirutis enjoying a late dinner before a long night out. The menu is printed in English, and many of the Beirutis speak English with each other, switching to Arabic to speak to the waiters.

My host, B, and I go to the bar while our other companions order dinner. I order the house specialty, an applhina - vodka, fresh lime, passion fruit, and fresh apple juice. It is both sweet and sour, and I drink it quickly as I talk to the man next to me, our voices raised over the music - the Spanish version of "Hotel California," a la The Big Lebowski.

He has recently finished medical school and is leaving Beirut soon to practice in Chicago. He says that people like him frequent Joe Pena's. He gestures to the crowd, "Most have lived away. And when you live away, your mind- set changes."

My host has a similar take on the Joe Pena's crowd. He says they're the "upper echelon" of Lebanese society, and accordingly, many of them have spent a significant portion of their lives abroad.

"They're removed from the political system, from the social system. They're independent and financially stable. They come back here [to Lebanon] and they just want to have fun."

B offers a simple assessment of the scene, "The women here would be beautiful if they hadn't all been chiseled to perfection."

We join our companions, who are finishing their meals. My drink is gone. Someone in the group shoves another one in front of me, Almaza, the Lebanese pilsner.

"The best beer in the world!" he says, raising his bottle to me. He's got close-cropped black hair, square black-framed glasses, a thick stubble on his face. He wears a plain T-shirt, jeans, and Converse low-tops. He looks like he could be a Tel Avivi.

After a debate about arak - is it better straight or with water? - B and I order shots.

The two of us sit across from each other at the end of the long, crowded table. With alcohol coursing through our veins, the conversation quickly turns serious, something I was hoping, on some level, to avoid. I offer my opinion that the country is held hostage by political factions, by instability and infighting. B agrees.

## Burgeoning Beirut bourgeois

"Lebanon is the little country that could," he says. "It's at the wrong place, at the wrong time. There's so much potential here." He shakes his head, squashes the end of his cigarette out on the table. It occurs to me that some might say the same about Israel. Inevitably, the talk veers in that direction.

"I, personally, am not concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict," B tells me. "Lebanon has enough problems of its own. Look, there's no such thing as Arab nationalism. There's no such thing as Arab unity. It's a lie."

As for B, he feels disconnected from both Lebanon and his Arab roots. He explains: English is his first language and he speaks it better than Arabic, he has spent most of his life overseas, and when he finishes university he intends to leave Lebanon.

This sentiment is echoed by another Lebanese university student who speaks to me at our new location, Treesome, which is very chic and very dark.

Away from the group crowded at the bar, we stand by a birch tree that protrudes from the floor and is, presumably, the inspiration for the name of the establishment. He tells me that he is a US citizen and has spent the majority of his life in the States. He says he also doesn't intend to stay in Lebanon when he finishes university.

He mentions that he was in Beirut in 2006, during the war. He sat out the conflict in his apartment, with his brother, where they drank whiskey and listened to bombings carried out by the IDF.

Although he says he won't stay in Lebanon and he doesn't want to raise his children here, he hopes that they, like him, will attend university in Beirut.

"It's all the Lebanese can do, send their kids to school here," he says.

A shot is passed to me. I look to our companions at the bar. One of our group raises his glass at me, "Welcome to Lebanon!" he says and everyone echoes his sentiment. We throw the alcohol down our throats.

I'm a curiosity, as out-of-place as the tree I'm standing next to, but the group has become more comfortable with me. Or maybe they're emboldened by drinking. Either way, I find that I am answering questions now rather than asking them, or more actually, answering the same question again and again: "What's it like there?"

"There" meaning Israel.

I consider the fact that more Jews live in the Diaspora than in Israel, just as more Lebanese live overseas than in Lebanon. I think of trips like birthright and the many different volunteer and study programs that seek to foster a connection to the homeland in the Middle East, similar to how the Lebanese send their children to university in Beirut. I think of how different life in Israel is from the images in the media, and that, so far, the same seems to be true of Lebanon.

I tell them that, in many ways, "there" isn't so different from here.

"But our bars are better, right?" they ask.

The group insists that I can't leave Beirut without going to BO18 - an old bomb shelter that has been converted into a dance club. They say it's a quintessential part of the nightlife.

I spend Saturday morning and afternoon walking off my hangover. I start in the Hamra neighborhood - a district that was seized by Hizbullah in May and that serves as home to American University Beirut. Near to campus, posters advertising concerts and other events have been papered onto a construction barrier.

One reads "Confronting Memories: Explorations in Film." The series is part of a larger, year-long cultural project titled "What is to be done? Lebanon's War-Loaded Memory."

## Burgeoning Beirut bourgeois

I stop to write it down. When I open my notebook, I find B's drunken doodles from the night before - random sketches and song lyrics, including lines from a Pink Floyd tune: 'Should we shout, should we scream? What happened to the post-war dream?'

As I walk the city, I turn the words from the poster over and over in my head again and again. Whether her memory is laden with violence or not, Beirut is like a scrappy but unbeatable kid - righting herself on shaky legs after every fight, ready to have a go again. Sagging buildings, abandoned and pock-marked with bullet holes, sit just blocks from the fresh-faced downtown where millions of dollars have been poured into restoration and revitalization. The people I see there - "tourists from the Gulf States" locals tell me - are taking leisurely meals at cafes, filling the outdoor tables, enjoying the comfortable weather of late summer.

Beirut, rising to stand once again, is a work in progress - the clamber of construction, the large cranes littering the skyline and the many empty storefronts serve as testimony to that.

## Graphic

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5 photos: The Mohammed al-Amin Mosque, brainchild of the late prime minister Rafik Hariri. Beirut nightlife. Gemmayze - a blur of thickly-packed bars, restaurants, and clubs with traffic inching through narrow streets. 'We're only about 20 minutes away from the complete and desolate poverty of the refugee camps,' says one Beiruti. Buildings with well-maintained facades showing European architectural influences are infused with Middle Eastern elements. Sagging buildings, abandoned and pock-marked with bullet holes, sit just blocks from the fresh-faced downtown where millions of dollars have been poured into restoration and revitalization. Beirut nightlife. (Credit: SARAH MELTSNER)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011



## **SENDING BLESSINGS OF WARMTH, CARING**

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 2, 2008 Saturday

North Edition

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**Section:** PASCO TIMES; Pg. 3

**Length:** 340 words

**Byline:** MICHELLE JONES, Times Staff Writer

**Dateline:** HUDSON

**Highlight:** Members of the Sew 'n Sews of All Saints Lutheran Church have made quilts for the needy for 15 years.

### **Body**

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Providing warmth on a cold night, protection from the sun on a hot day and even becoming a bed, a room divider or a backpack to carry belongings, a quilt can be a special blessing to those in need.

The Sew 'n Sews of All Saints Lutheran Church in Hudson have been making quilts to be distributed worldwide by Lutheran World Relief for the past 15 years. During that time Mae Voltz, the head of the group, says they have probably made close to a 1,000 quilts.

"We average 55 a year," she said.

Last Sunday, deemed "Quilt/Blanket Sunday" at the church, the 75 quilts the group created this past year were blessed by the Rev. George Meslow before being packed up and sent to areas of greatest need around the world. The congregation prayed for the people who would receive them.

When fighting broke out last year between Israel and Hezbollah, Lutheran World Relief's response to the humanitarian crisis included a shipment of 10,500 quilts and 18,700 health kits for people displaced by the violence.

Even in the Sahara, a warm quilt is a blessing. Temperatures go higher than 100 degrees during the day but can drop to the low 50s after the sun sets. The sick and elderly especially appreciate the quilts.

"Knowing (I'm) helping someone who needs to keep warm anywhere in the world makes me feel good," said Voltz.

The members of the group, who number anywhere from four to seven each week, make the quilt tops and backs at home and get together Thursdays at 10 a.m. to add filler and sew the quilts together.

"All the material is donated except for the filler," said Voltz.

The women have become good friends as they reach out to the needy of the world.

Pastor Meslow said he was overwhelmed with the number of quilts dedicated this year.

## SENDING BLESSINGS OF WARMTH, CARING

"This is a special example of our ability to share with those in need," he said. "It is a work of faith, love and charity. It is a absolute example of what Jesus wants us to do."

Where to call

Church information

All Saints Lutheran Church is at 9525 Hudson Ave. in Hudson, and the telephone number is (727) 862-9525.

## Graphic

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PHOTO, JANEL SCHROEDER-NORTON, Times: Mae Voltz, 90, left, Maxine Motz, 80, center, and Edith Oestering, 79, sit in pews lined with some of the quilts that they and fellow quilters have made to be distributed all over the world. "I wish I could know where just one of the quilts went," says Motz. They do not put any identification on the quilts because they may go to countries that don't allow the teaching of different religions.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2008

## *Bush 'optimistic' about Middle East conference*

Guardian.com

November 26, 2007

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theguardian

**Length:** 846 words

**Highlight:** George Bush today expressed optimism about peace in the Middle East as he sought to persuade Ehud Olmert and Mahmoud Abbas to agree a joint statement of principles before the Annapolis conference

### **Body**

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George Bush today expressed optimism about peace in the Middle East as he sought to persuade Ehud Olmert and Mahmoud Abbas to agree a joint statement of principles before the Annapolis conference.

The president held separate talks at the White House with the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian president, 24 hours before they were due to convene at the US naval academy in Maryland - an ambitious but risky attempt to relaunch negotiations after seven years of bloodshed and stalemate.

"I'm looking forward to continuing our serious dialogue with you and the president of the Palestinian Authority to see whether or not peace is possible," Bush said after meeting with Olmert in the oval office.

He had a similar meeting scheduled with Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas later in the day. "I'm optimistic," Bush said.

Yasser Abed-Rabbo, a senior aide to Abbas, said: "There is a persistent American effort to have this statement."

Agreement has been bedevilled so far by conflicting needs: the Palestinians want a detailed text on specific issues with a timetable; the Israelis prefer something more vague and general.

Attendance by heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Syria is giving the summit a strong Arab presence, including the first ever involvement in peace talks with Israel by the entire 22-member Arab League. Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, told Time Magazine he was impressed by the "the determination of the United States to see this through".

After opening speeches by Bush, Olmert and Abbas, the conference will go into closed session. One of them will see Tony Blair briefing on his efforts to boost Palestinian economic development and governance on behalf of the Quartet of Middle East peacemakers.

Syria is to attend the US-brokered conference tomorrow, guaranteeing broad Arab support for the event. Confirmation that President Bashar al-Assad is sending his deputy foreign minister means that the Maryland meeting will be the best-attended Middle Eastern conference since the Madrid conference in 1991 - although the stakes are higher and expectations far lower.

## Bush 'optimistic' about Middle East conference

Israeli and Palestinian officials worked against the clock to try to agree an elusive joint declaration on principles for peace amid near-universal gloom about the long-term prospects of reaching a workable solution.

Abbas and Olmert arrived in Washington yesterday and declared their determination to make progress, but acknowledged the difficulties. "I have come in order to fulfil the desire of the Palestinian people for their own state," said Abbas.

Olmert told reporters he hoped the summit would launch negotiations on "all the core issues that will result in a solution of two states for two peoples".

But in Gaza and sealed off from Israel, the leader of Hamas, Abbas's bitter enemy, Ismail Haniyeh, said: "Any decisions that emerge from this conference ... will not be binding on the Palestinian people, only on those who signed them."

Thousands of women demonstrated against Annapolis, waving banners that read: "The enemy knows only the language of force." Iran condemned the conference as "supporting the Zionist occupiers".

In Gaza's latest violence, a Hamas militant was killed and four others were wounded by an Israeli missile strike in northern Gaza.

Diplomats said Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, was trying last night to bridge the gaps. Negotiations have been deadlocked for weeks over whether the document should address the final borders between Israel and a Palestinian state, Jerusalem, and refugees. Israel wants to keep it vague; the Palestinians want detail and a timetable.

The idea is to jumpstart talks aimed at creating a Palestinian state before Bush leaves office in January 2009. These will be the first substantive negotiations since the collapse of talks in the dying days of the Clinton administration. That was followed by the second intifada, which claimed 4,000 Palestinian and 1,000 Israeli lives.

The question is, what can happen beyond tomorrow's ritual speeches? Both leaders face powerful opposition - Abbas from Hamas and Olmert from coalition partners and opposition parties against concessions on settlements, Jerusalem and easing restrictions in the West Bank.

Arab attendance provides one glimmer of hope. Syria had insisted it would only come if there was discussion of the Golan Heights, still occupied 40 years after the 1967 Middle East war. The country's official news agency said Syria had been told there would be a session on reviving peace talks with Israel.

Faysal Mekdad, Syria's deputy foreign minister, is a senior enough figure to avoid a snub, but not so high-level as to constitute a ringing endorsement of the event.

Dialogue with Syria was one of the recommendations of the Hamilton-Baker commission for the aftermath of the Iraq war. Damascus backs Hamas and Hizbullah in Lebanon, both enemies of the US and Israel.

Under US pressure, Saudi Arabia is sending its foreign minister, the veteran Prince Saud al-Faisal, although he made clear there would be no "normalisation" or handshakes with Israeli leaders.

**Load-Date:** November 26, 2007

## *Veteran politician Peres is sworn in as Israel's president*

The Toronto Star  
July 16, 2007 Monday

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**Section:** WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA01

**Length:** 421 words

**Byline:** Oakland Ross, Toronto Star

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Former Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres was sworn in as the country's ninth president last night, a month shy of his 84th birthday.

Peres, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 for his role in forging the Oslo peace agreement between Israel and Palestinians, replaces Moshe Katsav in the largely ceremonial post.

Katsav resigned last month after pleading guilty to several charges of sexual harassment lodged by women who had worked with him.

Yesterday, in the presence of politicians and dignitaries gathered at the Knesset, or parliament, Peres accepted the seven-year post, declaring that Israel "must be a good and warm home for Jews who are not Israelis, as well as for Israelis who are not Jews." Born in what is now Poland, Peres moved to the Holy Land with his family at a young age and has been a fixture on Israel's political scene since the nation's founding in 1948. He has served twice as prime minister and has held the defence, finance, and foreign affairs portfolios.

Rumours emerged this past spring that he might consider another run for the prime minister's office if Ehud Olmert were forced to resign following a scathing report on his part in last year's war between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas in neighbouring Lebanon.

But Olmert continues as prime minister, and last month Peres easily won a three-way contest for the presidency when both his opponents stepped aside following a first-round vote that gave him a commanding lead. Only members of the 120-seat Knesset were eligible to cast ballots.

Meanwhile, another long-established Israeli institution yesterday won at least a temporary reprieve from what had looked to be its imminent death.

The 69-year-old Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra was to have been closed down yesterday unless a solution were found to its severe money problems.

No such solution has yet been devised, but Judge Ezra Kama of the Jerusalem Regional Court ordered the Israeli Broadcasting Authority - the orchestra's chief source of funds - to continue paying salaries to the ensemble's 78 musicians and other employees until Oct. 14, as efforts to find new sources of revenue continue.

## Veteran politician Peres is sworn in as Israel 's president

Earlier this year, the broadcasting authority abruptly announced a 60 per cent reduction in its annual contribution to the orchestra's budget, plunging the body into immediate crisis.

Yesterday, Kama said he did not wish to be remembered as the judge who closed the symphony down and urged the government to find money to support "a cultural institution that proudly projects the name of Jerusalem."

## Graphic

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avi ohayon getty images Shimon Peres, left, is embraced by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert yesterday.david Silverman reuters Shimon Peres takes his presidential oath of office yesterday during ceremony at Israel's parliament.david Silverman reuters Shimon Peres takes his presidential oath of office yesterday during ceremony at Israel's parliament.

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2007

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## *Gunmen in Lebanese siege dig in for 'two-year battle'*

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

May 27, 2007 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; International; Pg. 29

**Length:** 475 words

**Byline:** HARRY DE QUETTEVILLE in Nahr al Bared

### **Body**

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ISLAMIC FIGHTERS in the siege at Lebanon's Nahr al Bared refugee camp claim to have spent months digging underground bunkers ahead of a battle they promise will last "two years or more".

In an echo of last summer's war in Lebanon, when *Hezbollah* fighters used tunnel networks to inflict casualties on Israeli troops, militants at the camp north of Beirut say they have dug in for guerrilla combat with the Lebanese army. Shihab al-Qaddour, the deputy leader of the Fatah al Islam group, promised that his band of several hundred "battle-hardened" fighters had built extensive subterranean fortifications.

"We are prepared for a battle that will last two years or more," he said in an interview with the London-based Al Hayat newspaper. "We are ready to blow up Beirut and every other place in Lebanon."

The bunkers could pose a further challenge for the limited capabilities of the Lebanese army, whose forces have been authorised to storm the militants' hideout after receiving new equipment from the United States last week.

The supplies, consisting of bombs, bullets and body armour, are also believed to include night-vision equipment, although it is not clear whether the Lebanese forces have had the necessary training to put the American military donations to good use.

Mr al-Qaddour's description of his men as veterans of global jihad tallied with the terrified accounts of Palestinians who have managed to escape their camp-turned-battlefield.

They have described long-bearded men in flowing robes roaming the narrow breeze-block alleyways of the camp on motorcycles, imposing Islamic law with beatings and summary justice since their arrival six months ago.

**Women** not wearing the veil were targeted as tensions rose in the camp between its 40,000 residents and the Fatah al Islam newcomers, those among the exodus have reported.

"Even if they were not very numerous, they still scared everyone," said Shawki el Hajj, 40, speaking at the Beddawi refugee camp nearby, where many of those who have fled are taking shelter.

"There were some Palestinians among them, but there were also foreigners, such as Saudis and Yemenis who had fought against the Americans in Iraq."

Others in Beddawi said the Fatah al Islam members spent much of their time reading the Koran, and despite not working had plenty of money.

## Gunmen in Lebanese siege dig in for 'two-year battle'

Their obvious extremism and battle experience quickly subdued any opposition from the long-standing Palestinian militant groups, Fatah and Hamas, that police the 12 Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, which are home to some 400,000 people.

Under a decades-old agreement, the Lebanese army is not allowed to enter the camps. But from positions around Nahr al Bared, it has been closely monitoring the fighters. Over the past few days Lebanese soldiers have been resupplying, having run out of ammunition. An assault is expected this week.

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2007

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End of Document



### World datelines

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

February 4, 2008 Monday

Copyright 2008 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

**Length:** 484 words

**Byline:** Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

### **Body**

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Brazil: 20% forest shrinkage

SAO PAULO -- Two Brazilian research groups said the Amazon rain forest will shrink nearly 20 percent by 2030 as farming, road construction and poor government surveillance speed deforestation, according to a study published Sunday.

As many as 260,000 square miles of forest may be destroyed in the next 22 years, according to the University of Minas Gerais and the Amazon Institute of Environmental Research.

Brazil: Mudslides claim 9

RIO DE JANEIRO -- Torrential downpours triggered mudslides that killed at least nine people Sunday near Rio de Janeiro, authorities said.

Three children were among the victims after homes and roads were swept away in the mountainous region of Petropolis, outside of Rio de Janeiro, authorities and the official government news service Agencia Brasil said Sunday.

Britain: Bhutto was warned

LONDON -- In an autobiography being published after her assassination, Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said she was warned that four suicide bomber squads would try to kill her, one led by Osama bin Laden's 16-year-old son.

Bhutto -- who was killed in Rawalpindi in December -- wrote that Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf and a "foreign Muslim government" had informed her these squads were planning her murder, according to excerpts of the book, which is to be published on Feb. 12.

Lebanon: Israelis open fire

BEIRUT -- Israeli forces opened fire across the Lebanese border late Sunday, killing one person and wounding another, Lebanese security officials said.

The Israeli military said it was responding to fire apparently from drug smugglers on the Lebanese side. Such shootings have been rare since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war.

Rwanda: Quakes wreak havoc

## World datelines

KIGALI -- Two earthquakes struck hours apart Sunday in Rwanda and neighboring Congo, killing at least 39 people, including some who were in a church that collapsed in a temblor, officials said.

Nearly 400 people were injured.

A magnitude-6.0 quake struck Congo early, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The second quake, which registered 5.0, hit a few hours later near the countries' border in Rwanda's rural Rusizi District.

Serbia: Pro-Western chief wins

BELGRADE -- Serbia's pro-Western president won a closely contested election Sunday, edging an ally of late autocrat Slobodan Milosevic days before an expected declaration of independence by the breakaway Kosovo province.

President Boris Tadic won 51 percent of the vote, while Tomislav Nikolic, who ruled with Milosevic during the wars in the Balkans in the 1990s, had 47 percent, according to the state electoral commission.

Sri Lanka: Bomber kills 11

COLOMBO -- A **female** suicide bomber attacked the main railway station in the Sri Lankan capital Sunday, killing at least 11 people and wounding 92 others, officials said.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the bomber got down from a train and then blew herself up.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2008

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End of Document

## News Summary

The New York Times

April 22, 2007 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section 1; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

**Length:** 479 words

### **Body**

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INTERNATIONAL 3-18 Making Detainees Talk in Iraq In the joint American and Iraqi operation to clear insurgents from dangerous neighborhoods, American troops are confronted with a problem: how to deal with their Iraqi counterparts' aggressive interrogation techniques, including beatings. 1 A military investigation has found that the Marine Corps chain of command in Iraq showed a routine and blatant disregard for the lives of Iraqi civilians that contributed to its "willful" failure to investigate an attack by marines that killed 24 unarmed Iraqis. 18 Kremlin Tightens Grip on Radio Radio news in Russia has been a rare bright spot in a darkening media landscape.

But new rules imposed on Russia's largest independent radio news network leave an increasingly small number of news outlets not managed by the government. 1 New Defiance in Israeli Settlers Jewish settlers evacuated from Gaza by the Israeli government 20 months ago are showing greater assertiveness in protesting the moves. They are taking advantage of the weakened position of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who, after the rise to power of Hamas and Israel's war with Hezbollah in Lebanon last summer, is in no position to challenge the settlers. 1 About a dozen masked Palestinians bombed and set fire to the American International School in Beit Lahiya, north of Gaza City, school officials and Palestinian security officials said, causing extensive damage, but no injuries. 10 Nigeria Vote Begins in Chaos Nigeria's presidential election began amid chaos, with a botched attempt to smash a truck bomb into the headquarters of the electoral commission in the nation's capital and with ballots arriving late to polling places and lacking vital information to identify candidates and prevent fraud. 3 NATIONAL 20-27 Infant Death Rate Up in South For decades, Mississippi and neighboring states with large black populations and expanses of enduring poverty made steady progress in reducing infant death. But progress has stalled, and in recent years the death rate has risen in Mississippi and several other states. 1 Gunman's Silence and Rage From the beginning, Seung-Hui Cho did not talk, and his mother agonized over his brooding behavior. Interviews with investigators, relatives, classmates and teachers show how Mr. Cho progressed from silence to murderous rage, and how he meticulously prepared for his final hours. 1 Giuliani's Immigration Stance A decade ago, as mayor of New York, Rudolph W. Giuliani often defended illegal immigrants. But now he is running for president, and the politics of immigration in the post-9/11 world is vastly different. 1 NEW YORK/REGION 29-34 More Men Living Downtown Men now outnumber women in Lower Manhattan by a ratio of 126 to 100, a disparity usually seen only in towns with prisons or military bases. 29 Chess 34 Weather 24

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** April 22, 2007

## News Summary

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End of Document

### **Brown's team hailed**

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

June 30, 2007 Saturday

Copyright 2007 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 26

**Length:** 506 words

## **Body**

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AFP

NEW British Prime Minister Gordon Brown won plaudits yesterday for his first Cabinet since taking over from Tony Blair.

His senior ministerial team, which included a loyal and trusted ally succeeding him as Chancellor of the Exchequer and the youngest Foreign Secretary for 30 years, was described as bold, and an effective combination of freshness and experience.

Alistair Darling, 53, succeeded Brown as Chancellor, and David Miliband, 41, replaced Margaret Beckett as foreign secretary.

Miliband is the youngest person to hold the post since David Owen in 1977.

Brown's efforts to convey to the public that he was leading a fresh government won the praise of much of the British press, although The Daily Telegraph, a right-wing paper often critical of the Labour Party, described the Cabinet as "radical and bold".

The Guardian, a left-wing paper, said: "From a mix of old planks and new boards, Gordon Brown yesterday managed to nail together a Cabinet that lived up to his promise of considered change."

Miliband, a "Blairite" tipped as a future Labour Party leader, said he was "tremendously honoured and absolutely delighted" to be appointed Foreign Secretary and pledged to bring leadership and be "patient as well as purposeful."

Some of the appointments, including that of Miliband, indicate that Brown will shift emphasis in the run-up to Britain's next general election, which is due by May 2010 at the latest.

Miliband, who vowed to use the Foreign Ministry "to maximum effect" to build a better Britain and world, last year criticised Blair's stand on Israel's war with **Hezbollah** militants in Lebanon.

Brown also appointed Iraq war critic Mark Malloch Brown, the outspoken former deputy secretary-general of the United Nations, as Minister responsible for Africa, Asia and the UN while former junior interior minister and strong US critic John Denham returns as a junior minister in the Education Ministry.

Other notable appointments include Jacqui Smith as Britain's first **female** Home Secretary and Baroness Patricia Scotland as the first **female** -- and first black -- Attorney-General.

## Brown's team hailed

Ed Balls, Brown's long-standing economics adviser, took up a new role as Children, Schools and Families Secretary, while his wife Yvette Cooper will continue as Housing Minister -- the first time a husband and wife have been in a British Cabinet.

### THE MAIN PLAYERS

Chancellor of the Exchequer: Alistair Darling

Foreign Secretary: David Miliband

Home Secretary: Jacqui Smith

Defence, Scottish Secretary: Des Browne

Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor: Jack Straw

International Development: Douglas Alexander

Environment: Hilary Benn

Health: Alan Johnson

Northern Ireland: Shaun Woodward

Transport: Ruth Kelly

Culture: James Purnell

Work and Pensions, Welsh Secretary: Peter Hain

Communities and Local Government Secretary: Hazel Blears

Children, Schools and Families Secretary: Ed Balls

Innovation, Universities and Skills Secretary: John Denham

Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform: John Hutton

Attorney-General: Baroness Patricia Scotland THE MAIN

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2007

## *A little light amid all the mayhem; REVIEWS - PHOTOGRAPHY*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 24, 2007 Thursday

First Edition

Copyright 2007 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; Arts; Pg. 16

**Length:** 457 words

**Byline:** Reviewed by Robert McFarlane

### **Body**

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WORLD PRESS PHOTO

NSW State Library

Until July 1

ONCE a year the world's political pulse is taken by World Press Photo. In this immaculately designed touring exhibition, images by the world's best photojournalists record the business of the planet with courage, skill and a certain keen competitiveness.

This year World Press Photo is leavened slightly by lighter stories on leisure, sport and one exquisitely photographed colour essay by Maria Stenzel on those perennial comedians of the Antarctic, penguins.

But the large crowds (mostly young couples) walking quietly through World Press 07 appear most drawn to unvarnished reality gathered from profoundly afflicted, remote reaches of the world. Predictably, the Middle East dominates much of the show, with the Photo of the Year award won by a simple, almost surreal observation by American photojournalist Spencer Platt.

Platt's picture depicts a man and four stylishly dressed young women driving through Beirut's ravaged southern suburbs during a brief ceasefire in Israel's recent war with Hezbollah. Looking out from their bright red Mini convertible, the elegant quintet could be heading for a social event (one woman is intently texting with her mobile phone). But all is not as it seems. After Platt's picture won the award, the subjects came forward to point out that, far from being the wealthy voyeurs they appear to be, they are all locals and were deeply distressed by the devastation unleashed on their neighbourhood.

Other photographs include Oded Balilty's colour image of a lone female Israeli settler grimacing as she wedges her shoulders against the transparent shields of a line of Israeli riot police. The picture has a Canute-like sense of fantasy.

The image I found most arresting, however, was of several thousand citizens of earthquake-ravaged Balakot, Pakistan, praying amid the ruins of their mosque. If any event could provoke a crisis of faith it would have been this catastrophe. However, the Norwegian photographer Espen Rasmussen records the faithful praying in orderly rows as if their building still stood.

## A little light amid all the mayhem REVIEWS - PHOTOGRAPHY

As a non-profit organisation founded in the Netherlands in 1955, World Press Photo continues its charter to promote the exchange of visual information. World Press Photo 07 again stimulates, saddens and reminds the visitor of what the legendary US photographer Lewis Hine once proclaimed as his reason for using a camera: to document what should be appreciated, or changed.

Elsewhere, the Newcastle Region Art Gallery at 1 Laman Street is showing, until June 24, World's Most Photographed featuring remarkable photographs from the National Portrait Gallery, London, of celebrities such as Audrey Hepburn, President Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe, and Elvis Presley.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Turmoil ... AP's Oded Balilty took this image of a settler woman in the West Bank struggling against Israeli security officers.

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2007

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End of Document



## **Roadside bombings kill 7 U.S. soldiers, interpreter in Iraq**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 21, 2007 Monday

SECOND EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A5

**Length:** 399 words

**Byline:** By John Ward Anderson and Sudarsan Raghavan Washington Post

**Dateline:** BAGHDAD, Iraq

### **Body**

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Six U.S. soldiers and an interpreter were killed Saturday when a roadside bomb exploded near their position in western Baghdad, the U.S. military reported Sunday, underscoring the heightened vulnerability of U.S. forces as they increase their presence in the capital.

A seventh U.S. soldier was killed by a roadside bomb Saturday in Diwaniyah, about 100 miles south of Baghdad, the military said. Two soldiers were wounded in that attack.

The deaths raise to 71 the number of U.S. service members killed this month, according to iCasualties.org, an independent website that tracks military deaths.

The rising death toll comes as thousands of additional U.S. and Iraqi troops are engaged in a high-profile operation to improve the security situation in the capital. U.S. officials warned when they announced the plan in mid-February that putting as many as 25,000 additional U.S. troops in the urban environment would raise their exposure and vulnerability, and that higher casualty rates were expected.

Military deaths have been rising since fall, and the first half of this year has already been deadlier than any six-month period since the war began more than four years ago. According to iCasualties.org, 531 U.S. service members have been killed since Dec. 1, an average of more than three deaths per day, while 3,422 have died since the war began.

The troops killed Saturday in Baghdad were part of an operation searching for weapons caches and bomb-making materials in the western part of the city "to aid in providing a more secure and safe environment for the Iraqi people," the military said in a statement.

In an unrelated development, U.S. forces on Saturday killed a man they said was the mastermind of a well-planned guerrilla assault in January in which gunmen posing as Americans drove into a government compound in the southern holy city of Karbala, killed a U.S. soldier, then abducted four other U.S. soldiers who were later killed.

Azhar al-Dulaimi was linked to the attack by fingerprints found at the scene, said Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, the U.S. military's top spokesman. Caldwell added that other evidence showed al-Dulaimi was trained by Iranian

## Roadside bombings kill 7 U.S. soldiers, interpreter in Iraq

intelligence operatives and the Lebanese Shiite movement **Hezbollah**. There was no indication the Iranian government had ordered the Karbala attack, he said.

Meanwhile, more than two dozen Iraqis were reported killed in violence Sunday.

## Notes

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Iraq

## Graphic

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### PHOTO

PHOTO - A U.S. soldier is watched by Iraqi **women** during a patrol Sunday in the village of Quarghuli, Iraq, south of Baghdad. Eight days earlier, an attack there left four U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi soldier dead and three Americans missing. The Associated Press

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2007

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End of Document

## *Media: Press analysis: Why we have to let pictures tell the real story*

The Guardian - Final Edition

January 12, 2009 Monday

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theguardian

**Section:** GUARDIAN MEDIA PAGES; Pg. 2

**Length:** 946 words

**Byline:** Peter Wilby

### **Body**

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British media coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict has changed radically over the past five years. From broad sympathy for Israel, the tone has become critical and hostile. This has been evident during the invasion of Gaza, just as it was during the Israeli incursion into Lebanon in 2006. Media attitudes are largely dictated by what makes good drama and, above all, by pictures. The violent death of 700 people in a week - in the midst of shattered homes and schools - is a bigger and more shocking story than the same number of deaths on, say, 30 or 40 separate occasions. The Independent's Robert Fisk said on the BBC that "it is the job of journalists to be impartial on the side of those who suffer most". But as Fisk knows, it isn't like that: journalists are impartial on the side of those who suffer most visibly and dramatically.

Since the beginning of the second intifada in 2000, Palestinian casualties have exceeded Israeli casualties by four to one. But for several years, this was obscured by the attention given to suicide bombings inside Israel, which reached a peak of 55 in 2002. Suicide bombing, always a story, became a bigger one after 9/11, when it was believed Britain faced similar threats. Even in 2002, Palestinians suffered at least twice as many casualties, but not in the same dramatic manner. Now suicide bombings have virtually disappeared - there was only one in 2007 - and rocket attacks from Gaza have killed just 14 Israelis in four years.

What such figures do not reveal, argues the Daily Mail's fiercely pro-Israel columnist Melanie Phillips, is how, in parts of Israel, "traumatised children" are "all but living in bomb shelters". In the same way, Palestinian supporters used to complain that nobody reported how suicide bombings were prompted by the daily misery of military occupation in Gaza and the West Bank. As Israeli opinion sees it, rocket attacks from Hizbullah and Hamas, both allies of Iran, pose far more of an existential threat than suicide bombing did. But no amount of lobbying and PR can get away from a simple truth: Israelis no longer appear as victims.

So, always excepting Phillips, Israel has had little support even from usually reliable quarters. Stephen Glover, while endorsing nearly all arguments in Israel's favour, also insisted in the Mail: "We cannot . . . defend what is happening. The disproportionality is too great." In the Mail on Sunday, Peter Hitchens, describing himself as "a consistent hardline supporter of the Jewish state", argued that there was "no important way" in which Israel's bombing and shelling differed from Arab murders of Israeli women and children.

## Media: Press analysis: Why we have to let pictures tell the real story

The Daily Telegraph's Middle East correspondent, Tim Butcher, based in Jerusalem, argued that the Israeli attacks were driven by politicians looking ahead to February's elections. This was billed as "a personal view", a newspaper's way of signalling that the editor - or at least the proprietor - doesn't agree. But Butcher's piece - and the accompanying picture of a Palestinian child leaving his bombed home - must have had more impact on readers than a leader headed "Peace in Gaza is in the hands of Hamas". Only Rupert Murdoch's papers tried to show Israel in a more positive light, but they struggled. The day after Israel bombed UN schools, the Sun splashed on "Extremist threat to UK Jews", with a picture of Alan Sugar. The schools were at the bottom of page 9, below further details of the "Hate Hit List".

Earlier, the Sun thought it worth reporting that the British embassy in Tehran had been "stormed". The paper has form on this: the day after Israel killed 56 people in Qana, a Lebanese village, in 2006, it gave 10 paragraphs to the massacre, 11 to the protests (headlined "Hate in the raw") and 41 to Tony Blair's address to News International executives in California. But this time, the Sun ran pictures captioned "Devastation . . . mushroom cloud rises after bomb" and "Fireball . . . family flee".

Last Tuesday, it had a long report from Sderot - to which numerous journalists were shepherded by Israeli government spin doctors - headed "I felt blast as rockets hit homes of Israelis", along with a tiny picture of a middle-aged white man standing in what looked like a patio extension abandoned by cowboy builders. But whatever the effect on readers, it would have been overwhelmed by the picture opposite, showing a father in Gaza grieving over his three dead children.

Newspapers are supposed to be better than TV at putting over context. But they rarely are. This has always been a problem in the Israeli-Arab conflict where, as Jonathan Freedland observed in the Guardian, there is a "Newtonian chain of claimed action and reaction that can stretch back to infinity". Lack of context normally works against Palestinians who are portrayed as "terrorists" and wild "bomb-throwing militants" bent on undermining a well-ordered, western-style state. By banning foreign journalists from entering Gaza, Israel helped turn the context problem against itself. Nearly all the stories and pictures came from local Palestinian reporters and photographers. They were not likely to investigate Israeli allegations that Hamas deliberately based its fighters among civilians and fired mortars from the UN schools. Such stories had to remain as nothing more than Israeli "claims".

Not that the results of any journalistic investigation would have been acceptable to both sides. One side's context is the other side's lies and distortions. As any journalist knows, attempts at fairness and balance in the Middle East are doomed. Allowing the drama of visible events to dictate the coverage is probably the best course after all.

**Load-Date:** January 12, 2009

## **Hisbullah sworn in as EP Minister**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

May 23, 2008 Friday 3:21 PM EST

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**Length:** 156 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, May 23 -- UPFA Eastern provincial councillor M.L.A.M. **Hisbullah** was appointed a provincial minister and took his oaths before President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday.

Mr. **Hisbullah** -- who earlier refused to support Sivanesanathurai Chandrakanthan alias Pillayan as Eastern Province Chief Minister - was given the portfolios of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation and Child Care Services, **Women's** Affairs, Youth affairs, Sports, IT education, Co-operative Development and Food and Supplies Distribution.

The other two councillors Jawaheer Sally and Mohamed Subair who joined Mr. **Hisbullah** in expressing dissent were also sworn-in as councillors at yesterday's ceremony.

Eastern Province Governor Mohan Wijewickrema, Ministers Maithripala Sirisena, Karu Jayasuriya, A.H.M. Fowzi and Rishad Badurdeen were also present.

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For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**Load-Date:** August 11, 2008

## *Gamal Mubarak defends Egypt's position on Gaza, First Lady charts relief efforts*

Daily News Egypt

January 25, 2009 Sunday

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**Length:** 497 words

### **Body**

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CAIRO: Secretary General of the National Democratic Party's (NDP) policies committee, Gamal Mubarak, slammed some intellectual and media figures at a conference Saturday, accusing them of trying to incite Egyptians against the government.

"They were only opposed to Egypt's role [in its ceasefire initiative] to get attention,- he said, Al-Masry Al-Youm local daily reported Sunday.

Mubarak also condemned other countries' criticism of Egypt, questioning what they had done for the cause.

"We're with the resistance but we are not to be taught what to do,- Mubarak said.

The conference was attended by Cairo governor Abdel Azim Wazir and Assistant Secretary General of the NDP Zakaria Azmi among other party leaders.

Mubarak said that the Arab world's power hinges on Egypt, adding that the Egyptian initiative led by President Hosni Mubarak was fully implemented.

Azmi criticized **Hezbollah** leader Sayed Hassan Nasrallah and Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad.

"Nasrallah bombed Israel with a rocket and then said 'it wasn't me', Bashar Al-Assad, on the other hand, could've liberated his country, which didn't fire a bullet in 40 years, but preferred to campaign against Egypt,-Azmi said.

He added that Egypt is keen on securing its borders and refuses to have foreign forces on its land.

Several political analysts contacted by Daily News Egypt refused to comment on Mubarak's statements.

Meanwhile, First Lady Suzanne Mubarak held a conference Sunday as part of her International **Women's** Peace Movement, where she charted Egypt's efforts exerted throughout Israel's three-week brutal campaign on Gaza.

## Gamal Mubarak defends Egypt 's position on Gaza, First Lady charts relief efforts

In her speech, she highlighted the extraordinary work of the Egyptian Red Crescent which coordinated the relief efforts with other international relief and humanitarian aid agencies such as the UNRWA and the Palestinian Red Crescent.

She also announced the setting up of the Emergency Committee for the Coordination of Assistance to Gaza on Jan. 17 whose main aims are to secure safe passage of humanitarian relief, to put together a needs assessment plan in coordination with partners inside Gaza, and to ensure that Israel abides by the Fourth Geneva Convention with regards to the treatment of war casualties.

During the same conference, Minister of Health Hatem El-Gabaly announced that of the 758 Gazans wounded who left the Strip to be treated, 636 were sent to Egypt, 570 of which are still receiving treatment in Egyptian hospitals. About 58 of them are children. Twenty-seven passed away and the remaining 95 were sent to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey and Belgium.

He added that of the 182 doctors who entered Gaza to give their professional assistance, 89 were Egyptians and that Egypt was expecting over 600 patients suffering chronic illness unrelated to the fighting.

The ministry further plans to upgrade the hospitals in Sheikh Zowayed and Rafah, as well as make available tens of movable clinics to handle uncritical cases which require minimal facilities.

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**Load-Date:** January 29, 2009

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## **Hamas threatens to kill Israeli leaders**

The Australian

December 30, 2008 Tuesday

3 - All-round Metro Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 520 words

**Byline:** Abraham Rabinovich, Jerusalem

### **Body**

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HAMAS last night threatened to assassinate Israeli leaders as the bombing of the Gaza Strip entered a third day and armoured forces were deployed along the borders of the Palestinian territory.

As Israel mobilised 6700 reservists in preparation for the next stage of combat, senior Hamas official Fatah Hamad warned that the militant group would assassinate Defence Minister Ehud Barak, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and other leaders if the attacks continued.

Mr Barak countered that Israeli was in "all-out war against Hamas", as the army declared the border area a closed military zone -- a move that in the past has often been followed by ground operations in Gaza.

At least 57 civilians were among the 318 victims in Gaza, 21 of them children and at least seven women, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said last night. An Israeli Arab was killed and eight others were wounded yesterday when a missile fired from Gaza landed near a construction site in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon. Earlier, Hamas unleashed the longest-range rockets yet fired into Israel, striking near the port city of Ashdod, 40km inside the Jewish state.

Mr Hamad also threatened senior officials of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and "those in the Arab world who have conspired against us", an apparent reference to Egyptian leaders. Hamas has called for suicide bombers to attack inside Israel.

Planes used bunker buster bombs to destroy 40 tunnels through which supplies were smuggled into the Gaza Strip from Egypt, Israeli officials said.

Most of the targets hit were in Gaza City, including homes of Hamas leaders and the office of Prime Minister Ismail Haniya. A house next to Mr Haniya's home was destroyed but the Prime Minister had gone into hiding, as had other Hamas leaders.

Planes hit a security compound that included a Hamas prison, allowing dozens of prisoners to flee through the shattered walls. Also hit were two laboratory buildings at the Islamic University said by Israel to have been used to prepare explosives and fuel for rockets. Gaza's nine hospitals were reported to be overwhelmed as the number of wounded approached 1000.



## Hamas threatens to kill Israeli leaders

Israel announced that it would permit the entry into Gaza of 100 trucks carrying medicines, food and other supplies contributed by Turkey, Jordan and international organisations. Hundreds of Gaza residents breached the border fence with Egypt to escape from the Strip.

Yuval Diskin, the head of domestic spy agency Shin Bet, told the Israeli cabinet early yesterday that Hamas was still in shock from the scale of the onslaught but was preparing attacks it hoped would change the picture.

The cabinet approval for the mobilisation of 6700 reservists suggested any initial ground thrusts would be limited in scope. Ms Livni said Israel had no intention of reoccupying the Gaza Strip, from which it pulled out three years ago. Officials said the Foreign Ministry was already working on an exit strategy that would not involve stationing an international force in Gaza similar to that deployed in southern Lebanon after the war against **Hezbollah**.

World -- Page 7

Opinion -- Page 10

**Load-Date:** December 29, 2008

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End of Document

## *Out of the mouths of bombers*

The Jerusalem Post

July 17, 2008 Thursday

Copyright 2008 The Jerusalem Post All Rights Reserved

**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 13

**Length:** 2893 words

**Byline:** RUTHIE BLUM

**Highlight:** 'Schmoozing with Terrorists' author Aaron Klein says it's global jihad - not the short-term grievances attributed to them by the Western media - that's behind their suicide belts. One on One. Interview

### **Body**

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"The one thing the terrorists don't like," says author Aaron Klein, "is being called terrorists."

This is why, says Klein - the Jerusalem bureau chief for the right-wing news Web site WorldNetDaily.com, and a columnist for the equally conservative Jewish Press - the subjects of his best-selling book, Schmoozing with Terrorists (published by World Ahead Media), are unhappy with its title.

"They prefer to be called 'jihadists,'" explains Klein, noting the apparent nuance that is a clear-cut distinction in the eyes of those who believe it is their religious duty to spread Islam throughout the world, by any means at their disposal.

"My response was to tell those who complained to me about my use of the word that when someone violently targets civilians, that's what he is."

That members and leaders of every major Palestinian terrorist organization ever agreed to talk (via translators) to Klein - a 28-year-old "nice Jewish boy" from Philadelphia - let alone continue to contact him after reading what he writes, seems surprising, if not unlikely. Klein disagrees. Not only does he insist that any journalist who wishes to interview terrorist leaders "can simply phone them up," but, he asserts, "they are proud of their goals and achievements, and glad to have a platform for promotion."

Which begs the question: Why provide such a platform? Because, argues Klein, the West in general, and Western media in particular, tend to play down or ignore the realities of radical Islam. Klein believes it's necessary, therefore, "to educate people on what the war on terrorism is really about," by giving a genuine glimpse into the psyche of suicide bombers and their recruiters.

In an hour-long interview in Jerusalem last month, Klein tried to do just that.

What makes terrorists tick?

That's a good question. A lot of people think that terrorism is about pieces of territory - that Hizbullah just wants to get the Shaba Farms back, for example. Others think that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the whole rest of the alphabet of Palestinian terrorists simply want to destroy Israel or that al-Qaida wants America out of the Middle East. But one thing that has really been driven home to me in all my talks with terrorists - which is the thesis of all of my work - is that they are looking to serve Allah by spreading Islam around the world. That's what makes them tick.

## Out of the mouths of bombers

It is often said of terrorists that desperation and poverty - sometimes mental illness - is at the root of their actions. Is there truth to that?

It's true that if you watch CNN or read The New York Times, you would get that impression. Because whenever there's a suicide bombing in Israel, right away they present human interest stories about how the bomber is poor and living under Israeli occupation. And this is in spite of the fact that in the history of modern civilization, there's no other instance of people under occupation blowing themselves up.

But, about a year and a half ago, I met with a 22- year-old Palestinian who had been recruited to become a suicide bomber for Islamic Jihad and his recruiter in Jenin, and I specifically asked them whether they were carrying out their operations because of poverty and desperation. Their response was to get offended and call it Zionist propaganda. They explained that suicide is forbidden in Islam, and that blowing oneself up in the midst of innocent men, women and children does not constitute suicide, but rather jihad for Allah - that therefore it is not only allowed, but it is the creed.

Do the bombers actually believe they're going to paradise?

The suicide bombers themselves, and even some of the mid-level terrorists, absolutely believe they're going to paradise, where they will be met by 72 dark-eyed virgins. The senior leaders, however, don't seem to believe a lot of what they tell their acolytes. What is interesting about the 72-virgin thing that recruiters and would-be bombers repeat all the time is that it is not in the Koran. The Koran describes a paradise for martyrs as having virgins and full-breasted maidens, but the number 72 doesn't appear. That comes later, in the Hadith [oral tradition]. Anecdotally, once I was meeting with the senior leadership of al-Aksa Martyrs' Brigade in Nablus, and I brought along an American radio host, Rusty Humphries. And Humphries kept pushing them to show us where the bit about 72 virgins appears in the Koran. So they began flipping through the pages, pulling out all sorts of verses that had nothing to do with 72 virgins. Ultimately they conceded that it wasn't in there. But they didn't like being challenged, and they told me later not to bring Humphries back there ever again.

This underscores the heart of the problem - that at its very foundation there is no argument for terrorism. It's so easy to deconstruct. But most of the media out there take the terrorists' lying responses and move on to the next question without challenging them.

Another thing worth noting is that whenever I meet with terrorist leaders - who constantly tell me how brave they are, and how they're not afraid of the Israeli Zionists - they are always surrounded by women and children.

Is this because they believe Israelis try to avoid killing women and children?

Absolutely.

Do they say so, or is this your interpretation?

When I ask them about it, they absolutely don't acknowledge it. But my problem is not with the terrorists who don't acknowledge it; it's with the reporters who don't acknowledge it. Because whenever there's an Israeli anti- terror operation in which Arab civilians are killed, right away we have this moral equivalency between the side that tries to minimize civilian casualties and the side that tries to maximize them.

Are you saying that your goal in interviewing these terrorists is to educate the West about what they're really up to?

Indeed. And I always find that terrorists are very proud of their goals and ideology, unlike the media that report on them. Talk to any terrorist and he'll be very open about his aim to destroy Israel as a stepping stone to achieving his ultimate goal of spreading Islam across the world. I actually enjoy talking to terrorists more than politicians, because when I ask terrorists why they're blowing themselves up, they give me an honest answer.

How is it they're willing to talk to you if what you're doing is exposing them? Aren't you killing their lobby, in effect?

## Out of the mouths of bombers

Maybe that's the way you see it, but they think I'm doing them a favor - and perhaps I am - by giving them a platform from which to explain themselves. I don't analyze what they say; I quote them, and they are very thankful for this.

You say that you might be doing them a favor. In what way? By getting their message out to like-minded brethren?

I don't think that I'm doing them any favor. I'm saying that they want to get their ideology out there, and so maybe they believe that the best way to do it is to have an open microphone. From my perspective, what I'm doing is trying to educate people on what the war on terrorism is really about. We often embolden terrorists without even realizing it, through policies of evacuation, withdrawal, dialogue and negotiations. The terrorists are very open about the fact that if you evacuate territory, they are going to use that territory to stage further attacks toward your annihilation. If you sign a cease-fire with them, they call it a hudna, which comes from the Koran. It's the truce that Muhammad signed on his way to conquering Mecca, which he later violated. For them, a cease-fire is the chance to rebuild and regroup and prepare for the final goal of the enemy's annihilation. So what I'm trying to do here is educate Americans on what works and what doesn't work.

You keep saying that their ultimate goal is global jihad. But there are so many different groups who oppose each other. Can you really talk about the Sunnis and the Shi'ites - or Fatah and Hamas - in the same breath?

On the ground there are a lot of different factions all vying for power. But when it comes to fighting the enemy, they unite.

Do you hear support among terrorists for Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?

Absolutely. Any dictator who threatens to annihilate Israel is admired by Palestinian terrorists. Anyway, if you pay them enough money, they're going to do your bidding for you. And Iran is giving a fortune not only to Hamas, but to Fatah's al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade, which coordinates on a regular basis with Hizbullah, which we all know is backed by Iran and Syria.

Before disengagement, critics of the withdrawal said that Israel would be abandoning the territory to an al-Qaida state in the making. Now, you and others refer to it as an Iranian proxy. Which is it?

What's the difference, really, when they're all fighting for the same thing? Al-Qaida is certainly ideologically present in Gaza, where it has ties with Hamas. But at the moment, there isn't much difference between the goals and the way attacks are carried out between these and Iranian-backed terrorists. They're fighting the same enemies - America and America's proxy, Israel.

How informed are the terrorists you've come in contact with about American and Israeli politics?

Many are well-versed, certainly on Israeli politics. Interestingly, when there was a report about [Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert's health issues, I received two separate phone calls from leaders of al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade to make sure that he was OK, because they wanted to make sure that he would stay in power.

Why?

Because they would rather have a Kadima-led government than a Likud-led one. Olmert is more accommodating; his actual election platform was withdrawal from the West Bank, and the terrorists love that, because for them a withdrawal is more territory from which to attack Israel. When it comes to American politics, they understand the difference between Democrats and Republicans, but they don't know so much about the particulars of the US presidential candidates. They consider all Americans as infidels, but they're going to support whichever political party in America they believe will help them achieve their short-term goals - and the Democrats are more outspoken on withdrawing troops from Iraq. Furthermore, Barack Obama is talking about sitting down with the Iranian president, so they'd all prefer to see a Democrat win the presidential election. In fact, I did an interview in April with Ahmad Yusuf, the chief political adviser to Hamas in Gaza, in which he endorsed Obama and compared him to John F. Kennedy.

## Out of the mouths of bombers

What are you saying, then - that these terrorists want to negotiate? You claim they view all Americans as infidels, yet Ahmad Yusuf compared Obama favorably to Kennedy.

They support negotiations with the West, because they see negotiations as a sign of weakness on the part of the West - as a sign that they're bringing the West to its knees.

Do they mention specific events to illustrate that they are "bringing the West to its knees"?

Just a few weeks ago, al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade and Islamic Jihad attempted to attack the Erez crossing and failed. Olmert's response was to pull IDF troops a little bit further back into Israel. In an interview I conducted immediately after this with a Popular Resistance Committee spokesman, he said that this is a sign that the Israeli paper tiger is going to fall. He compared the retreat from Erez to the retreat from Gaza, to the retreat from Lebanon and to giving Palestinians territory in the West Bank.

Why do they agree to talk to you, a Jew, let alone phone you up regularly?

I think it's incredible that I can phone the leaders of terrorist organizations and ask them where they are, while the IDF can't find them and doesn't take them out. But it's not me, it's any reporter. I guarantee you that if I gave you their numbers and you called them up and said you were from The Jerusalem Post, they'd love it. Any reporter who wants to interview a Palestinian terrorist will find that it's very easy to do.

Do you have to pretend that you're on their side when you talk to them?

No. And this is why I think that they have some respect for me. Just as I see them as exotic for being the enemy and dangerous terrorists, they see me, too, as exotic - the pink elephant, a Jew they actually get to talk to. And they relish the opportunity to debate, from a religious perspective, militant Islam vs Judaism. They are as fascinated with me as a Jew as I am with them as terrorists. Furthermore, they say their beef isn't with Jews, but with occupiers, which is a huge lie. Just look at the Palestinian media. It's full of Nazi-like propaganda - with Jews portrayed as pigs and monkeys. This causes many Palestinians to have a total misconception about Jews as all evil.

Couldn't one argue that there are plenty of Israelis who see Arabs in general, and Palestinians in particular, as all evil?

Maybe there are misconceptions on both sides, but on one side there are people telling their kids to become suicide bombers and kill Israelis indiscriminately in cafes, and on the other side, there are people advocating freedom and democracy. So you can't compare the two.

Are you not afraid that these terrorists you interview will kidnap or kill you?

I understand that there's danger in what I'm doing. At the same time, if you look at the kidnappings of journalists in the Palestinian areas, you'll note that they were carried out by masked gunmen - not by a particular terrorist interviewed by a reporter. Believe it or not, when you go in, they protect you.

Have you brought up the issue of kidnapped soldiers Gilad Schalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev with the terrorists?

Yes. They're very proud of these kidnappings, because they understand that average Israelis really can't tolerate even a single soldier being in such a situation, and that therefore Israel is probably going to release Palestinian prisoners or sign a cease-fire in order to try and get them back. To them, when Israel releases Palestinian prisoners, it just goes to show that kidnapping works.

Are they surprised that Israelis value each individual soldier enough to want to make big deals to get them back?

I didn't ask specifically about that, but what they do express is finding anything about Israeli society that they can exploit.

## Out of the mouths of bombers

Have you discussed 9/11 with them?

That's one topic they don't like discussing. The only thing they say is that 9/11 was a Zionist conspiracy. They say, "Don't pin that on us." They simply don't want to be associated with it.

On the other hand, many al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade guys walk around with high-powered assault rifles that were provided by the US, and they told me that they used American funding, arms and training to shoot at the Israelis. They said that if it hadn't been for those things, they don't think the second intifada in 2000 would have been as successful as it was. They credit the American training for a lot of dead Jews.

These were weapons and training the Americans provided for Fatah to fight Hamas?

That was the logic - pitting one bad guy against the other. We saw how well that worked. America gave hundreds of millions of dollars in funding, training and weapons to Fatah. Then Hamas took over Gaza - and terrorists are now showing off to me that they're using American jeeps, American assault rifles and even some shoulder-mounted machine guns to hit Israeli targets. Hamas gave me a list of all the American weapons in their possession, and I wrote an article about this. They translated my article into Arabic and posted it on Hamas's official Web site.

How do Fatah terrorists talk about PA President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen)?

They say that he's their leader, and that every attack they carry out is supported by him. They don't say that he orchestrates the attacks, but that the attacks are not contradictory to Fatah's platform. In other words, al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade is not some random offshoot of Fatah; it's the leader of Fatah's security forces.

How do the terrorists you've spoken to envision the future of the region?

They're certain of victory. They're certain they're going to destroy Israel, and that it will cease to exist. When I ask them how they can believe that, when Israel has the mightiest military in the Middle East, they point to Israel's defeat against Hizbullah in Lebanon in 2006 as proof that it's a paper tiger.

Are they unaware of other reasons why Israel might not be destroyed - such as the fact that it's a flourishing, modern society, with endless construction and other accomplishments?

They know that Jews are industrious, but what they see is Israel in retreat. They don't really pay attention to its hi-tech sector, as long as they can fire rockets into the area where the hi-tech sector is located. They truly believe that missiles are going to be flying over the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway in the very near future.

But how do they envision their own society, in the event that their goals of defeating Israel and the US are achieved?

That's just it. They have no plan beyond jihad. Look, there are a million and a half Arabs in Gaza - some would say trapped there. Can you imagine if there were a million and a half Jews trapped there? They'd build Singapore. When I ask the terrorists about why they haven't built anything in Gaza, they say that they can't build anything until they get all of their land back. They don't seem to have a long-term plan beyond that.

## Graphic

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2 photos: AARON KLEIN. 'I don't analyze what they say; I quote them, and they are very thankful for this.' MIDEAST ANALYSIS. 'They know that Jews are industrious, but what they see is Israel in retreat.' (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

Out of the mouths of bombers

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## **Sons - and daughters - of the Land**

The Jerusalem Post  
August 1, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 42

**Length:** 854 words

**Byline:** Shlomo Riskin

**Highlight:** PARASHAT MASEI. The writer is the founder and chancellor of Ohr Torah Stone Colleges and Graduate Programs, and chief rabbi of Efrat.

### **Body**

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Our embattled state has just suffered the traumatic burial of soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, abducted and killed by Hizbullah, as well as a high-pitched debate surrounding the wisdom of the exchange: four Palestinian prisoners with blood on their hands - including Samir Kuntar, cold-blooded murderer of an innocent father and two children from Nahariya - for two Israeli corpses. What about the Mishna (B.T. Gittin 45a), which teaches that it is forbidden to redeem captives for exorbitant ransoms so as not to incite further kidnappings? What of the probability that Kuntar will now attempt to wreak further destruction on innocent Israelis? And even if we argue that no price is too high to ransom an Israeli captive, how can we justify freeing a convicted murderer for two corpses?

I believe a direction toward understanding may be found through a study of the story of Zelophehad's daughters - five women who managed to bring their petition to inherit their fathers' portion in Israel (in the absence of male heirs) all the way to Moses himself, and then to the Almighty! Why do our talmudic rabbis call the women sages, jurists and saints (BT Bava Batra 119)? Feminists and advocates I can understand, but saints? And why is the incident recorded twice, first in the reading of Pinhas (Numbers 27) and then again in this week's reading, at the very conclusion of the Book of Numbers?

The first thing we must understand is that these daughters are not merely feminists out for personal gain. Listen well to their argument: "Our father has died in the desert. He was not among the group that testified against God within the congregation of Korah, since he died because of his [individual] sin and had no sons" (Numbers 27:3). They introduce their plaint with a description of their father: he was neither of Korah's congregation nor of the party of Dathan and Abiram; Korah wanted to remain in the desert, and Dathan and Abiram wanted to return to Egypt. The father of these five women had sinned - and therefore died young - not because he didn't want to go to Israel; indeed, some of our sages say he was one of the ma'apilim who were determined to storm the gates of the Promised Land even though God was not in their midst, and the Ark of the Covenant was not with them. (Numbers 14: 42-45). He may not have been religiously observant, but he did bequeath love of the Land to his vivacious daughters.

The very fact that these women devoted so much time and effort to reach the highest judicial echelons demonstrates their commitment to the Land, and their faith - unlike those who sided with Korah and Dathan and Abiram - that the Eternal One keeps His promises. Hence they were righteous saints. And when they said their father had no sons, they were arguing that either yibum should also apply to the widows of men who die after



## Sons - and daughters - of the Land

fathering only daughters, or those daughters should be allowed to inherit. Hence, they were wise expounders of Scripture as well.

But the sterling character of these women emerges with the continuation of their argument: "Why should the name of our father be lessened from the midst of his family merely because he has no son? Grant us an inheritance in the midst of the brother of our father." (Numbers 27:4, 5)

The major burden of their argument is not a feminist demand for rights of inheritance; it is rather a filial demand for the continuity of their father's name. It was less about them than about him. From the biblical perspective, two things bequeath eternity to an individual: progeny who will bear his name (and hopefully his values and lifestyle), and a portion of the Land, eternal heritage of all Jews, which he can give over to that progeny.

The tragedy of the Book of Numbers is the refusal of the Israelites to conquer the Promised Land. The hope with which Numbers concludes is the stubborn faith in and commitment to the land of the covenant - for which these women were willing to brave a judicial bureaucracy as well as a narrow, chauvinistic interpretation of the law. They understood, as King Solomon would teach 1,000 years later, that "the generations come and go, but the land abides forever." It is the Land of Israel which contains our key to eternity, which holds our past secrets and future dreams. The daughters of Zelophehad correctly saw in the Land the very continuity of their father and their name - and when God adopts their cause, their faith is vindicated.

This is why kever yisrael, burial in Israel, has been so important to Jews for 4,000 years. When our bodies dissolve into the Land, we merge with the eternal Jewish nation. Who deserves to share in that national eternity more than our best and bravest, our most courageous and committed, who sacrificed their lives for our land and our nation?

Hence I believe that there is no price too high to bring our soldiers back - hopefully alive, but even, if dead, for kever yisrael. The cycle of life must come full circle - from earth were we formed and to earth do we return - and the families of our holy ones deserve closure, so that everyone involved may live and die and rest in peace.

## Graphic

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Photo: IDF officers salute the coffins of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev. 'Kever yisrael,' burial in Israel, has been so important to Jews for 4,000 years. (Credit: IDF Spokesman)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## *Americans hold our futures in their hands*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

October 28, 2008 Tuesday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 933 words

**Byline:** Khalaf Ahmed Al Habtoor

## **Body**

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When people in this part of the world aren't focusing on the financial crisis, the buzz revolves around who will be the next president of the United States. "Do you prefer a John McCain or Barack Obama White House?" they ask. Naturally, we all have our personal preferences, but at a time when the world is in turmoil.

When people in this part of the world aren't focusing on the financial crisis, the buzz revolves around who will be the next president of the United States. "Do you prefer a John McCain or Barack Obama White House?" they ask. Naturally, we all have our personal preferences, but at a time when the world is in turmoil, mine is based less on personalities and more on policies. Whoever can lead the world out of recession and uncertainty gets my vote. You only have to turn on the television to realize that ordinary people from Birmingham to Beijing and everywhere in between are waking up to the fact that there exists a very real emergency affecting homes, jobs, savings, investments and businesses. So I would respectfully ask my American friends to choose the man with the best plan when they enter the ballot booth on November 4. Certainly, the candidate's basic character is a factor, but voters would do well to realize this isn't "American Idol." The person they decide upon this time literally has the power to make or break the futures of not only Americans but billions of their fellow global citizens. I would, therefore, ask Americans to vote with their heads rather than emotion. Like most residents of this neighborhood, nothing would delight me more than to greet a new US leader without an ingrained pro-Israel bias; one who would work toward a two-state solution or, even better, a comprehensive peace on the lines of the 2002 Saudi initiative. But judging from the past, this is about as likely as Emirates Holidays offering package tours around the galaxy. We know from bitter experience that US presidents, whatever their personal inclinations, are hidebound by the fundamentals of Washington's foreign policy, aspects of which are immutable. They all have to operate within certain parameters devised to serve America's own interests and are all constrained to some degree by Congressional sentiment, lobbyists and polls. Ironically, some emerge as good friends to the Arab world once they are out of office. Within those confines some are worse than others. For instance, I've struggled to come up with something positive to say about George W. Bush's eight years in office. Just ask yourself this question. "Is the world today a better place than it was when Bush took over the presidential reins from President Bill Clinton?" I've also concluded that this administration's foreign policy has been responsible for massive collateral damage and devastating unforeseen consequences. The list of failures is long. For example, the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan did not fulfill its stated aims. Neither Osama bin Laden nor the leader of the Taliban, Mullah Mohammad Omar, have ever been caught. Furthermore, a growing number of commanders and politicians have concluded that the war is not winnable. The

## Americans hold our futures in their hands

White House would have us believe the 2003 invasion of Iraq has ultimately been a success. We are supposed to forget the pretexts under which the war was waged and instead they would like us to congratulate them on the outcome of the surge. I wish my Iraqi brothers and sisters well. But with so many dead and so many deep divisions, history will be a harsh judge. From the US perspective, the toppling of Saddam Hussein also had an unforeseen consequence - a more powerful Iran. What about Palestine? How much progress has been achieved toward the two-state solution that Bush promised to bring about in 2003 when he announced his "road map?" None. Worse, due to Bush's fervency to forcibly spread democracy and his insistence that the Palestinians hold a monitored ballot, Hamas was handed a legitimate entree into the leadership. Then, after congratulating the Palestinian people on a free and fair election, the US and Europe promptly shunned their choice, causing a power struggle between factions and leaving the peace process without a single Palestinian address. When it comes to Lebanon, the Bush White House does get one gold star. It did initiate a UN Security Council resolution calling for the 2005 Syrian pullout. But, if we fast forward to the Israel-Lebanon conflagration during the summer of 2006, we see that Bush abandoned his Lebanese friends in government by refusing to call for a cease-fire even as the bodies of Lebanese women and children were piling high. As an unforeseen consequence, Hizbullah has been boosted. In all fairness, we cannot heap blame for all the ills of the world onto the lap of one man, but that said, it's an inescapable truth that under Bush's watch a surveillance society was born, civil liberties eroded, human rights conventions disregarded and torture sanctioned. The last eight years have also witnessed a proliferation in nuclear weapons and a shift in the global balance of power. A resurgent Russia and the economic and military powerhouses that both China and India have become mean the neoconservative dream of worldwide US hegemony is now officially dead. We can only hope that whoever is inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States will have the courage to do everything he can to put this planet we all share to right. American people, be wise in your decision. We're all in your hands. Khalaf Al Habtoor is chairman of the Habtoor Group. He wrote this commentary for THE DAILY STAR.

**Load-Date:** October 28, 2008

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## **SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 11 IN MOSUL; MILITARY SPOKESMAN: AL-QAIDA 'HIDES BEHIND INNOCENT IRAQIS'**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 6, 2008 Monday

SOONER EDITION

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. A-4

**Length:** 481 words

**Byline:** JEFFREY FLEISHMAN, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**Dateline:** BAGHDAD

### **Body**

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Eleven Iraqis, including six women and children, were killed yesterday when a suicide bomber set off explosives during a raid by U.S. forces on a house in Mosul, the U.S. military said.

A military statement said the bomb detonated as U.S. forces exchanged gunfire with suspected insurgents and stormed a building in search of a wanted man. The military said it was unclear whether those who died, all believed to have been from one family, were killed by the explosion, gunfire or a combination.

Iraqi police and the local morgue reported that 11 people, including the bomber, three women, three children and four men were killed in the Mosul neighborhood known as the 17th of July.

U.S. forces described the five men who were killed as terrorists. Two children, a 3-month-old and a 5-year-old, survived and were treated at a hospital in Mosul, about 250 miles north of Baghdad.

A sweep of the house found a cache of small arms and explosives, according to the military.

"This is just another tragic example of how al-Qaida in Iraq hides behind innocent Iraqis," said Navy Rear Adm. Patrick Driscoll, spokesman for Multi-National Force -- Iraq. "The terrorist exploded his suicide vest in close proximity to women and children, and in a house full of explosives and weapons."

In other news, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit announced in Baghdad that his country would reopen its embassy and strengthen business ties with Iraq. His was the first Egyptian Cabinet-level delegation to Iraq since Islamic militants killed Egypt's envoy in 2005.

Mr. Aboul Gheit's presence followed visits by leaders of Jordan and Lebanon and was an indication that leading Sunni Muslim countries may begin restoring relations with Iraq's Shiite-led government. Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other nations have been concerned about Iraq's ties with the Shiite-run government in Iran, which Sunni nations blame for attempting to unsettle the region through its nuclear program and support to militant groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon.

## SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 11 IN MOSUL MILITARY SPOKESMAN: AL-QAIDA 'HIDES BEHIND INNOCENT IRAQIS'

Violence in Iraq has dropped dramatically in recent months, but the U.S. raid in Mosul underscored the danger posed by Sunni insurgents and al-Qaida in Iraq. The city's resistance has been strong since immediately after the U.S. invasion in 2003, when Sunni fighters and Ansar al Islam militants conducted attacks in the city and plotted operations as far south as Baghdad. It is a terrain of explosions, drive-by shootings, kidnappings and raids by U.S. and Iraqi soldiers. The Iraqi army in the Mosul region arrested a suspected al-Qaida operative, seizing documents, 13 bombs and telecommunications equipment, according to spokesman Brig. Gen. Khalid Abdul Sattar.

In Baaj, about 80 miles southwest of Mosul, security forces arrested a Syrian suspected of making bombs, according to a police official. The man was allegedly carrying \$70,000, a pistol and three GPS devices.

**Load-Date:** October 6, 2008

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## *Keothavong dodges hostilities to enhance Wimbledon claims*

The Times (London)

May 12, 2008, Monday

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# THE TIMES

**Section:** SPORT; Pg. 62

**Length:** 450 words

**Byline:** Neil Harman, Tennis Correspondent

## Body

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Less than ten miles away from where Anne Keothavong was playing in Lebanon, street-fighting in Beirut between Hezbollah and Shia militia had left almost 40 people dead. At the beach resort of Jounieh, however, there was relative peace and calm as Keothavong won her third tournament of the year yesterday to reach a career-high ranking just outside the top 100 to place her within reach of direct entry into Wimbledon, something that no British woman has achieved since 1999 "I always said I wanted to be involved in a bit of an adventure," was the 24-year-old British No1's reaction to a week of encouragement for her country's women's tennis, where shoots of optimism have been as rare as completed matches at the BNL D'Italia Masters in Rome this week. "Where we were you wouldn't have had an idea anything was wrong, but, of course, it's been an anxious time because there was no way to know that the trouble wasn't going to spread," Keothavong said. "Most of us have been worried about how we are going to get out, because the airport in Beirut has been shut down."

A couple of French players wanted to escape by boat to Cyprus but were told that their safety could not be guaranteed. Keothavong's plan last night involved a tiring journey across unfriendly terrain to Damascus, the capital of Syria, to make her way home from there. "I'm feeling pretty relaxed about the whole thing," she said. "It's the kind of attitude I've brought to my tennis, as well."

Keothavong defeated Lourdes Dominguez Lino, the Spanish No4, 6-4, 6-1 in the final in Jounieh after victories in Italy and Greece that have underscored her decision two months ago to part company with Simon Walsh, her LTA-designated coach, and strike out on her own. "I'm doing this on a shoestring, it's tough at times, but I'm plugging away and trying to have fun, which is what matters," she said. "Women's tennis in Britain seems to be in a better position than it has for some time, with myself, Katie O'Brien, Elena Baltacha and Mel South all inside the top 150. We're all out there trying the best we can and things are looking up."

Keothavong will attempt to qualify for the French Open this month, but when the entry list for Wimbledon is issued her ranking will be good enough to guarantee a British place in the main draw, the first since Sam Smith nine years ago. The progress of a handful of British women also justifies the award of wild cards into Wimbledon when the recipients are announced in three weeks' time. The same cannot be said for the men of whom one, Josh Goodall, whose rise of 107 places year-on-year has taken him to No267, is heading in the direction that merits a spot in the biggest tournament in the world.

Keothavong dodges hostilities to enhance Wimbledon claims

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2008

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## *Al-Qaida No. 2 denounces Iran*

The Bismarck Tribune

April 23, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** WIRE; Pg. 2A

**Length:** 472 words

**Byline:** LEE KEATH Associated Press Writer

### **Body**

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CAIRO, Egypt - Al-Qaida's No. 2 leader issued a new audiotape Tuesday accusing Shiite Iran of spreading a conspiracy theory about who carried out the Sept. 11 attacks to discredit the power of the Sunni terrorist network.

Ayman al-Zawahri, Osama bin Laden's deputy, has stepped up his denunciations of Iran in recent messages in part to depict al-Qaida as the Arabs' top defense against the Persian nation's rising power in the Middle East.

The increasing enmity toward Iran is a notable change of rhetoric from al-Zawahri, who in the past rarely mentioned the country - apparently in a hopes he would be able to forge some sort of understanding with Tehran based on their common rivalry with the United States. Iran has long sought to distance itself from al-Qaida.

"Al-Zawahri wanted to work with Iran, but he's deeply disappointed that Iran has not cooperated with al-Qaida," said Rohan Gunaratna, a terrorism expert and author of "Inside al-Qaida: The Global Network of Terror."

So now, al-Zawahri "wants to appeal to the anti-Shiite, anti-Iran sentiments in the Arab and Muslim world," said Gunaratna, head of the International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore.

Al-Zawahri appeared intent on exploiting widespread worry in the Arab world over Iran's influence, particularly in Iraq, to garner support for al-Qaida. At the same time, he sought to denigrate Iran's ally *Hezbollah*, which has gained some popularity even among Sunnis in the region for its fight against Israel.

Al-Zawahri's comments came in a two-hour audio posted on an Islamic militant Web site, the second message in weeks in which he answered hundreds of questions sent to the site by al-Qaida sympathizers and others.

The question-and-answer campaign is a sign of the terrorist network's sophistication in its use of the Web. They show al-Qaida can post frequent messages from its leaders while keeping in touch with its popular base - all while the leaders remain in hiding, presumably on the Afghan-Pakistan frontier.

The Web is a key tool of al-Qaida's central leadership to inspire and direct sympathizers at a time when some terrorism experts question how much control they have over Islamic militants. Al-Qaida branches in Iraq and Afghanistan are believed to have close ties with the network's core, but little is known about its level of control elsewhere.

The authenticity of the audio could not be independently confirmed. But the voice sounded like past audios from al-Zawahri, and the posting where it was found bore the logo of Al-Sahab, al-Qaida's media arm.



## Al-Qaida No. 2 denounces Iran

Al-Zawahri spoke on a wide range of topics in Tuesday's message. He told a **female** questioner there were no **women** in the ranks of al-Qaida, but praised wives of mujahedeen for their "heroic role in taking care of their homes and children amid the trials of exile."

**Load-Date:** April 23, 2008

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***After the hatred, a glimpse of hope; Beyond Terror and Martyrdom By Gilles Kepel HARVARD £18.95 (328pp) (free p&p) from 0870 079 8897***

Arts & Book Review

January 23, 2009

First Edition

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**Section:** BOOKS; Pg. 34

**Length:** 478 words

**Byline:** MICHAEL CHURCH

## **Body**

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Reading this book on "the future of the Middle East" as Israel tried to obliterate Gaza, one sees afresh how that insanity fits into the larger tragedy. As a sequel to Gilles Kepel's excellent *The War for Muslim Minds*, it ends with a utopian vision of how that tragedy might be transcended. But its real achievement lies in his analysis of how we come to be where we are now.

In a nutshell, the two grand narratives which set the stage in the Nineties have collapsed. If Bush's "war on terror" has been a calamitous failure, so have al Qa'ida's "martyrdom operations". Theatrical jihadism has not only failed to unify global Islam: it has also bolstered the rise of al Qa'ida's Shi'ite rivals in Iran. Kepel (above) charts the disintegration of both crusades, and sheds much light along the way.

He delineates martyrdom's Shi'ite origins, with flagellant re-enactments of the death of the Prophet's descendant Husayn conscripted by Ayatollah Khomeini to guarantee youthful cannon-fodder for his war with Iraq. First **Hezbollah** imported the concept, then Hamas. Kepel notes the hierarchy into which grades of martyr fit, and outlines the debate on when suicide, and the "slaughter of innocents", may be permitted.

Equally illuminating are his discussions of how the conflict's flare-ups in Europe have played out in relation to each country's context. While Jack Straw's perverse demand that Muslim **women** remove their veils when speaking to him dealt a blow to benign multiculturalism, the Pope's inept citing of a medieval provocateur forced moderate Islamists to abandon their non-confrontational stance.

Kepel describes that ideological collision in detail, as he does the 11-minute film which earned its director, Theo Van Gogh, death by throat-cutting in an Amsterdam street. This came as a huge shock to the Dutch, who had relied for stability on their "pillarisation" policy, with each separate ethnic group supporting the "dome" of society.

The cartoons-of-the-Prophet controversy began as a cheeky challenge to liberal self-censorship, but rigidly Lutheran Denmark was quite unable to contain the ensuing conflagration. Kepel explains why France, with its long-established Muslim communities, is the country least scorched by these fires. He thinks car-burning in poor suburbs shows that assimilation simply hasn't gone far enough.

Kepel quotes the ranting videos of Bin Laden's mouthpiece Ayman al-Zawahiri to illustrate the increasing desperation of al Qa'ida, and he notes the flame-fanning efforts, on either side, of Al Jazeera and Fox/CNN. Tony

After the hatred, a glimpse of hope Beyond Terror and Martyrdom By Gilles Kepel HARVARD £18.95 (328pp)  
(free p&p) from 0870 079 8897

Blair is not significant enough to figure on his landscape of villainy. And his vision? An integrated civilisation, "for sustainable prosperity", stretching from the North Sea to the Gulf. Very seductive, but if he means business, Kepel should devote the whole of his next book to showing how this might be brought about.

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2009

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## *Israeli youths opt out of army service*

Christian Science Monitor

August 14, 2007, Tuesday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 7

**Length:** 906 words

**Byline:** Joshua Mitnick Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

**Dateline:** Tel Aviv

### **Body**

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Dror Mizrahi's draft profile is a 97. In Israeli army lingo, the score means he's in top physical and mental shape for combat service when he is conscripted next year like most Israeli 18-year-olds.

But Mr. Mizrahi is requesting discharge so he can perform public service work with a human rights group. "I said, 'Gentlemen, this is my conscience: I don't believe in weapons, I'm afraid, and I oppose violence.' This is my truth."

Once upon a time, a request like Mizrahi's could have meant the opprobrium of a society in which the military functioned as Israel's defender, social melting pot, and resume builder.

But as a greater percentage of Israelis is exempt from mandatory military service and as criticism continues over the army's poor performance last year in the Lebanon war, there has been an erosion in its standing as a paragon of social egalitarianism.

"The army is undergoing very severe strain, in addition to all the issues of training, and efficiency, and command that the army confronted last summer. The crisis that we're experiencing now in Israel is a belated realization that a part of Israeli society allowed itself to go slack," says Yossi Klein Halevi, a fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem.

The army's universal draft is based on the ethic that all must risk their lives to defend the country from external threats.

However, according to figures released last month by the army, about 1 in every 4 eligible males is exempted from the compulsory three-year stint in the military. For women, who are required to serve only two years, the exemption figure jumped to 43 percent. In addition, nearly 20 percent leave the army before their terms of service are over.

Army no longer symbolizes solidarity?

Ran Cohen, who serves on the parliament's foreign affairs and defense committee, says only 10 percent of eligible Israeli males got exemptions a decade ago.

"It's worrisome," says Mr. Cohen, a legislator from the left-wing Meretz Party. "Serving in the army used to be the clearest example of domestic solidarity. The fact that it's no longer attractive indicates a weakening of Israeli society."

## Israeli youths opt out of army service

Many point out that the army has never been a true representative of Israeli society because enlistment isn't mandatory for Arabs who make up 20 percent of the population. Nearly half of the exemptions go to ultraobservant Jews who have historically been allowed deferrals to study in religious academies but who now make up a larger percentage of the draft-age population.

"The Israel Defense Forces are turning gradually into an army of only half the people," said Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak, who recently urged Israelis to shun draft dodgers.

One trend that disturbs many Israelis is an increase in middle- and upper-class teens - considered the potential leaders and brains of the army - who seek health-related discharges to avoid military service.

"The military for my parents was a monolithic organization" that wasn't questioned, says Eyal Ben Ari, a Hebrew University sociologist. "There's a generational impact, which goes along with the fact that the military is being challenged more," he says. "People know more about the military structures, personnel policies, opportunities, and it's more open for negotiation."

While websites feature tip sheets on how to convince the army bureaucracy to get a deferral, anecdotes of fabricated mental and physical maladies are common.

Youths disillusioned after Lebanon war

In the year since the war with Hizbullah, the army has faced unprecedented criticism for allegedly pushing Israel into a battle which the military was not prepared to fight.

Disillusionment from the war spurred more young Israelis to think about alternatives to military service, says Maayan Niezma, who runs a support hotline for prospective soldiers considering avoiding service.

"There were several who I spoke with for whom the Lebanon war made a change in their outlook," says Ms. Niezma, who belongs to New Profile, a feminist group that seeks to reduce the influence of the military in public life. "They suddenly understood more things about [the army], and that affected their desire to be part of it."

To be sure, the army still enjoys the highest public approval rating of any Israeli public institution, experts say. According to military statistics, demand for combat assignments remains high, and statistics from the Lebanon war showed high participation from a traditional military bulwark, the children of the left-wing Kibbutzim, who many believed had become alienated from the army.

Mizrachi, who comes from a middle-class Tel Aviv suburb and is active in the left-wing Meretz political party, says the government should institutionalize civilian public service as an alternative to the army. But he acknowledges that his parents were less than thrilled with the idea of him not serving. "They would have preferred me to go into the army," he says.

But even Mr. Barak acknowledged when he was chief of staff that the army needs to shed manpower. Despite the public angst over the draft dodging, many in Israel say that an army built more on technology than sheer size needs to move from a universal draft to an organization based on career soldiers.

"We need a new way of thinking," says Mizrachi. "For those who are ready for the military system, it should pay them. And those who evade service shouldn't be considered trash."

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**Load-Date:** August 13, 2007

## *Nagging turns Aussie immigrant to crime: court told*

The New Zealand Herald  
September 4, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; World

**Length:** 458 words

### **Body**

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MELBOURNE &#45; An illiterate former Syrian soldier who had been nagged by his sister and wife for not being a good provider was sentenced to five years' jail today for a Melbourne armed robbery.

The County Court heard that Riad Barbour, 28, conspired with his 19&#45;year&#45;old brother Fahed, to hold up the Olympic Hotel at Preston where Fahed worked as a security guard.

Riad pleaded guilty to charges of armed robbery, aggravated burglary, false imprisonment and possessing drugs.

Judge Liz Gaynor said Barbour had donned a balaclava and latex gloves just before 3am (AEST) on January 12 and entered the hotel's gaming premises where he grabbed hold of his brother, pointing a fake pistol at his head.

In a pre&#45;planned move, he pushed Fahed into the manager's office where he demanded money and ordered Fahed to put the cash into a bag.

He got away with \$101A,000 (\$124,799) which he hid in his sister's house.

Judge Gaynor, who had seen the CCTV tape of the hold&#45;up, said it was clear that Barbour had acted in a violent way towards the female manager who &#34;cried and was extremely scared&#34;.

The judge said Barbour had been nagged by his more affluent sister for being a poor provider to his wife and two young children.

She said his wife, who could not speak English, had become influenced by her sister&#45;in&#45;law, and had also begun to complain about her husband's poor earning capacity.

&#34;You were ashamed about your inability to earn more money,&#34; Judge Gaynor said.

She said Barbour had worked two jobs, six days a week as a cleaner and security guard, and could only earn around \$700 a week from both jobs.

She said Barbour had been extremely cooperative with police and had made a full admission, expressing remorse and sorrow for his actions.

In 1997, Barbour had returned to his native Syria but as he was leaving to return to Australia he was apprehended at the airport and forced to undertake two years of national service.

## Nagging turns Aussie immigrant to crime: court told

During his conscription he was shot in the leg while engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with Hezbollah and also saw the commanding officer standing next to him fatally shot in the head.

Judge Gaynor said Barbour had good prospects of rehabilitation and was unlikely to re-offend.

“Since your arrest, your sister's part has come to light and she is now shunned by the extended family in Australia,” Judge Gaynor said.

She said his relationship with his wife had improved and she visited him in jail every weekend with his two daughters.

The judge handed down a five-year sentence on the four charges and ordered Barbour to serve two-and-a-half years before becoming eligible for parole.

The 227 days he had already served behind bars will come off his sentence.

“ AAP

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2008

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## **ANTIQUITY UPDATED. Past and present merge in Damascus**

Daily News (New York)  
November 30, 2008 Sunday  
SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** TRAVEL; Pg. 44

**Length:** 1082 words

**Byline:** BY ADAM LISBERG DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

### **Body**

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Everyone invites you to dinner in Damascus. One warm night in the Old City, we stood with friends on a tiny street in the Jewish Quarter, trying to figure out where to find the one synagogue still functioning. An elderly neighbor who wandered past stopped to help, and for 15 minutes chatted in Arabic with our friends- describing the history of the Jewish community, reminiscing how sad it was they had all left, inquiring about our trip, and of course inviting us to his home for dinner.

We had to decline. If we stopped for dinner with everyone who asked, we'd never have seen half of the city.

But we followed his directions, and found the locked synagogue on a tiny stub street near our hotel. The whitewashed walls on both sides led to an unremarkable metal gate with no sign - so much for sightseeing. Yet we poked our heads around the side, where a footpath kept going. Why not see where it went?

The stone path, narrow enough to touch the walls on either side, meandered around the synagogue and through a low apartment building, made a sharp right under someone's home, cut through a family's courtyard where dinner was being served - they were surprised to see us, but wished us well - and -eventually spat us out through an anonymous passageway onto a tributary of Straight St., the Old City's main drag.

Damascus is like that: It swallows you whole, a swirl of sights and smells that rewards aimless exploring while taking you only slightly astray. Fine hotels and restaurants are hidden away behind anonymous doors; storytellers and poets sing for European tourists while modern jazz groups play for crowds of hip young Damascenes. The crafts and fabrics and antiques for sale along tiny avenues are gorgeous and affordable; galleries like sculptor Mustafa Ali's studio and the Art House cultural center give foreign students learning Arabic a place to meet and mingle with the artistic leaders of one of the Arab world's cultural capitals.

Armies have fought over Damascus for 5,000 years. Romans, Arabs and Turks all left their marks inside the gates of the Old City, where a Roman temple of Jupiter stands across from the gleaming -Umayyad Mosque, and where cultures still rub up against each other. The government is officially secular, and while Islam dominates, a smaller but thriving Christian community is fully engaged in civil society. Most of the Jews left in recent years, revitalizing



## ANTIQUITY UPDATED. Past and present merge in Damascus

parts of Brooklyn but leaving behind the dark shells of empty homes; anywhere from a few dozen to a few hundred remain, living quietly.

What is most jarring to American eyes - aside from the omnipresent images of Syria's dictator, Bashar al-Assad, glaring out from every flat surface - is the way humdrum modern life goes on amid all the dusty history. The central souk sprawls through ancient passageways and into graceful plazas lined with Parisian-style ironwork; women veiled from head to toe shop for clothes, soap and -spices from stalls lined against centuries-old mosques and churches. Our friends took us one night to hear the national orchestra play outside town in the ruins of a Roman theater at Bosra; the stone walls echoed with the chatter of music students, while lighting and sound cables threaded the corridors built millennia ago.

To get some perspective on the city - and to get away from its stifling, polluted air - we took a taxi to the top of Mount Qassioun, where small cafes and ice cream parlors line the roadway, each offering its own slice of the skyline over the city.

Families sit on the parapet, smoking hookahs and making tea on the sidewalk; young couples find dark corners away from the streetlights, still careful not to touch in a reserved culture. Looking over the city, our friends pointed out the landmarks and noted the green lights atop every mosque - the more religious the neighborhood, the more points of green lit up the night.

Syria is carefully evaluating its place in the world, pulled by contrary forces. Washington considers the country a state sponsor of terrorism for its support of -Hezbollah, and recently launched a commando raid just across the Iraqi border. Assad, far more broad-minded than his murderous father, has taken steps to improve relations with the West, yet a growing conservative sector of his populace looks approvingly at Iran.

The crowd at the symphony, drawn from society's elite, wore tight jeans and sleeveless tops; on the streets of Damascus our friends pointed out more and more women hidden under head scarves and shrouds.

For American travelers like us, today's tensions couldn't help but color the city's charms. We never felt snubbed or worried during our week in Syria; border guards and hotel clerks never raised an eyebrow at our passports. Everywhere we went, people were thrilled to meet Americans - or at least to see us visiting their country - even though a few greeted us with an initial chill before denouncing our policies and our President.

Walking up Straight St. one day, we stopped to gawk at the Damascus version of Monopoly for sale in a shop window. A man stopped, happy to practice his English with us, and soon gave us a tour of his nearby mosque. He was praising the charitable work of Hezbollah and bragging about how many refugees they sheltered during Israel's 2006 attacks on Lebanon, when he thought to ask us where we were from. We told him.

He paused, offered us seats in the office and turned on the air conditioner. He called his wife; we could make out the word "American" in their conversation. Then he sat down, apologized for being blunt, and launched a long diatribe about American policy in the Middle East - all the while careful to say he wasn't blaming us personally.

"Mountains cannot move closer together," he said. "So people have to move between the mountains."

Then he invited us to dinner.

if you go ...

There are no direct flights to Syria. The easiest connection is to fly nonstop to Amman, Jordan, on Delta or Royal Jordanian (round-trip fares around \$1,000), then take a taxi to Damascus. Shared taxis leave continuously from a station in central Damascus.

You must obtain a visa before your trip from the Syrian consulate in Washington, D.C., or honorary consulates in California, Texas and Michigan ([www.syrianembassy.us](http://www.syrianembassy.us)).

## ANTIQUITY UPDATED. Past and present merge in Damascus

Major international hotel chains and the Art House have locations outside the Old City, while smaller boutique hotels like Hotel Talisman ([www.hoteltalisman.net](http://www.hoteltalisman.net)) have flourished in the Old City.

U.S. credit cards and ATM cards are widely accepted.

## Graphic

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Arched passageway in the streets near the El Hamidiyeh Souk in Damascus, Syria. Photo by James L. Stanfield  
Head scarves for sale in a store window in Damascus. Photo by Christopher Herwig  
Saladin Memorial at the entrance to the citadel. Photo by Getty

**Load-Date:** December 1, 2008

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## *Israelis usher in Jewish New Year amid border tension, fresh attacks; West Bank and Gaza border closed for Jewish, Muslim holidays*

The Times & Transcript (New Brunswick)

September 13, 2007 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. C11

**Length:** 506 words

### **Body**

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Israelis ushered in the Jewish New Year last evening amid new fears of war after fresh rocket attacks by Palestinian militants in Gaza and reports of an Israeli air strike against Syria.

The Rosh Hashana holiday, followed 10 days later by Yom Kippur -- the Day of Atonement -- is traditionally a time for taking stock of spiritual and cultural values, and Israelis were in thoughtful mood in the hours before the start of the holiday, which began at sunset.

At the lively, open air Mahane Yehuda market in downtown Jerusalem, where shoppers scrambled to stock up on food before the two-day holiday, some Israelis expressed discontent with the government and frustration with the continued conflict with the Palestinians.

"I don't think you'll find any Israeli who's optimistic," said Ari Bourderhem, 47, owner of the Emil coffee shop. "It's not in our nature."

Bourderhem said holiday business was better than last year, which was marred by an inconclusive summer war with the ***Hezbollah*** militia in Lebanon. But he said he saw rough times ahead and "maybe a war."

Jewish families celebrate Rosh Hashana by eating apples and honey and other traditional foods symbolizing sweetness and prosperity.

The holiday this year falls on the same day as the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

So as Jews sit down for festive family dinners, Muslim families will also gather for a special meal ahead of their month of sunrise-to-sunset fasting.

In a routine measure, the Israeli military ordered a closure of Israel's borders with the West Bank and Gaza over the holiday, when packed synagogues, beaches and parks in Israel are seen as being particularly vulnerable to attack.

On Tuesday, a Palestinian rocket from Gaza struck an army base in southern Israel, wounding 40 soldiers, one critically. Israel's government has ruled out a large-scale military retaliation, a decision some Israelis questioned.

"I just don't believe in this government anymore," said Moshe Levi, 40, a fruit seller.

Israeli authorities are apparently concerned that a military incursion into Hamas-controlled Gaza could undermine fledgling peace talks with the western-backed Fatah movement in control of the West Bank.

Israelis usher in Jewish New Year amid border tension, fresh attacks; West Bank and Gaza border closed for Jewish, Muslim holidays

In a three-hour meeting Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas pledged to set up high-level working groups to outline a final peace deal before a proposed international conference in November.

Israelis also expressed concern about Syrian accusations, confirmed by Washington, that Israeli warplanes struck deep into Syrian territory last week.

The wall-to-wall silence on the reports from the normally voluble Israeli government has fuelled worries about possible war as Israelis struggle to figure out what the planes were doing in Syria.

A poll published in the Maariv newspaper yesterday showed Olmert's approval rating was 3.2 on a scale of 10.

Two women -- Parliament Speaker Dalia Itzik and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni -- emerged as Israel's most popular politicians, with grades of 6.3 and 6.1, respectively.

**Load-Date:** September 13, 2007

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## *Livni's Rise Sparks Debate on Whether Orthodox Would Back a Woman*

The Forward

July 4, 2008

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**Section:** News; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1232 words

### **Body**

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Prime Minister Ehud Olmert managed to hang on to power by his nails last week, after persuading the Labor Party to drop a bill to dissolve parliament just hours before the scheduled vote.

The price Olmert paid was a promise to Labor leader Ehud Barak that the Kadima party will hold new leadership primaries no later than September 25.

Now that a timeframe has been set for a leadership contest, campaigning will begin in earnest, and all eyes are on front-runner Tzipi Livni, the popular foreign minister. Some of the most intense discussion focuses on the question of how the contest will be affected by the fact that Livni is a woman.

When Olmert's corruption scandal broke last month and Livni entered the limelight as a possible replacement, one of the first questions raised by commentators was whether the Haredi parties, representatives of a fast-growing Orthodox community where gender attitudes are becoming increasingly conservative, would go into coalition under her.

Just three months earlier, an incident showed just how problematic the prominence of women in public life has become for the Haredi community. After a commission met to present its findings on the government's conduct of the Second Lebanon War, photographs of the briefing in the Haredi Orthodox press were digitally altered to erase commission member Ruth Gavison, a Hebrew University professor. The move was made to comply with current rulings of the Haredi rabbinate, which prohibit the publication of images of women.

Should Livni make it to the top, many Haredi Israelis would still be able to trip over her in the street without recognizing her un-publishable face, but the sector's main political parties have indicated that her gender will not hinder coalition negotiations.

Now, however, experts are casting doubt on whether Livni will get even that far. While she was the front-runner in early opinion polls, pundits are predicting that the run-up to the Kadima primaries will serve as a three-month reminder that Israeli politics is still very much a man's game. This is because security credentials are the expected trump card in convincing Israelis of prime ministerial qualities.

The fact that she is a woman, and as such was not a general in the army, is a real issue for her chances of winning the Kadima primaries, said Rina Bar-Tal, president and chairwoman of the Israel Women's Network. Another commentator, Hebrew University political scientist Naomi Chazan, veteran Israeli feminist and former Knesset member, voiced a similar opinion. People here say political ability, she said, but what they mean is military experience.

## Livni's Rise Sparks Debate on Whether Orthodox Would Back a Woman

Livni's gender has been used against her in the past. A year ago, when she called for Olmert's resignation but failed to tender her own, she was widely accused of feminine indecisiveness. Tzipi Livni removed the last doubts as to her compatibility for the post of secretary general of [the women's organization] Na'amat, or at most, president of the Women's International Zionist Organization, wrote Ben Caspit, one of the country's leading political commentators, in the daily Ma'ariv.

Gender studies researchers believe that with attitudes like this rife in Israel, the only way Livni has gotten as far as she has in politics is by downplaying her femininity.

Whenever approached to push for progress in women's rights or rape law, she declined to get involved even when she was minister of justice, said Orit Kamir, Hebrew University professor of law and gender studies.

Livni's gender neutrality extends as far as it can for a woman, and she is smart enough to disguise her femininity, Kamir said. This means appearing calm and passionless on political matters, avoiding makeup and jewelry, and dressing in dark, ultra-conventional trouser suits that would not be out of place in London or New York, but which no other woman wears here.

Yet there is one symptom of her gender that she cannot hide: her lack of experience in dealing with matters of security. Times have changed since Golda Meir overcame this problem; she was elected when Israelis were on a high, believing themselves incapable of facing defeat after the triumph of the Six Day War. Today they feel deeply threatened by Hezbollah, Hamas and Iran. Then people sensed Israel was strong enough not to need a military leader. The same feeling of strength is not present today, Jerusalem Post analyst Calev Ben-David told the Forward.

Livni seems well aware of this. In early June, the Sunday Times of London boasted a scoop with her former colleagues playing up her role in the Mossad in the early 1980s, when she was in her 20s. The newspaper reported that she was a Paris agent when the Mossad ran a series of missions to kill Palestinian terrorists in European capitals. The word around the Knesset is that the story was put out by Livni's people as a bid to address the hole in her curriculum vitae.

Unfortunately for her, whatever she got up to in Paris was small potatoes compared with the security accomplishments of her party rivals. They include Minister of Internal Security Avi Dichter, who is a former director of Shin Bet, and Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, a former military chief of staff.

What's more, voters in the primaries with reminders from Dichter and Mofaz will be well aware that the party needs a candidate to fight Labor leader and former army chief of staff Ehud Barak, who is (jointly with one other man) the most decorated soldier in Israel's history.

Israel is very much a militaristic country, and by extension one where men are dominant in public life. The mentality is that we need army officers at the top to take care of us, Bar-Tal said. But this is not valid. She can have thousands of military aides next to her who can ensure all the military decisions made are the best.

There have been Israeli leaders who have relied on this principle, including Meir. Olmert's military career was troubled: He began his service in 1963, but was temporarily relieved of duty because of injuries he sustained before enlistment; he eventually finished his military service in 1971 as a reporter for the army magazine, and later completed an officer's course, but he never has been regarded as a military authority.

This sense of following in Olmert's footsteps is unlikely to work for Livni, and is indeed likely to work against her. The Second Lebanon War spooked people, Ben-David said. There is a feeling that the problems there come from the fact that the people at the top lacked military background. After that, people feel the need for a military person at the top.

Chazan notes that this feeling is gaining strength, with the threats of Hezbollah, Hamas and Iran increasingly on people's minds. The longer the campaign for the primaries goes on, the more the security factor will play against Livni, she said.

## Livni's Rise Sparks Debate on Whether Orthodox Would Back a Woman

According to Chazan, there is only one way that Livni can deal with the issue. The assumption that it is only military men that can lead Israel has disproved itself, and Livni should break this tradition.

She should realize that her source of strength is that she can propose that what Israel needs is actually a transition to a civilian worldview, which is exactly what she can offer.

## Graphic

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IMAGE: On the Front Line:Tzipi Livni, shown here peering out from an Israeli military position in the West Bank, has had her fitness for Kadima party leadership called into question because of a lack of security credentials.; AP PHOTO

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2008

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***The Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in democratic;  
POLITICS-US: An Ocean Apart, Bush, McCain Play to Neo-Con Dreams***

IPS (Latin America)

May 16, 2008 Friday

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**Length:** 1204 words

**Byline:** Jim Lobe

## **Body**

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In separate speeches delivered an ocean apart, the two standard bearers of the Republican Party Thursday offered rosy visions of a future designed to gladden the hearts of Israel-centred neo-conservatives without offering any details about how their dreams will be achieved.

In an address marking the 60th anniversary of Israel's founding before the Knesset in Jerusalem, President George W. Bush predicted that, 60 years from now, the Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in a democratic Middle East where 'Al Qaeda and **Hezbollah** and Hamas will be defeated' and 'Iran and Syria will be peaceful nations, with today's oppression a distant memory...'

'From Cairo to Riyadh to Baghdad and Beirut, people will live in free and independent societies, where a desire for peace is reinforced by ties of diplomacy and tourism and trade,' he said.

Such a 'bold vision' will not 'arrive easily overnight', he said. But it will be possible 'so long as a new generation of leaders has the courage to defeat the enemies of freedom, to make the hard choices necessary for peace, and stand firm on the solid rock of universal values.'

Just a few hours later and some 11,000 kms away, Sen. John McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, told a partisan audience in Columbus, Ohio that, if elected, he will have 'won' the Iraq war by 2013 and brought home 'most of the servicemen and **women** who have sacrificed terribly so that America might be secure in her freedom.'

By the end of his first term, he went on, the threat from the Taliban in Afghanistan will have been greatly reduced, al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden and his key lieutenants captured or killed, and Iran 'persuaded (by) a reluctant Russia and China to cooperate in pressuring Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions, and North Korea to discontinue its own.'

In contrast to Bush, however, McCain failed to mention any progress on settling the Israel-Palestinian conflict, suggesting that such an effort will not rate particularly high on his foreign policy agenda.

That should be just fine with pro-Likud neo-conservatives who, despite their appreciation for Bush's staunch support for former hard-line Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (whom the president Thursday praised as 'warrior for the ages, a man of peace' in his speech), have been uneasy about his thus far feeble efforts to prod the two sides towards a framework peace agreement by the time he leaves office next January.



The Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in democratic POLITICS-US: An Ocean Apart, Bush, McCain Play to Neo-Con Dreams

Indeed, Thursday's speeches served to underline how powerful and durable the neo-conservative vision of the world, particularly for the Middle East, remains, at least for the Republican Party, and how likely it will be that a President McCain will 'stay the course' set by Bush.

Bush's speech was pure neo-conservatism, beginning with his assurance that Washington was 'Israel's closest ally and best friend in the world' and featuring a familiar depiction of the world as a struggle between the forces of 'good and evil', the latter embodied by the most immediate threats to Israel's security -- Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, and Syria.

'Some seem to believe that we should negotiate with the terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along,' he declared in a thinly veiled slap at the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, who, along with most of the U.S. foreign policy establishment, has called for engagement with Tehran and Damascus.

'We have heard this foolish delusion before,' he said, referring to the failure of western powers to challenge the Nazis in the 1930s, a core neo-conservative leitmotif. 'We have an obligation to call this what it is -- the false comfort of appeasement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history,' he continued, implicitly comparing the threats faced by Israel with Nazi Germany and explicitly assuring his audience that '...(T)he world must not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon.'

But, apart from confronting 'evil', presumably through military force, if necessary, and steadfastly promoting basic freedoms and democracy in the region -- a policy which even some of his neo-conservative backers believe Bush has largely abandoned as he has sought to rally Sunni Arab leaders against Iran and its allies -- Bush offered no ideas as to how his hopeful vision of the Middle East, particularly that of a 'homeland (Palestinians) have long dreamed of and deserved', in 2068 will be achieved.

McCain similarly failed to explain how he would achieve his own vision of victory in Iraq, substantial progress in Afghanistan, a defeated al Qaeda, and Iran's abandonment of its alleged nuclear ambitions by 2013. His comments led Rand Beers, a top counter-terrorism official under both George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton who resigned from the National Security Council to protest the younger Bush's decision to invade Iraq, to compare the speech to Richard Nixon's 'secret plan' to end the Vietnam War as a gimmick to win the 1968 presidential election.

McCain's vision for 2013 was more modest than Bush's for 2068 -- in addition to omitting any mention of an Israeli-Palestinian peace process, he made no predictions about 'transforming' the Middle East as a whole -- but the basic trajectory was consistent.

He described an Iraq at the end of his first term in office as 'a functioning democracy' in which violence would be 'spasmodic (but) much reduced', militias would be disbanded, al Qaeda in Iraq defeated, the central government able to impose its authority 'in every province of Iraq', and the U.S. military presence 'much smaller' and no longer engaged in combat.

And not only would the threat from the Taliban be 'greatly reduced' and the al Qaeda leadership captured or killed, he said, but a newly formed 'League of Democracies' -- another neo-conservative chestnut -- would 'apply stiff diplomatic and economic pressure' on Sudan to stop genocide in Darfur and use similar tools to end gross human rights abuses, such as human trafficking, in other parts of the world.

The absence of detail regarding how these goals will be accomplished drew mainly scorn from both Democrats and independent observers, with the former president of the influential Council on Foreign Relations, Leslie Gelb, describing McCain's vision as 'kind of a wild-eyed, unsupported prediction.'

'I think John McCain has been one of the most important voices on national security policy for many years now, so it really surprises me to see him giving speeches like the one today that are almost in la la land,' Gelb told reporters in a teleconference sponsored by the National Security Network.

The Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in democratic POLITICS-US: An Ocean Apart, Bush, McCain Play to Neo-Con Dreams

At the same time, Sen. Hillary Clinton, who is lagging behind Obama in the race for the Democratic nomination, noted that 'this is not the first time Sen. McCain has predicted victory in Iraq' and that his speech 'promises more of the same Bush policies...'

McCain himself suggested that his worldview was not so different from Bush's. Asked later Thursday about the president's assertion that negotiating with 'terrorists and radicals' today was similar to appeasing Adolf Hitler in the 1930s, McCain said he agreed with the analogy. © 2008 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

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## **Bush urges Arab world to confront threat from 'terrorism sponsor' Iran**

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

January 14, 2008 Monday

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**Length:** 503 words

**Byline:** Richard Wolf USA Today

### **Body**

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ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates -- President Bush urged the Arab world Sunday to confront a growing threat from Iran, which he described as "the world's leading state sponsor of terror."

During the signature speech of his eight-day trip to the Middle East, Bush also said the region's mostly authoritarian governments must do more to promote human rights and democratic reforms.

Bush accused Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government of sending hundreds of millions of dollars to extremists, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, the Taliban in Afghanistan and Shiite militants in Iraq.

"Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere," Bush told several hundred residents of this wealthy Muslim nation at the Emirates Palace, a \$3 billion hotel.

Bush was to travel to Saudi Arabia today for two days of meetings and social events with King Abdullah in hopes of winning his support for continued pressure on Iran, as well as for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. In recent months, the king has made overtures to Ahmadinejad, inviting him to the Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, and walking with him arm in arm at a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

He didn't mention it in his speech, but Bush stood by the Pentagon's contention that Iranian boats threatened three U.S. Navy ships in the Strait of Hormuz a week ago, nearly prompting a battle. Iran has questioned the U.S. description of the incident.

The military took the incident "very seriously," White House press secretary Dana Perino said. "All of the people in the military remember what has happened in the past, such as the USS Cole."

The Navy destroyer was struck by a suicide bomber in 2000 while docked in Yemen, killing 17 sailors.

The audience for Bush's 24-minute address in Abu Dhabi was a mix of Muslims in robes and headdresses and business-attired leaders of academia and the media. They politely applauded only twice, upon his introduction and conclusion.

After the speech, Bush ventured to a sprawling horse farm for a traditional desert dinner, outside of a tent set up in the sand. Large carpets with colorful red and white pillows were set up for the meal. Before eating, Bush was shown several prized falcons and even took a turn holding one. When the bird moved suddenly, Bush jumped back a bit but quickly recovered. "You're making him nervous," Bush told the assembled media. "He never had a press conference before."

## Bush urges Arab world to confront threat from 'terrorism sponsor' Iran

With his political career nearly over, Bush is using the trip to embark on a new campaign here: fomenting freedom in a part of the world teetering between authoritarianism and fledgling democracy.

He's prodding emirs and kings to moderate their governments and modernize their societies. He's heralding nations that expand women's rights, such as Kuwait, where Bush met Saturday with female academics and government officials.

On Sunday, he called the war against extremism "the great ideological struggle of our time." Contributing: Associated Press

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## Seeds of Hate

The New York Times  
January 6, 2008 Sunday  
Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section 7; Column 0; Book Review Desk; Pg. 9

**Length:** 1154 words

**Byline:** By JEFFREY GOLDBERG

Jeffrey Goldberg is a national correspondent for The Atlantic and the author of "Prisoners: A Muslim and a Jew Across the Middle East Divide."

## Body

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### JIHAD AND JEW-HATRED

Islamism, Nazism and the Roots of 9/11.

By Matthias Kuntzel.

Translated by Colin Meade.

180 pp. Telos Press Publishing. \$29.95.

One day in Damascus not long ago, I visited the understocked gift shop of the Sheraton Hotel, looking for something to read. There wasn't much: pre-owned Grishams, a hagiography of Hafez al-Assad, an early Bill O'Reilly (go figure) and a paperback copy of "The International Jew," published in 2000 in Beirut. "The International Jew" is a collection of columns exposing the putative role of Jews in such fields as international finance, world governance and bootlegging. "Wherever the seat of power may be, thither they swarm obsequiously," the book states. These columns, which are based on the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" -- they are a plagiary of a forgery, in other words -- were first published in Henry Ford's Dearborn Independent more than 80 years ago.

Next to "The International Jew" was a copy of "The Bible Came From Arabia," a piece of twaddle that suggests the Jews are not Jews and Israel isn't Israel. And then there was a pamphlet called "Secrets of the Talmud." Not knowing these secrets (I was raised Reform), I started reading. The Talmud apparently teaches Jews how best to demolish the world economy and gives Jews the right to take non-Jewish women as slaves and rape them.

The anti-Semitic worldview, generally speaking, is fantastically stupid. If its propagandists actually understood the chosen people, they would know, for instance, that no one, not the chief of Mossad, not even the president of Hadassah, could persuade 4,000 Jews to stay home from the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. ("And why should I listen to you?" would have been the near-universal rebuttal to the call.) Anti-Semitic conspiracy literature not only posits crude and senseless ideas, but also tends to be riddled with typos, repetitions and gross errors of grammar, and for this and other reasons I occasionally have trouble taking it seriously.

## Seeds of Hate

The German scholar Matthias Kuntzel tells us this is a mistake. He takes anti-Semitism, and in particular its most potent current strain, Muslim anti-Semitism, very seriously indeed. His bracing, even startling, book, "Jihad and Jew-Hatred" (translated by Colin Meade), reminds us that it is perilous to ignore idiotic ideas if these idiotic ideas are broadly, and fervently, believed. And across the Muslim world, the very worst ideas about Jews -- intricate, outlandish conspiracy theories about their malevolent and absolute power over world affairs -- have become scandalously ubiquitous. Hezbollah and Hamas, to name two prominent examples, understand the world largely through the prism of Jewish power. Hezbollah officials employ language that shamelessly echoes Nazi propaganda, describing Jews as parasites and tumors and prescribing the murder of Jews as a kind of chemotherapy.

The question is not only why, of course, but how: how did these ideas, especially those that portray Jews as all-powerful, work their way into modern-day Islamist discourse? The notion of the Jew as malevolently omnipotent is not a traditional Muslim notion. Jews do not come off well in the Koran -- they connive and scheme and reject the message of the Prophet Muhammad -- but they are shown to be, above all else, defeated. Muhammad, we read, conquered the Jews in battle and set them wandering. In subsequent centuries Jews lived among Muslims, and it is true that their experience was generally healthier than that of their brethren in Christendom, but only so long as they knew their place; they were ruled and taxed as second-class citizens and were often debased by statute. In the Jim Crow Middle East, no one believed the Jews were in control.

Obviously, then, these modern-day ideas about Jewish power were imported from Europe, and Kuntzel makes a bold and consequential argument: the dissemination of European models of anti-Semitism among Muslims was not haphazard, but an actual project of the Nazi Party, meant to turn Muslims against Jews and Zionism. He says that in the years before World War II, two Muslim leaders in particular willingly and knowingly carried Nazi ideology directly to the Muslim masses. They were Haj Amin al-Husseini, the mufti of Jerusalem, and the Egyptian proto-Islamist Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood. The story of the mufti is a familiar one: he was the leader of the Arabs in Palestine, and Palestine's leading anti-Jewish agitator. He eventually embraced the Nazis and spent most of the war in Berlin, recruiting Bosnian Muslims for the SS and agitating for the harshest possible measures against Jews. Kuntzel writes that the mufti became upset with Himmler in 1943, when he sought to trade 5,000 Jewish children for 20,000 German prisoners. Himmler came around to the mufti's thinking, and the children were gassed.

Hassan al-Banna did not embrace Nazism in the same uncomplicated manner, but through the 1930s, his movement, aided by the Germans, led the drive against not only political Zionism but Jews in general. "This burgeoning Islamist movement was subsidized with German funds," Kuntzel writes. "These contributions enabled the Muslim Brotherhood to set up a printing plant with 24 employees and use the most up-to-date propaganda methods." The Muslim Brotherhood, Kuntzel goes on, was a crucial distributor of Arabic translations of "Mein Kampf" and the "Protocols." Across the Arab world, he states, Nazi methods and ideology whipped up anti-Zionist fervor, and the effects of this concerted campaign are still being felt today.

Kuntzel marshals impressive evidence to back his case, but he sometimes oversimplifies. One doesn't have to be soft on Germany to believe it was organic Muslim ideas as well as Nazi ideas that led to the spread of anti-Semitism in the Middle East. In his effort to blame Germany for Muslim anti-Semitism, he overreaches. "While Khomeini was certainly not an acolyte of Hitler, it is not unreasonable to suppose that his anti-Jewish outlook ... had been shaped during the 1930s," Kuntzel says, citing, in a footnote, an article he himself wrote. He also oversimplifies the Israeli-Arab conflict. Jews today have actual power in the Middle East, and Israel is not innocent of excess and cruelty.

Still, Kuntzel is right to state that we are witnessing a terrible explosion of anti-Jewish hatred in the Middle East, and he is right to be shocked. His invaluable contribution, in fact, is his capacity to be shocked, by the rhetoric of hate and by its consequences. The former Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi once told me that "the question is not what the Germans did to the Jews, but what the Jews did to the Germans." The Jews, he said, deserved their punishment. Kuntzel argues that we should see men like Rantisi for what they are: heirs to the mufti, and heirs to the Nazis.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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DRAWING (DRAWING BY OLIVER MUNDAY)

**Load-Date:** January 6, 2008

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## *Government line on Gaza suggests we have forgotten our own history*

Irish Examiner

January 7, 2009 Wednesday

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**Section:** OPINION

**Length:** 1184 words

### **Body**

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Tragic because it is causing physical and emotional injury to innocent Palestinian civilians as well as the terrorists. Tragic because like every war it creates intolerable human hardship and heartbreaking suffering.

That all this was unavoidable is the greatest tragedy of all. When Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005, destroying all the Israeli settlements there, the Palestinians blew an historic opportunity, just as they blew an opportunity to have their own state way back in Bill Clinton's day. The Palestinians' need to destroy Israel is still stronger, it seems, than their need to build Palestine.

The Israeli response was, as the Egyptian foreign minister confirms, utterly predictable. It had been, as he put it, "written in the sky for months". But the fact that Palestinian rockets rained (and rain) down on southern Israel poses questions for both sides.

What sort of organisation is Hamas that it practically invites retaliation which - according to its own narrative and by its own design - bears down on women and children most of all? And what precisely are Israel's aims if they are not - as we keep being told - to end all the rocket attacks, let alone to eliminate the Hamas regime?

If Operation Cast Lead was no surprise in the region, it has upset European policymakers - and not just because their Christmas break was disrupted.

For three solid years Israel bit its lip and acted with restraint. After all, hadn't Jerusalem been saying that Iranian nuclear threat and the on-off possibility of an accord with Syria were its top priorities?

At the same time, foreign diplomats have little cause for complaint. Why is Israel the only country in the world which is supposed to accept meekly for an extended period of time a situation in which its people are bombarded from outside? Israelis, it is true, had treated Gaza like an unpleasant illness that, if ignored, would eventually go away on its own. It didn't. The mounting fear was that the rockets would improve in terms of their accuracy and range and that Jerusalem and Tel Aviv would have been imperilled, hence the response we have seen over recent days.

This was not a war or campaign that Israel sought. In a sense it cannot win, at least in the short-term. Will Hamas simply rise out of the ruins, shake off the dust and declare, as Hezbollah did in 2006, that it succeeded in surviving against the strongest army in the Middle East?



## Government line on Gaza suggests we have forgotten our own history

Alternatively, without a ground offensive, would the Palestinians again be able to tell themselves that the Israelis are avoiding confrontation and making do with dropping bombs from 30,000 feet up? The assassination of senior Hamas officials, the partial destruction of tunnels used to smuggle weapons into Gaza from Egypt and the bombing of buildings used by the Hamas leadership have not prompted the Islamists to announce a policy change yet. On the contrary, worryingly for Israelis, Hamas's credibility has only grown since Christmas.

Nowhere is that more true than in Ireland, of course. Flag-burning demonstrators are scarcely unique to this country. What is different is that the motley crew of far-leftists and Arab immigrants are practically egged on by the Government. That Hamas is regarded by the EU as a terrorist organisation appears to have been completely forgotten in Iveagh House.

Why doesn't the Government just say it: "Israel, stop defending your citizens"? Instead, a steady stream of statements issue from the departments of the Taoiseach and Foreign Affairs condemning Israel in the strongest terms and calling for an immediate ceasefire and talks as soon as possible. There is no hint of sympathy for Israel's plight.

Rather, Government statements suggest Ireland has a unique insight to bear from the experience of Northern Ireland: "We have seen in our country that it is only through dialogue that one can make political progress and find accommodation," as the Taoiseach put it on RT .

Well, yes and no, Mr Cowen. One day, presumably, Israel will get around a table with Hamas: I don't believe in purely military solutions either. But let's not pretend that Israel is dealing with an opponent with Scandinavian levels of reasonableness.

Besides, have we forgotten our own history? The difference between the situation today in Gaza/Israel and in the 1990s in relation to the IRA should be blindingly obvious. The republican movement was looking for a way out of its self-destructive and counterproductive violence; Hamas believes it's on a roll towards its ultimate aim of a Jew-free Palestine on the whole territory of Israel.

One of Jerusalem's key objectives in Gaza - supported quietly by Arab governments - is to inject some realism into Hamas, just as the British and Irish security forces did to the IRA. We should recall it was not a short process: it took years, decades in fact. And even then, the IRA had to observe a unilateral ceasefire before they could join talks: the RUC, gardaí, British army and the Irish defence forces were scarcely confined to barracks.

Not just that, but everyone had to sign up to Senator George Mitchell's principles: no violence, verifiable disarmament and an end to the mutilations that passed for 'punishment beatings'. Actually, Hamas commanders tend to prefer a bullet to the side of the head than to the side of the kneecap.

Again then, why must Israel settle for anything less in its own search for peace? We set preconditions; so will they.

Which is not to say Israel shouldn't tactically offer talks, precisely because they are the last thing Hamas actually wants.

And that is why the Israeli public is nervous. There is both determination and dread as thousands of Israel's reservist army are called to the front.

YES, Israel has proved it can hit hard. But are its politicians as clever as its army is strong? The mainstream PLO returning to Gaza atop an IDF tank is an unlikely prospect. Even if the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, agreed, how would Israel be able to respond to rocket fire with a friendly PLO/Fatah government in power instead of Hamas?

A more likely alternative is a balance of threats, what pro-Palestinian activists call 'Gaza as an open prison'; in other words, keeping Gaza as calm as possible via a combination of military and economic pressure and continued close cooperation with Egypt. Gaza would continue to be an unrecognised Hamas state until a long-term process of change and moderation comes to fruition. Effectively, that would be an arrangement akin to that which Israel has with Hezbollah in the north.

Government line on Gaza suggests we have forgotten our own history

A better approach if Hamas isn't interested in talks leading to a two-state solution - Israel and Palestine side by side - might be complete Israeli disengagement, sealing the border and letting the Gazans and their Egyptian Arab neighbours get on with it.

At present, Israel has responsibilities towards Gaza - having to feed the killers, in effect - but little real leverage. The Arab world won't like having to take on Gaza one bit but it can scarcely object.

One way or another, once the fighting is over, a new strategy towards Gaza needs to be devised. The sooner the better.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2009

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## **Israelis adopt besieged Sderot; Zionists and allies rally to town living under storm of rockets**

The International Herald Tribune

April 5, 2008 Saturday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1124 words

**Byline:** Ethan Bronner - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** SDEROT, Israel

### **Body**

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This long-neglected immigrant town a kilometer or so from Gaza, pounded by Palestinian rockets for seven years, is taking on a new identity, edging into the center of Zionist consciousness as a symbol of the nation's unofficial motto: "Never Again." Like the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, Sderot is now a must-see stop for those who support Israel or are being urged to do so.

Several groups have set up offices to arrange visits to a damaged home or a trauma center. Foreign diplomats have been bused here by the government. A United Nations officer says he has brought top officials here five times. John McCain came last month; Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, locals said, cannot be far behind.

Israelis and their supporters are lining up to volunteer for various projects and money is pouring in for bomb shelters, social services and an Orthodox religious seminary.

"For years, the government and others thought of Sderot not as a national problem but a local one," Mayor Eli Moyal said just before the ribbon cutting for an elegant first aid and ambulance center built with money donated largely by American Jews. "They now understand that if Sderot falls, Israel falls."

The sense that Sderot is actually Israel's front line in its battle for legitimacy and self-respect has gained currency, just as in the Arab world the suffering of Gazans has taken on a special significance. For Israelis, the conviction of Sderot's importance began growing with the huge increase in rocket fire since the 2005 Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and after the 2006 war with **Hezbollah**, which sent thousands of rockets into northern Israel.

With both Hamas and **Hezbollah** gaining strength on Israel's borders and developing rockets with longer ranges, Sderot, its advocates say, is a bitter sample of what more prosperous and distant parts of Israel may face if the threat here is ignored. And to a growing number across the political spectrum - who come from those more prosperous and distant parts - it is inspiring in the way that a collective rescue operation can be.

"In Tel Aviv, you have great cafés, nice clothes and you live an illusion as if everything is all right," said Ilanit Swissa, a theater director who moved to Sderot a few months ago to work with high school actors, one of about a dozen liberal intellectuals setting up camp here. "But it is not true. Here I feel like I am contributing something. We are at war and you feel it here."

## Israelis adopt besieged Sderot Zionists and allies rally to town living under storm of rockets

Surrounded by orange groves and wheat fields, guarded above by a military blimp that sets off an alert with each rocket launched from Gaza, Sderot has been a tough place to live.

There have been days when more than 50 rockets have landed in or near the town, bringing panic, destruction and occasionally death to a town of 20,000 that is heavily populated with Israeli minority groups - Moroccans, Ethiopians and refugees from Central Asia. Panic is widespread. Businesses have closed. Three thousand people have moved away.

Residents have grown accustomed to - though hardly comfortable with - the constant sound of a town-wide alert known as "Code Red," produced when the blimp detects an incoming rocket. Once the alarm has gone off, there are 20 seconds to get to a shelter before the rocket hits. Given such a short warning, children in kindergartens are kept inside all day rather than risk their failing to move quickly. Everyone knows someone who has suffered either property or personal damage.

Hundreds of expended rockets are on display in the courtyard of the police station. While typical of many its size in Israel, the town itself is pockmarked with rocket holes and shelters. A sense of pride in Sderot's refusal to yield and an interest in finding ways to protect and enhance the town have spread rapidly and deeply in the pro-Israel world.

"We hold an international meeting every four years and our last one was in January in New York," Helena Glaser, president of World WIZO, a Zionist women's group, said as she toured Sderot. "We printed T-shirts saying 'Sderot Needs You.' In one day, we raised \$1 million."

The other day, a busload of fundraisers were inspecting new care centers they had sponsored, passing some of the dozens of shelters, some of them donated by evangelical Christians. A rabbi was going over plans for a \$5 million seminary, donated mostly from abroad.

For people who live and work here, all the attention, especially from wealthy outsiders, can seem overwhelming. Several said they are unable to get anything done.

"It has gotten out of hand," said the director of the local volunteer center, Dror Marsha. "It has become a trend - a good trend - but I can't handle it. We have 1,000 volunteers a month now." Two years ago, he said, the number was 200.

Apart from the donations and support from the outside, another big change in Sderot in the past year has been economic, and the surprising reason for that is the Israeli evacuation of Gaza. Until 2005, there was an industrial park just inside Gaza of companies jointly owned by Israelis and Palestinians. With the withdrawal, the companies relocated to Sderot and employ Israelis, bringing the city's unemployment rate from a crushing 20 percent in the late 1990s to a near national low of 3.5 percent, said Shalom Halevy, a municipal spokesman.

Still, 30 percent of Sderot's residents show symptoms of stress, five times higher than other populations in Israel, according to studies carried out by Marc Gelkopf of Haifa University. Many families sleep in one room together for fear of missing the alarm.

As much as Sderot is a symbol, it is also a kind of Rorschach test - a screen onto which various political factions project their hopes and fears.

For the right, it is evidence that only force will stop the rockets. For the left it is evidence that force is not the answer and that the rockets cannot be stopped without a new approach.

One attempt at such a new approach involves a group in Sderot who have started holding discussions with Palestinians in Gaza via speaker phone. Called "Another Voice," the group is urging a cease-fire. There is also a new blog, a discussion between a resident of Sderot and one of Gaza, both anonymous for now.

But for Rabbi David Fendel, who has raised millions of dollars for an entirely rebuilt 500-student yeshiva that he has run here for years, the rockets are proof that withdrawing Israeli settlers and soldiers from Gaza was foolish. The point of his project is to make a statement to those who wish Israel ill.

Israelis adopt besieged Sderot Zionists and allies rally to town living under storm of rockets

"The Palestinians are trying to turn this into a ghost town," he said as he stepped through the construction site of his school. "We're not going to let them. We're going to make it a dynamic center of Zionism, Torah and building."

**Load-Date:** April 7, 2008

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## *Column: Reflecting upon the War on Terror*

University Wire

January 2, 2009 Friday

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**Length:** 496 words

**Byline:** By Rob Coniglio, Cornell Daily Sun; **SOURCE:** Cornell U.

**Dateline:** ITHACA, N.Y.

### **Body**

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I think that among the briefing materials given to anyone working to win the war on terror (or terrorism depending on your political persuasion) should be a copy of the film, *Battle of Algiers*. The film gives an account of the struggle between the French colonial authorities and the Algerian independence movement, the National Liberation Front. It gives an interesting and in-depth perspective both on terrorism and insurgency, and the tactics used against them. One of the most resonant points is reflected in the following exchange between a journalist and a captured Algerian insurgent leader:

Journalist: "M. Ben M'Hidi, don't you think it's a bit cowardly to use women's baskets and handbags to carry explosive devices that kill so many innocent people?"

Ben M'Hidi: "And doesn't it seem to you even more cowardly to drop napalm bombs on defenseless villages, so that there are a thousand times more innocent victims? Of course, if we had your airplanes it would be a lot easier for us. Give us your bombers, and you can have our baskets."

The question is not whether terrorism is effective. Instead it's a matter of putting terrorism (and terror) into perspective. Terrorism is a weapon of war, the choice weapon for the militarily weak against the militarily strong. As such, it is effective, or at least raises the costs of engagement. What terrorism is not is an ideology. It has nothing to say about how societies should be governed or how people should live their lives. And therefore it is not something we can defeat. Defeating terrorism is not like defeating communism, but instead like trying to defeat blitzkrieg warfare.

Instead we should consider the language we use and reflect upon who the enemy is. Certainly the enemy is al-Qaeda, but what does it stand for? Even if we consider this group Islamists, Islamism comes in many different forms and cannot in itself be considered the enemy. After all, a democratically-elected Islamist party governs Turkey, and some Islamists in Egypt and other parts of the Muslim world could be considered more democratic than their secular opponents. Alternatively, we could narrowly define the enemy as those who through terrorism would do physical harm to our allies and us. That definition could work, but it doesn't fit very well into a thirty second sound bite, or onto the footer of CNN or Fox News.

Part of the problem may also be that we're not entirely sure who our enemy is--after all, they're not really tied to particular countries or to one coherent overarching vision. If you put representatives from Hamas, Hezbollah and al-Qaeda into a room and tried to get a coherent and totalizing vision for the world out of them, you'd probably fail. So in the end, from this point of view, we're left with a much muddier picture of the conflict we're engaged in around the world but one that more accurately describes the situation than simplistic catch-phrases like the "war on terror."

Column: Reflecting upon the War on Terror

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**Load-Date:** January 5, 2009

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End of Document

**Hurfeish guards the North and strives to succeed. Mayor hopes ORT 'Smart Classroom' will give boost to Druse town on 'the periphery of the periphery'**

The Jerusalem Post  
April 3, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 5

**Length:** 932 words

**Byline:** EHUD ZION WALDOKS

## **Body**

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Less than two kilometers from **Hizbullah** and the Lebanese border lies the Druse community of Hurfeish. The people are friendly, happy to help out strangers and wave to the mayor as he drives through town.

This is "the periphery of the periphery," local council Mayor Rekad Kheredin told The Jerusalem Post this week. Despite its desperate financial status, Kheredin and the other residents are determined to succeed.

During the Second Lebanon War, 61 Katyusha rockets hit the town, 118 were wounded and 23 buildings were hit, including two schools.

On Monday, World ORT dedicated a "Smart Classroom" at the Hurfeish Comprehensive High School. World ORT Chairman Robert Singer and ORT America head Doreen Hermelin attended the ceremony.

Smart classrooms replace the blackboard and the whiteboard with a multimedia, interactive screen that combines video, e-mail and many other functions.

At a demonstration lesson in physics class on Monday, pupils solved problems on the screen, recorded the session, watched a video, and played a who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire game, all on the Smart screen. That is only a fraction of what the screen can do, the Post was told.

Kheredin explained how World ORT came to be involved in Hurfeish.

"After the war, at the beginning of 2007, Robert Singer and his team came. The Education Ministry suggested us. I noticed they had a strong interest in investing in the Druse sector.

"First, we prepared the infrastructure for a computer lab in a very short time. Then they donated a computer room for the teachers," Kheredin said.

"For Project Smart, we did the entire infrastructure, they brought the equipment. In just three weeks, we organized and launched the project, he said.

Kheredin also visited New York, Atlanta and London to meet with World ORT's donors.

Hurfeish is remarkable for its high rate of service in the IDF.



Hurfeish guards the North and strives to succeed. Mayor hopes ORT 'Smart Classroom' will give boost to Druse town on 'the periphery of the periphery'

"As of 2006, which was the last time we checked, there was a 92.7 percent enlistment, nearly 60% to combat units. There is also a very high percentage of officers," Kheredin said.

"We are in the periphery, but people do not give up but continue to go serve the country in the best way possible," he said.

The commander of the IDF unit guarding the nearby part of the border is from Hurfeish.

Kheredin has big plans for his small town.

He had set himself three goals.

First, to improve Hurfeish's education system. Donors have been found for three projects.

"The Education Ministry's budget is not enough. We need to match 25%. As a poor council we can't give more than that. Without these donations that we got, the education system would have collapsed," Kheredin declared.

Rabea Bader, a 12-grader at Hurfeish Comprehensive High School, is the type of student the school and the council would like to produce in greater numbers.

"I am in all the 'Smart' classes. We started to use it two [school] days ago, on Thursday. It has potential, it opens doors for us. It is very easy to use, it's not complicated. We can do video conferences with people all over the world where ORT put Smart classes. It is new technology that we only dreamed of using," he told the Post in clear English.

"This new technology made us feel like we are connected to people, connected to the world. It feels great to use it and to know how to use it," he said.

The pupils have caught on to the technology faster than the teachers, according to Bader.

"We're teaching the teachers. The new technology suits us," he said with a grin.

Bader will enter the army's Technical Reserves (Atudai) program next year. He'll spend four years at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology studying computer science and software technology, six years in the army, and then plans to go to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for his master's degree.

After that, "I am going back to my hometown, to the people who raised me and gave me strength, who supported me when I needed support," Bader said.

Rajih Gadban, principal of the school for 23 years, called the Smart classrooms a "pedagogic revolution of the first degree."

"Teachers need to adopt new pedagogy. I am sure the teachers will succeed in this mission. They need to prepare their students for a hi-tech world. It gives them personal experience. They talk about the third generation [usually when referring to cellphones]. This is the third generation in teaching," Gadban told the Post.

Gadban has high hopes for his students.

"We want to reach the highest number of college graduates in the Druse community relative to size. Right now, we have a 58% rate of success in the high school matriculation exams.

Kheredin laid out his two other missions, interconnected in his view.

There is a severe housing shortage in Hurfeish, he said. "Two hundred families are without houses. There is a nature reserve near us that prevents the town from being expanded."

Hurfeish guards the North and strives to succeed. Mayor hopes ORT 'Smart Classroom' will give boost to Druse town on 'the periphery of the periphery'

Finally, "We need an industrial zone. We need the municipal taxes from an industrial zone. One of the problems we have is educated women who don't have anywhere to work. Because we are still a traditional community, women can't go far to find work.

"By upgrading the education system, I change my financial situation. It is all connected. The problem is worse in the periphery of the periphery, namely the Druse. Only strong municipalities offer a good education," he said.

Kheredin praised World ORT and its interest in Hurfeish.

"The special connection with ORT America and World ORT in general is a very broad connection. Over and above the financial donation, there is a donation to the state. Donating to Hurfeish's education system is a net donation to Israel's security," he said.

## Graphic

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Photo: A HURFEISH student writes on the 'Smart screen' during a demonstration lesson in physics at the Hurfeish Comprehensive High School on Monday. (Credit: Courtesy)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

**DIGEST**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 21, 2008 Monday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A10

**Length:** 554 words

**Byline:** FROM NEWS SERVICES

**Body**

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VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

U.S. meth statement unfounded, official says

Canadian police on Sunday disputed claims by the U.S. drug czar that organized crime rings in Canada are dumping dangerous, methamphetamine-laced ecstasy into the United States.

John Walters, who heads the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, recently released a statement warning public health and safety officials of the dangers posed by turbo-charged ecstasy from Canada.

The head of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's national drug branch said Sunday he did not know why Walters would issue the statement without checking facts with Canadian officials.

"I shook my head when I read the release that they put out," RCMP Supt. Paul Nadeau said.

Walters' office did not immediately return a call seeking comment Sunday.

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Presidential election is postponed again

A parliamentary session to elect a new president was delayed Sunday after talks between Syrian officials and Lebanon's feuding factions failed to break a presidential deadlock.

The postponement of the session scheduled for Monday was the latest of more than a dozen such delays since the sharply divided legislature first tried to select a new head of state in September.

It underlined continuing political differences in a fierce yearlong power struggle between the Western-backed government of Prime Minister Fuad Saniora and the Syrian-backed opposition led by the militant Hezbollah group.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Number of foreign workers will be reduced

## DIGEST

Malaysia plans to send home 200,000 foreign workers this year to increase job opportunities for its own citizens, a senior government official said Sunday.

The government will apply stricter standards for the hiring of foreign workers to reduce their number to 1.8 million next year and to 1.5 million by 2015, said Raja Azahar Raja Abdul Manap, the Home Affairs Ministry secretary-general.

A little over 2 million of Malaysia's 11 million workers are foreigners. Hundreds of thousands more work illegally in the country.

## JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Suharto appears to make comeback from illness

Former Indonesian dictator Suharto moved his hands and spoke in a whisper Sunday in what doctors called a "miraculous" recovery from a potentially fatal blood infection after more than two weeks on life support.

Suharto, 86, was hospitalized Jan. 4 with severe kidney, lung and heart trouble. His condition deteriorated rapidly a week ago when he developed pneumonia and sepsis, a blood infection particularly dangerous for the elderly.

Preparations had begun for a state funeral, the family mausoleum was put in order and passes were handed out to the media for a memorial service after his heart briefly stopped.

## MUMBAI, INDIA

Bus crash kills at least 38 Hindu pilgrims

A bus carrying Hindus on a religious pilgrimage skidded off a hill in western India and plunged into a gorge, killing at least 38 people and injuring 40 others, police said Monday.

Five children and 17 **women** were among the dead, said police inspector R.D. Jadhav at the Nashik police station, near the scene of the accident about 155 miles east of Mumbai. The crash took place shortly before midnight Sunday, he added.

The bus was only made to seat 45 people but was carrying about 80 passengers when it crashed, Jadhav said. The driver, who survived, fled the scene.

## Notes

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World

## Graphic

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## PHOTO

PHOTO - A man reads a ballot Sunday during parliamentary elections in Havana, Cuba. Voters ratified a slate of candidates that included Fidel Castro, who hasn't been seen in public in 18 months. The Associated Press

**Load-Date:** January 21, 2008

DIGEST

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## **TZIPI LIVNI**

Weekend Australian

September 20, 2008 Saturday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 32

**Length:** 523 words

### **Body**

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#### CLOSE-UP

ISRAELI Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni was one step closer to becoming the country's next prime minister after winning the leadership of centrist party Kadima. The former Mossad spy and mother of two has been a rising star on Israel's political scene for years and is the Jewish state's most powerful woman.

Ehud Olmert, the corruption-tainted outgoing prime minister, was expected to formally stand down once Livni confirmed she had formed a working coalition.

“Should she succeed in putting together a governing majority in the wake of her primary victory -- no easy task -- she will be Israel's second **female** prime minister after Golda Meir,” Tobias Buck wrote in the Financial Times. “But, unlike the uncompromising Meir, (Livni) has pledged to put all her efforts into striking a peace agreement with the Palestinians. That in itself is a striking departure: Livni hails from an ultra-nationalist family but is now seen as one of the chief proponents of a peace deal with the Palestinians in order to safeguard the Jewish state. She has spoken repeatedly about her realisation that Israel can continue to exist as a Jewish and democratic state (only) if the country relinquishes its hold on the Palestinian West Bank, which has been under Israeli occupation since 1967.”

According to Bronwen Maddox in The Times, Livni offered the best chance for progress in talks with the Palestinians that have been blocked by the expired powers of US President George W. Bush and Olmert and divisions in the Palestinian leadership. “Yet if a new US president is to revive them, he will need an Israeli leader prepared to do so too. Livni is the best on offer. She has made an Obama-like case that change and ‘cleanliness’ from the murk of the past should outweigh experience.”

Calev Ben-David wrote in The Jerusalem Post that if Livni was going to live up to her promise of change, “the very first thing she must address as party leader is the state of Kadima itself, and try to reshape her divided and scandal-ridden faction closer to her own image as the straight-talking ‘Mrs Clean’ of local politics. What's more, she must do this while forming a new government, a process that by its nature encourages, if not outright requires, the kind of ideological compromise, political horse-trading and policy dissembling needed to craft a coalition of parties and personalities with differing and sometimes conflicting agendas.”

Amir Oren, in Haaretz, predicted 50-year-old Livni would have her work cut out for her. “If she were leading a rock group, we could call it Tzipi and the Expectations. She is expected to form a nimble yet stable government, broad enough to avert early Knesset elections yet efficient enough to work and to make policy. Her first priority will be to

## TZIPI LIVNI

briskly de-Olmertise the party and to purge the rot and corruption at the top of the government. Livni has no time. She may find herself leading a state at war not in a year's time but in a month or even a week because it is not only Israel that has the initiative. Its enemies -- Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas -- may be tempted to take advantage of her inexperience."

**Load-Date:** September 19, 2008

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## *Peace advocates seem to have blinders on*

Nelson Daily News (British Columbia)

July 15, 2008 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** LETTERS; Pg. 7

**Length:** 580 words

**Byline:** Roger Pratt, Nelson Daily News

### **Body**

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To the Editor:

Re: The "Peace Coalition"

It is ironic that the secretary of the group that calls itself the "Peace Coalition" wrote to thank the editor for publishing their articles, while NDN columnist Donna Macdonald wrote a piece about her trip to Germany and about the memorials to the Nazi holocaust.

The terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah have both threatened, several times, to exterminate Israel, including the ethnic cleansing and murder of over five million Jews. The government of Iran has taken it a step further and called for the extermination of every Jew on the planet, including all of Canada's Jews, and all the Jews living in the Kootenays. This would be Holocaust II, and it seems that through their silence, the "Peace Coalition", including MP Alex Atamanenko, have thrown their support behind it.

It is a further irony that while Alex Atamanenko is congratulating himself for shutting down uranium mining in British Columbia, his friends in Tehran are refining uranium to weapons grade, presumably with the idea of nuking Israel.

In Zimbabwe, the glorious socialist leader Robert Mugabe has virtually destroyed the country through brutality and incompetence. Fair elections are impossible as he continues to attack and murder many in the opposition. He has created 80 per cent unemployment, the destruction of the agricultural sector, starvation, racism, and massive inflation. The ANC government of South Africa is complicit in this destruction by failing to condemn him for it.

The "Peace Coalition", Alex Atamanenko and the federal NDP, are also fully complicit by their silence.

Several years ago the Calgary-based oil company Talisman was working in Sudan. The federal NDP, among others, complained bitterly that Talisman was helping to create and perpetuate a war. Under this pressure Talisman pulled out. Since then hundreds of thousands of people have been murdered in Darfur by the government of Sudan. The NDP and the "Peace Coalition" are fully complicit in this ongoing violence because they remain silent about these murders, and refuse to complain about the Chinese and Indian oil companies that currently operate there.

About a dozen honour killings are carried out each year in Europe. Young women are murdered because they have "dishonoured" the family. A recent CBC radio program featured a Palestinian family living in Israel where so far six



Peace advocates seem to have blinders on

women have been murdered. The remaining women finally decided to go to the authorities. The murderers were arrested. If the family lived in the Palestinian territories instead of Israel, the murderers would not be punished. Why does the NDP and the "Peace Coalition" keep silent about honour killings?

In the June 2008 edition of Atlantic magazine is an article about highway construction in Afghanistan. More than \$2 billion is being spent on upgrading highways, and by 2010 the 3,000 km ring road around Afghanistan will be completed. While this infrastructure construction is denigrated by the NDP and the "Peace Coalition", the Taliban regard it as a serious problem, and they offer special incentives for killing U.S. soldiers and Afghan construction workers. The journey between Kandahar and Kabul has been reduced from 14 hours to five. Trade for Afghanistan is expected to increase from \$4.7 billion in 2005 to \$16 billion in 2016.

It is both bizarre and disgraceful that the "Peace Coalition" continues to show its support for so many of the world's worst thugs and terrorists.

Roger Pratt

Nelson, B.C.

**Load-Date:** July 21, 2008

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## *Israel's next big hope*

Christian Science Monitor

September 19, 2008, Friday

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 8

**Length:** 548 words

**Byline:** the Monitor's Editorial Board

### **Body**

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With peace prospects in poor shape, Israelis might be ready for a new type of leader. Tzipi Livni, who was elected Wednesday to head Israel's ruling party, has led negotiations with the Palestinians. If anything, her optimism and an eagerness to clean up Israeli politics could cut the somber mood in the Middle East.

Like the stalemate itself between Israel and the Palestinians, Ms. Livni has a thin reed on which to build peace. She won the contest to head the Kadima party by a slim margin. Only about half of eligible voters cast ballots. In order to become prime minister, she must cobble together a coalition with other parties that hold very different ideas of Israel's future.

Not to pile on bad news, but there's also a cloud over her party. Is Kadima, which means forward in Hebrew, really committed to an independent Palestinian state?

Founded three years ago by then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the party split off from the right-wing Likud party over a recognition that Israel could not hold onto the West Bank and Gaza Strip. To keep a grip on a Palestinian population that would eventually outnumber Israelis was to accept a demographic time bomb and face a strategic disaster if more Arab states don't accept Israel. It would be better, the party reasoned, to let the Palestinians fend for themselves in limbo, build a border wall, and cope with any suicide bombers who slip through.

The first step in Kadima's new approach was withdrawal of Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza. That backfired when the Islamic militant group Hamas took over, leaving the government on the West Bank, led by Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas, as a weak negotiating partner.

Compounding the problem was the political fragility of the current prime minister, Ehud Olmert. He bungled the 2006 war with Lebanon and is dogged by corruption charges. Under United States pressure, he revived talks for a two-state solution, trying to build on the failed Oslo accords of 1993.

The imperative for a peace deal remains even if both sides are in despair. Iran looms as a threat if it acquires nuclear-bomb capability. And Iran's friends - Hezbollah, Hamas, and Syria - are in front-line positions to hurt Israel. The US is also eager for a Palestinian state to eliminate one more excuse for Al Qaeda to recruit terrorists.

Any of Israel's enemies might be quick to test Livni. She is cut from a different cloth than many past leaders, including the first female prime minister, Golda Meir. She comes from a super-nationalist family, served in the Army and as an intelligence agent, and then worked as a lawyer before entering politics in 1999. She's most admired for espousing clean politics.

## Israel 's next big hope

Her popularity is needed to reengage Israelis in a search for peace and to find a new balance in Israel's splintered politics. As foreign minister, she's also been a serious negotiator with the Palestinians for more than a year. Her first goal if she becomes prime minister should be to achieve a consensus over compromises needed to cement peace. The Oslo Accords fell apart because they lacked wide support among Israelis and Palestinians.

Regional threats to Israel remain and Palestinians still deserve a homeland. Despite slim support, Livni brings hope of progress.

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**Load-Date:** September 18, 2008

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## Letters

The Jerusalem Post  
July 27, 2008 Sunday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 14

**Length:** 966 words

**Byline:** Marsha Greenberg, Yoram Getzler, M.M. Van Zuiden, Batya Igdalski, Shlomo Riskin, Ruth L. Stern

**Highlight:** Readers' Letters

### Body

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Half a performance

Sir - As one of the few Jewish members - and the only observant one - of NY's Collegiate Chorale, which has just concluded a series of concerts here with the Israel Philharmonic, I took an interest in the brouhaha in the Knesset over the female members of its choir being banned ("Silencing of women MKs' singing in Knesset sparks outcry," July 23).

I understand the women's anger. Most lenient halachic opinions agree that the injunction "kol b'isha erva" ("a woman's voice is licentious") applies to listening to one woman sing. Certainly this would not apply to these women, who were to sing as part of a group. Any man who did not want to listen could have walked out for the minute and a half (if that) it took for "Hatikva" to be sung.

I fear that the women's anger will be directed at whoever decided they couldn't sing, or at the haredi MKs. In my opinion it should be directed at the male members of the choir, who went ahead and performed without them.

A choir is not unlike a sports team - every member, and every voice part, is vital. I have no doubt that without the women participating, the British prime minister heard a substandard performance.

MARSHA GREENBERG

Stamford, Connecticut

Not that bad a deal?

Sir, - I read with interest "Not that bad a deal" (July 24), in which Yoram Schweitzer explained and seemed to justify the latest prisoner exchange. He wrote of the government having made "decisions with the support of the majority of the nation."

I hope he made time to read Evelyn Gordon's "Olmert's collaboration with Hizbullah" on the same page. In it, we finally learned that we, the public, were completely misled by the government concerning the status of the two captives - which, in effect, made us unable to engage in any meaningful or educated debate on the issue. The notion that the public has the right and responsibility to make these decisions, and is willing to abide by their results, is thus rendered totally fraudulent.

## Letters

These deals - and the case of drug dealer Elhanan Tennenbaum, whose release also cost us in pride and demoralizing experiences, still needs to be better understood - add to the process in which the people lose faith in "their" government, the system and the national enterprise altogether.

That is the ultimate tragedy.

YORAM GETZLER

Moshav Aminadav

Kuntar's jealousy,

Avnery's blindness

Sir, - This is to let you know that I referred to your amazing report "Kuntar says he's jealous of 'the Zionists'" (July 18) in a letter to the editor of Trouw, a highly respected national newspaper in the Netherlands. I used it as a contrast to a piece by Uri Avnery in that paper the day before to show that even this child killer could see what Avnery seemed blind to: excellence in the Israeli nation.

Thank you again for printing that short item.

M.M. VAN ZUIDEN

Jerusalem

The right treatment

Sir, - I would have liked to see the notification of Border Policeman David Chriqui's death on page 1, and not several pages deeper into your paper. Coverage of those who die for our country deserves pride of place ("Border cop dies of wounds from Old City shooting," July 24).

BATYA IGDALSKI

Jerusalem

My stance on Agriprocessors

Sir, - Rabbi David Eliezrie wrote a far-reaching article about the controversy concerning Agriprocessors, the Iowa-based leader in kosher meat production. Since my name - or at least my former name (I am falsely identified as Rabbi Steven Riskin, whereas 25 years ago I officially changed my name to Shlomo Riskin) - was mentioned, it behooves me to explain my involvement and present stance re Agriprocessors ("A new front opens on the Jewish culture wars," July 10) .

Uri Zedek is a burgeoning Orthodox social action group paralleling Maagalei Zedek in Israel. It insists that kashrut and yashrut, ritual concern and ethical sensitivity, go hand in hand. I am proud to say that one of the group's leaders, Shmuly Yanklowitz, is a beloved student of mine; and in the classes that I give on Yoreh Deah to our Ohr Torah Stone rabbinical students I constantly stress the biblical emphasis on compassion as a major source for the laws of kashrut ("Thou shalt not seethe a kid in its mother's milk," "For the soul is the blood of the animal," etc.), as well as the teachings of Rav Kook in his Sefer Hazon regarding the moral ambiguity in eating meat.

Hence when Shmuly informed me of the findings concerning Agriprocessors, and when I could not find a clear denial by the leaders of the company, I gave him the right to sign me on to his petition (I did not actually sign it myself). When a leading rabbi, whom I deeply respect, then told me he felt Agriprocessors were being maligned, I asked him to please supply me with corroborating facts, and I would publish a retraction.

## Letters

I am pleased to report that before I received those facts, Shmuly found the leadership of Agriprocessors cooperating and attempting to right whatever wrongs were going on in the plant. For that reason Uri Zedek removed the boycott and is granting Agriprocessors every possibility of correcting the situation.

It is certainly to the credit of Agriprocessors that it is behaving in such a forthright manner. A meatpacking plant that is strengthened - in every area of halachic concern - can only result in a true sanctification of God's name and a heightened appreciation of the all-encompassing quality of Jewish Law.

SHLOMO RISKIN

Efrat

Rubb(er)ing it in

Sir, - I would like to inform Michael Plaskow that there is no need to invent a paint that stays on pedestrian crossings and other road markings. England has been using just the thing on its roads for many years. It looks similar to the paint used on tennis courts - like a thick liquid rubber, which dries out and clings to the surface ("Feet that can't be beat," Letters, July 23).

RUTH L STERN

Beit Shemesh

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## **CAMERON: I'LL CURB MUSLIM FANATICS; EXCLUSIVE Tories to get tough on UK extremists**

Sunday Express

September 28, 2008 Sunday

U.K. 1st Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; 1

**Length:** 592 words

**Byline:** By Jason Groves POLITICAL EDITOR

### **Body**

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A TOUGH package is being drawn up by David Cameron to tackle Islamic extremism. One of the key proposals is to ban sharia law courts from operating in this country. In an exclusive interview with the Sunday Express, Mr Cameron's security adviser, Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones, said the Tories were determined to "integrate" British Muslims into mainstream society.

Lady Neville-Jones, a former head of the Joint Intelligence Committee which advises the Prime Minister on terrorism, said: "We are not going to have any status for sharia courts. Absolutely not."

Outlining the Tories' wider plans for tackling Islamic extremism, she added: "We will be tough. We will be really tough on the men of violence and those who lead them to violence. That's the real gap between us and the Government at the moment."

She said the party would abandon the "blind alley of multiculturalism, which has deliberately gone down the road of separation for its own sake. We want unity and opportunity, despite difference, through integration."

She was backed by Shadow Home Secretary Dominic Grieve, who said that multiculturalism had left a "terrible" legacy and created a vacuum exploited by extremists. The Tory plans also include:

.Banning a string of groups blamed for encouraging Islamic extremism.

.Working with other EU countries to change the Convention on Human Rights which has blocked the deportation of hate preacher Abu Qatada and others believed to be a threat to Britain.

.Changing the school curriculum to encourage teaching of British values and make youngsters "proud of their country."

In recent years, sharia courts have been established in a number of cities.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, caused controversy by claiming the adoption of some aspects of sharia law was "unavoidable".

## CAMERON: I'LL CURB MUSLIM FANATICS EXCLUSIVE Tories to get tough on UK extremists

Supporters claim the verdicts of sharia courts are already legally binding in a string of areas, including divorce, financial disputes and even cases of domestic violence and assault.

Critics insist the courts discriminate against women and undermine the rule of law. They also warn the use of Islamic law encourages a separatist agenda.

Lady Neville-Jones said minor disputes could be settled by "customary mediation, " including sharia and the Jewish Beth Din system, but there could be no question of the "courts" enjoying any formal legal status. "We are not going to have any legal recognition of sharia judgments that would withstand appeal to a secular court, " she said.

The Conservatives are also looking at extending the list of Islamic groups banned from operating in this country on the grounds they foster extremism.

Islamic extremist group Hizb utTahrir, which critics accuse of encouraging the killing of Jews, is a likely target.

Lady Neville-Jones said the Conservatives would also look at the activities of certain charities, including the "charitable" arm of the Palestinian terrorist group Hezbollah, which operates freely here.

The major Islamic group Tablighi Jamaat, which wants to build Europe's largest "mega mosque" near the London Olympics site, will also be examined.

A spokesman for Tablighi Jamaat said: "Tablighi Jamaat is, in Muslim terms, the equivalent of the Methodist Church. The trustees do not condone terrorism of any kind."

Inayat Bunglawala, of the Muslim Council of Britain, said: "Sharia courts operate with the blessing of UK law. As for banning organisations, we believe in a democracy it is far better to allow all organisations to operate freely, and if individuals happen to break the law then they ought to be prosecuted."

**Load-Date:** September 30, 2008



## **Prisoner exchange stalled; Israeli Soldier; Hamas insists on release of 1,400 Palestinians**

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

December 27, 2007 Thursday

National Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. A19

**Length:** 515 words

**Byline:** Nidal Al-Mughrabi, Reuters

**Dateline:** GAZA

### **Body**

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GAZA - Hamas will not release a captured Israeli soldier unless Israel meets its demand to free nearly 1,400 Palestinian prisoners, including 350 with life sentences, a leader of the Islamist group in Gaza said yesterday.

Similar demands were rejected months ago by Israel, highlighting the gap that remains between the two sides in trying to reach a swap deal for Sergeant Gilad Shalit, captured by Gaza militants in a cross-border raid in June, 2006.

Hamas leader Osama al-Muzaini, one of the top officials with knowledge of the negotiations, said the list of names in any deal would contain prisoners serving life sentences, including Fatah leader Marwan al-Barghouthi, who is seen as a possible successor to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Previous efforts to reach a deal, spearheaded by Egyptian mediators, stalled after Hamas Islamists routed Fatah forces loyal to Mr. Abbas and seized control of the Gaza Strip in June. Egypt responded by withdrawing its diplomatic mission in Gaza.

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, yesterday to discuss a deal with Hamas on Sgt. Shalit.

Mr. Muzaini told Reuters in an interview that diplomats

from three European countries had made contact with Hamas leaders in Gaza to try to mediate Sgt. Shalit's release. He did not identify the European countries.

Mr. Muzaini said Hamas would not budge on its demand for 1,400 prisoners.

"In March, we closed discussions on this issue and we have no intention of reopening them. The ball is in Israel's court," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office in April referred to the Hamas offer as disappointing, and Mr. Olmert previously vowed not to release prisoners with "blood on their hands," a reference to attacks against Israelis.

## Prisoner exchange stalled; Israeli Soldier; Hamas insists on release of 1,400 Palestinians

But Israeli ministers met this week to discuss easing criteria for freeing Palestinian prisoners as part of efforts to gain Sgt. Shalit's release.

Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shaul Mofaz told Army Radio yesterday that Israel needs to "take every step" to secure the release of Sgt. Shalit and two other Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah guerrillas last year.

"Ultimately, we will have to approve a list [of prisoners]. It doesn't matter what title these people are given. What's important is to return the boys home," Mr. Mofaz said.

Mr. Muzaini said the first phase of Hamas's proposal calls for Sgt. Shalit to be handed over to Egypt in exchange for Israel releasing 350 prisoners serving life sentences, including jailed leaders from Hamas and other factions.

At the same time, Israel would release half the number of women and minors held in Israeli jails, a number Mr. Muzaini estimated at 400.

Sgt. Shalit would be returned to his family 10 days later and Israel would simultaneously release another 100 long-serving prisoners and the rest of women and minors, Mr. Muzaini said.

In the second phase of the deal two months later, Hamas wants Israel to free an additional 550 prisoners.

Hamas is seeking Egyptian and other international guarantees that the subsequent release would be carried out.

## Graphic

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Black & White Photo:; (See hardcopy for Photo Description) ;

Black & White Photo: Chris Mikula, CanWest News Service; A rally in Ottawa last year called for the release of Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier captured by Gaza militants in a cross-border raid in June, 2006. ;

**Load-Date:** December 27, 2007

## Caramel

South China Morning Post

July 6, 2008 Sunday

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**Section:** FEATURES; DVD reviews; Pg. 2

**Length:** 546 words

**Byline:** Clarence Tsui

### **Body**

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Caramel

Starring: Nadine Labaki, Yasmine al Masri, Joanna Moukarzel, Gisele Aouad, Sihame Haddad

Director: Nadine Labaki

The film: Having forged a career mostly in making commercials and music videos, Nadine Labaki is hardly a prime candidate from which one expects a subtle, engaging drama about frustrating relationships and repressed emotions. It's all the more a pleasant surprise, therefore, that the 34-year-old has delivered exactly that with Caramel.

Revolving around five women who work in or frequent a beauty salon in Beirut, her feature film debut offers a measured treatise about the predicaments Lebanese women face, from universal themes (such as being stuck in an illicit affair) to more local issues, such as how long-held traditions about sexuality present obstacles for female emancipation.

The film's title refers to the paste commonly used in Beirut's salons to remove their clients' excessive hair. A mixture conjured from sugar and lemon juice, the caramel sweet-and-sour taste is used to symbolise the amorous predilections on show: salon owner Layale (played by Labaki, right) is mired in a doomed affair with a married man; her associate Nisrine (Yasmine al Masri) is cast asunder by fears of being found out by her fiancé that she's not a virgin; their young tomboyish worker Rima (Joanna Moukarzel), meanwhile, is torn by her same-sex affections towards a client.

Their modelling friend Jamale (Gisele Aouad) is trying desperately to face up to the arrival of menopause, while lone spinster Rose (Sihame Haddad) is torn between accepting the affections of a suitor and the needs of her demented elder sister, for whom she has suppressed all her romantic hopes for most of her life.

Never once opting for visual gimmickry, cheap sentimentality or hackneyed melodrama, Labaki has conjured a film oozing hearty humour, genuine emotions and empathy for her characters.

By peppering the individual tales with nods towards the social conventions the protagonists are bound by - whether it be the orthodox views on chastity, same-sex love and family responsibilities, or the thoroughly western obsession with photogenic youth - Caramel also offers social commentary of a country long undermined by religious schisms from within.

## Caramel

That it's all done in a subtle manner showcases Labaki's talents: unlike quite a few of recent Lebanese films - the very political *Under the Bombs* and *Je Veux Voir* - *Caramel* only hints at the country's decades-long civil war through damaged streets and frequent blackouts. The film was made in 2006 during a time of relative calm in Lebanon - a week after shooting wrapped, Israel began its months-long bombardment of Beirut in its war with the **Hezbollah**.

The extras: With the interesting social context which drives the film and a cast of mostly non-professional actors - Moukarzel, for example, is the manager of a electrical appliances company and Aouad a personal assistant in business - *Caramel* is ripe for many a bonus featurette. It's in this aspect that this DVD comes short just for once: the only extra here is a banal six-minute interview with Labaki.

The verdict: A moving film that reveals genuine emotions and the tribulations of **women** in their struggle for emotional well-being and emancipation.

**Load-Date:** July 7, 2008

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End of Document

## **TODAY IN HISTORY**

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

July 25, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** GENERAL; Pg. A-2

**Length:** 556 words

### **Body**

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July 25, 1956 - The Italian liner Andrea Doria collided with the Swedish passenger ship Stockholm off the New England coast late at night and began sinking; at least 51 people were killed. (The Andrea Doria sank the following day, eleven hours after the crash.)

1866 - Ulysses S. Grant was named General of the Army of the United States, the first officer to hold the rank.

1868 - Congress passed an act creating the Wyoming Territory.

1943 Benito Mussolini was dismissed as premier of Italy by Victor Emmanuel III and placed under arrest. (However, Mussolini was later rescued by the Nazis, and reasserted his authority.)

1946 - The U.S. detonated an atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific in the first underwater test of the device.

1952 - Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth of the U.S.

1957 - Tunisia became a republic.

1963 - The U.S., Soviet Union and Britain initialed a treaty in Moscow prohibiting the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, in space or underwater.

1987 - Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige died of internal injuries he sustained while participating in a rodeo. (He was succeeded by C. William Verity.)

1994 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a declaration at the White House ending their countries' 46-year-old formal state of war.

2000 - A New York-bound Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris shortly after takeoff, killing all 109 people on board and four people on the ground; it was the first-ever crash of the supersonic jet.

Ten years ago - Golfer Ben Hogan died in Fort Worth, Texas, at age 84. Autumn Jackson, the young woman who claimed to be Bill Cosby's out-of-wedlock daughter, was convicted by a federal jury in New York of trying to extort \$40 million from the entertainer. K.R. Narayanan was sworn in as India's president, becoming the first member of the "untouchable" Dalits caste to do so.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Five years ago - Encouraged by a tapping sound coming up from the depths, rescuers in Somerset, Pa., brought in a huge drill in a race to save nine coal miners trapped 240 feet underground by a flooded shaft. Zacarias Moussaoui declared he was guilty of conspiracy in the Sept. 11 attacks, then dramatically withdrew his plea at his arraignment in Alexandria.

One year ago - Israeli troops sealed off a Hezbollah stronghold and widened their control of southern Lebanon; an Israeli airstrike hit a U.N. border outpost, killing four observers.

Virginia - In 1916, Sally Tompkins, who operated a private hospital in Richmond for wounded Confederate soldiers during the Civil War, died at the age of 83 in the Confederate Home for Women on East Grace Street.

Today's Birthdays - Actress Estelle Getty is 84. Actress Barbara Harris is 72. R&B musician Verdine White (Earth, Wind & Fire) is 56. Singer-musician Jem Finer (The Pogues) is 52. Model-actress Iman is 52. Cartoonist Ray Billingsley ("Curtis") is 50. Rock musician Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth) is 49. Actress-singer Bobbie Eakes is 46. Actress Ileana Douglas is 42. Country singer Marty Brown is 42. Actor Matt LeBlanc is 40. Actor D.B. Woodside is 38. Actor Brad Renfro is 25.

Thought for Today - "Advertising is a valuable economic factor because it is the cheapest way of selling goods, particularly if the goods are worthless." - Sinclair Lewis, American author (1885-1951)

## Graphic

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PHOTO

**Load-Date:** August 4, 2007

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End of Document

## *Burka issue goes deeper*

Nelson Daily News (British Columbia)

September 25, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 4

**Length:** 518 words

**Byline:** Roger Pratt, Nelson Daily News

### **Body**

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To the Editor:

Re: Burka debate

Curtis Nickason sees nothing wrong with women wearing the Burka, and that we should all stop harassing the Muslim culture and religion ("Burka debate troubling" NDN letters, September 19, 2007).

What Mr Nickason fails to observe is that most Muslim women who wear the veil are forced, or coerced, into wearing it by extremists, or by men who cannot tolerate women's rights. In such countries as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Yemen women are forced to wear it. It is section 24:31 of the Koran that men use to enforce the veil on women. It states that women should cover their adornments and expose themselves only to certain relatives, and to their slave-girls.

Honour killings have been ongoing for a long time and are now spreading to the west, with about a dozen cases a year in Europe. In a recent case in the UK a man forced his 17-year-old daughter into a marriage. The marriage was brutal and abusive, so she filed for divorce. This was considered dishonouring the family, so she was murdered. In Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries it is the death penalty for a Muslim to convert to another religion and the death penalty if a non-Muslim man marries a Muslim woman. It is sad that Mr Nickason says that we must keep our mouths shut about these abuses, and we must respect these religious and cultural values.

This is the same kind of attitudes as the "peace activists" who want Canadian troops to immediately withdraw from Afghanistan. This is the same position taken by the federal NDP. Many people who have looked at the abusive way that the Taliban treated women are baffled that the "peace movement" and it would appear the NDP want these abusers back in power and once again abusing women, including closing all schools and refusing to let women work. The first wife of the Prophet Mohammed was a successful business woman who was fundamental in enabling him to found the new religion, so who are the Taliban to dictate that women cannot work?

The NDP used to pride itself on protecting and enforcing women's rights, but under the current NDP regime, abused women around the world will not be helped, particularly in oppressive Muslim countries. Proof of this (other than Afghanistan) is the NDP's and "peace movement" support for the terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

Honour killings are an important part of the culture of the Palestinians, but are against the law in Israel. Two years ago Israel withdrew from Gaza, giving the Palestinians an opportunity to turn Gaza into another economic success

## Burka issue goes deeper

story similar to Hong Kong or Singapore. Unfortunately, under Hamas, they chose violence and abuse as a way of life, and continue to call for the extermination of Israel and the ethnic cleansing and murder of millions of Jews.

The "peace movement" and the NDP remain silent on these issues. NDP leader Jack Layton and Southern Interior NDP MP Alex Atamanenko should be trying to encourage change in these religious beliefs and customs. Instead they seem to turn their backs on the millions of women who are fighting for change and for human rights.

Roger Pratt

Nelson, B.C.

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2007

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End of Document



## Sevendays

The Courier Mail (Australia)

July 19, 2008 Saturday

1 - First with the news Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 52

**Length:** 591 words

**Byline:** Graham Clark

### **Body**

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#### SATURDAY

BRITAIN'S wave of knife crime plunged to horrifying lows with six people -- four of them in London -- stabbed to death in 24 hours, forcing Prime Minister Gordon Brown, pictured, to pledge an even tougher line on youth gang culture.

CONTROL of the US IndyMac Bank was taken over by federal authorities as it reeled from losses on defaulted mortgages.

PRIME Minister Kevin Rudd thought nothing of launching into expletive-ridden rants behind closed doors, author-academic Peter van Onselen revealed to a bemused Australia.

#### SUNDAY

IN A star turn, Angelina Jolie, pictured, partner of Brad Pitt, gave birth to twins in Nice, southern France, with the babies' first photograph reportedly sold to a US paper for more than \$11 million.

WITH a smile and a wave, Pope Benedict XVI stepped on to Australian soil at the start of an historic visit for the week-long World Youth Day extravaganza in Sydney.

IRAN'S President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned anyone who attacked his country over its nuclear program would have their hands cut off.

#### MONDAY

FORMER deputy prime minister John Anderson, pictured, warned the National Party faced a slow death like the Democrats unless it radically reformed or merged with the Liberals.

AFGHAN militants executed two women and launched a wave of terror killing dozens of villagers a day after nine US soldiers died in an assault on an isolated American outpost near the Pakistan border.

GENOCIDE charges were filed in the International Criminal Court against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir over the Darfur conflict.

## Sevendays

## TUESDAY

A CONTRACTOR laying pipes severed the Optus fibre optic cable on the Gold Coast, pictured, effectively shutting down a major part of Queensland 's communications network and sparking chaos for airports, business, banks and emergency services.

A TEAM of elite athletes and mountaineers launched a final hunt in rugged mountain terrain on the Nevada-California border for the body of millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, who was declared dead in February five months after disappearing in a light aircraft in the region.

## WEDNESDAY

PRIME Minister Kevin Rudd, pictured, ignored warnings from his own climate expert Professor Ross Garnaut to release a Green Paper recommending extra cash for low-income households, free permits to export industries and potential compensation for coal-fired power generators.

OPTUS invited disgruntled customers to discuss compensation directly, amid warnings that claims for Tuesday's statewide telecommunications meltdown could run to millions of dollars.

## THURSDAY

CENTRAL Sydney traffic faced a total lockdown as Pope Benedict XVI, pictured, marked ``Super Thursday" with a series of events including praying at a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Mary MacKillop, who could become Australia's first saint.

FIVE Lebanese prisoners freed by Israel arrived home to a heroes' welcome after Hezbollah handed over the bodies of two Israeli soldiers seized two years ago.

INDONESIA denied claims that three Bali bombers now on death row would be executed within days.

## FRIDAY

TRIBUTES poured in for former South African president and revered elder statesman Nelson Mandela, pictured, as he marked his 90th birthday in his rural homestead in Eastern Cape province.

A WOMAN who was part of a team of nurses and vets working with horses infected with Hendra virus in Brisbane had contracted the potentially deadly disease, medical authorities reported.

A DRUNK tried to force open a door to get off a jumbo jet flying between Gatwick to Cuba after being told to stop consuming duty-free alcohol.

**Load-Date:** July 18, 2008

## Seven days

The Courier Mail (Australia)

May 17, 2008 Saturday

1 - First with the news Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 50

**Length:** 576 words

**Byline:** Graham Clark

## **Body**

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### SATURDAY

US DEFENCE Secretary Robert Gates, pictured, ordered a review of the handling of the remains of American war dead after soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan were cremated at a facility that also disposes of pets.

QUEENSLAND was facing a critical winter bushfire season after early heavy rains boosted vegetation growth, the Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts warned.

LEBANON'S Iranian-backed Hezbollah military took control of the Muslim quarter of Beirut after heavy fighting with pro-government forces.

### SUNDAY

PRINCE Philip, pictured, took time out from his royal duties to tell the world that he knew why there was a shortage of food -- too many people were being born.

AUSTRALIA increased its aid to cyclone-ravaged Burma to \$25 million as international outrage grew over the junta's refusal to open its borders fully to allow a massive international relief effort.

MEXICAN drug cartel gunmen ambushed and killed a police chief in Ciudad Juarez. He was the sixth senior officer to be killed in a week.

### MONDAY

WESTPAC boss Gail Kelly, pictured, shook up the banking sector with her proposal for a \$65 billion merger with her former employer St George.

CHINESE authorities warned there could be tens of thousands of casualties after an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale struck near the southwestern city of Chengdu.

A SENIOR Chinese official had asked whether the Dalai Lama would attend the Beijing Olympics to ease tensions between China and Tibet, a Tibetan government-in-exile spokesman said.

### TUESDAY

## Seven days

FEDERAL Treasurer Wayne Swan, pictured, unveiled the first Budget of the Kevin Rudd Labor Government, vowing to crack down on middle-class welfare to help fund \$40 billion worth of nation-building projects.

INCOMING Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced a formidable Cabinet line-up to entrench his power, as his presidential successor Dmitry Medvedev unveiled three top appointments to signal an increasingly close link between the two posts.

## WEDNESDAY

WEST Australian Liberal leader Troy Buswell, pictured, under fire for sniffing the chair of a **female** staffer, denied he had ever treated a small marsupial -- a quokka -- in an inappropriate manner. The report was later revealed as a hoax, which didn't help his mood.

A 13-year-old Texas boy who used his father's credit card to hire prostitutes during a \$US30,000 spending spree was convicted of fraud after the hookers told police they became suspicious when the boy and his friends showed more interest in Xbox games than them.

## THURSDAY

FORMER US presidential candidate John Edwards, pictured, endorsed Barack Obama in a major blow to the flickering hopes of his rival Hillary Clinton.

THE ASEAN group said it would lead an international ``coalition of mercy" to cyclone-hit Burma after talks with the country's junta.

ROYAL Darwin Hospital surgeons confirmed ``mango madness" -- when violence hits a high during the humid October-November months -- was a medical reality and a genuine health hazard.

## FRIDAY

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush, pictured, told Israelis they were a ``chosen people" who could forever count on American support against enemies including Hamas and Iran.

CALIFORNIA'S Supreme Court ruled in a landmark case that a ban on gay marriage was unlawful, effectively leaving same-sex couples in the most populous state in the US free to wed.

AN EGYPTIAN man aged 42 was sentenced in a Giza court to 1000 years in jail after scamming 480 people out of \$A55 million.

**Load-Date:** May 16, 2008

## **Getting it down on paper is just the start; FOCUS - THE DEFENCE DEBATE**

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

February 19, 2008 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Features; Pg. 9

**Length:** 536 words

**Byline:** DANIEL FLITTON

### **Body**

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IT IS said that generals pose the greatest risk to careful military planning - or at least those generals inclined to fight the last war.

This old saying might be a touch unkind to the military brass, especially because it spares the heat from their political masters, but there is little doubt that planning for a country's defence and security is one of the most difficult jobs for any government.

In military circles, one document above all others looks to set out an authoritative vision in response: the defence white paper.

With a long tradition in the Westminster system of government, a white paper is simply an official statement of policy.

But what sets a defence white paper apart is the attempt to look ahead, and over the horizon, at the likely threats to the nation. The huge cost of keeping a standing army, navy and air force - and the length of time required to equip these services with men, women and machines - requires a long-term view.

Australia last issued a defence white paper in 2000 but with a string of momentous events in the world in the past seven years - think September 11, and the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan - many strategic analysts have been agitating for a new version.

These calls turned into a clamour during the last two years or so of the Howard government, when controversy sprang up over a series of expensive defence purchases, none of which had been foreshadowed in 2000.

Debates raged over the need for heavy Abrams tanks for the army, amphibious assault ships and air warfare destroyers for the navy, and Super Hornet jet fighters for the air force.

Kevin Rudd pledged to write a new defence white paper on winning office, and this week Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon is expected to set out a broad outline for a document that will be released later in the year.

How the Government expects the military will be used in the future is the crucial question. Is Australia likely to fight another conventional defence force? Or will the military be deployed against a ragged bunch of insurgents, who fight mostly with rifles and improvised explosives?

## Getting it down on paper is just the start FOCUS - THE DEFENCE DEBATE

Or will the Defence Force be caught up in more rescue operations in dangerous situations, such as the mass evacuation from Lebanon during the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war or the humanitarian response to the Boxing Day tsunami? Should they expect to do all of it, operating alongside other nations or allies?

The answers to these questions are politically loaded, and so is the timing of the re-write. The new white paper gives the Rudd Government a chance to examine - and perhaps test support for reversing - some of the lusty outlays made in the Howard years.

For one thing, Labor opposed the Iraq war and might look to unwind any decisions that presumed participation in future "coalition of the willing" type conflicts. This casts some doubt over the future of the Abrams tanks.

Rudd also criticised what he saw as a cycle of episodic military interventions in our immediate region, saying economic partnerships with Australia's neighbours would serve better. That might mean a re-think on amphibious ships.

But in the end, no white paper gives the final word on defence planning and a government is always free to change course.

**Load-Date:** February 18, 2008

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End of Document

## *Israeli President set to ask Livni to form new government*

The Australian

September 23, 2008 Tuesday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 9

**Length:** 562 words

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM: Israeli President Shimon Peres was expected to ask Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni last night to form a new government, a day after scandal-plagued Prime Minister Ehud Olmert stepped down.

Ms Livni, 50, who replaced Mr Olmert as head of the centrist Kadima party in a leadership vote last Wednesday, is hoping to become the second ***female*** prime minister in the nation's history after "iron lady" Golda Meir, who served from 1969 to 1974.

Mr Peres was expected to formally ask Ms Livni to form a government before he headed to New York for the UN General Assembly.

She will have 42 days to form a governing coalition in order to avert snap elections that could bring the right-wing Likud party of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to power.

Traditionally, the task of forming a government goes to the party with the most seats in the Knesset, in this case Kadima, which has 29 MPs in the 120-member parliament.

Ms Livni was yesterday also meeting party leaders to set up a new coalition government.

She supports Mr Olmert's efforts towards a peace accord with the Palestinians. Mr Olmert decided to step down because of corruption cases against him.

At the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday, Mr Olmert notified ministers of his intention to resign, pledging to help Ms Livni "with all my might to form a government".

Polls show that in the event of a parliamentary election, Kadima would be in a tight race with the hawkish Likud, headed by opposition leader Mr Netanyahu.

As prime minister, Ms Livni would be expected to pursue a moderate and pragmatic course in peacemaking with the Palestinians and Syria.

Mr Netanyahu takes a tougher line in peace talks, and Israel's relations with the Arab world suffered when he was prime minister in the late 1990s.

Any accords that might emerge from talks with the Palestinians and recently renewed, indirect negotiations with Syria would benefit from broad-based parliamentary backing.

## Israeli President set to ask Livni to form new government

Over the weekend, Ms Livni met potential coalition partners, including two small factions that are not part of the current government, which controls 67 of parliament's 120 seats.

Reports emerged yesterday that her main coalition partner, Labour Party leader and Defence Minister Ehud Barak had met Mr Netanyahu to discuss the option of forcing Ms Livni into early elections.

Neither Kadima nor its coalition partners appeared eager for a new election, fearing they would be ousted from power.

But the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, which could be key to building a new coalition, has already said it would not join a government willing to share Jerusalem with the Palestinians.

As lead peace negotiator, Ms Livni is committed to discussing all the outstanding issues between Israel and the Palestinians. The fate of Jerusalem, whose eastern sector the Palestinians claim for a future state, is at the core of the conflict.

Mr Olmert's term in office was troubled by a series of police investigations, Israel's inconclusive 2006 war against Lebanese Hezbollah guerillas and months of peace talks with the Palestinians that have yielded no breakthroughs.

The police investigations focus on Mr Olmert's financial dealings in the years before he became prime minister. Police have recommended he be indicted on counts that include bribery and money laundering, but prosecutors have not decided whether to press charges. Mr Olmert denies any wrongdoing.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2008

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End of Document



**Bloc, Liberals fight for swing voters; Two foreign-born women have each won the riding in the past two elections**

The Gazette (Montreal)  
October 15, 2008 Wednesday  
Early Edition

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**Section:** Pg. B5

**Length:** 492 words

**Byline:** The Gazette

## **Body**

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In Ahuntsic riding in north central Montreal, Liberal candidate Eleni Bakopanos did what she always does on election day: she went out and voted for herself.

This would be battle No. 3 in six years for Bakopanos in the same riding and against the same political opponent, Maria Mourani of the Bloc Québécois.

Depending on the mood of the country, the multi-ethnic riding has flip-flopped over who should be their MP.

Each candidate has wrenched the riding from the other in previous campaigns by a narrow margin of about 1,000 votes.

That's why Mourani was still on the campaign trail half an hour before the polls closed yesterday.

In contrast, a cheery Bakopanos said she was feeling the winds of change blowing in her favour again.

"I don't have a crystal ball. But in Ahuntsic, people don't want to support (Prime Minister Stephen) Harper or his policies," she said.

There's an "anything but Harper" attitude in the air, she said, based on comments from voters, even those who consider themselves Bloc supporters.

"It's rare that you get that," Bakopanos said. "Voters who supported the Bloc in the past want to impede Harper."

Bakopanos also noted that the Bloc's platform, and that means Mourani's raison d'être, is to shore up Quebec by breaking away from Canada.

"This is not personal. It's about values and principles. I oppose anyone who tries to divide my country," she said.

Both candidates are foreign-born, Bakopanos is from Greece, while Mourani is from Lebanon.

In the 2004 general election, Bakopanos beat Mourani by 1,214 votes. The repeat duel in 2006, the tables were turned, with Mourani defeating Bakopanos by 834 votes.

Bloc, Liberals fight for swing voters; Two foreign-born women have each won the riding in the past two elections

Bakopanos believes she lost last time largely because of a protest vote.

"People voted against a government rather than for a government," Bakopanos said.

A similar sentiment is fueling this election, she said.

"I got a warm welcome. People are glad to see me back, that I've taken on the Bloc," she said. "I've done my job, I have a track record, this is my riding of residence, they know my good work and what the Liberals stand for."

Bakopanos was first elected to the House of Commons in 1993 as the Member of Parliament for Saint-Denis and was MP for Ahuntsic from 1997 to 2006.

It's not been a clear ride for Mourani. In the first summer into her mandate, she backtracked from accusing Israel of committing war crimes during its assault on Hezbollah.

Mourani had been a member of the Canadian delegation on a week-long tour of Syria, Lebanon and Egypt organized by the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations in August 2006.

In an interview with Le Devoir, Mourani had said that she was troubled by the destruction she saw during a visit to war-ravaged towns of Qana, Bint Jbeil and Aytaroun.

She later issued a statement that it's up to international authorities to define what are war crimes.

Soundbite:

"This is not personal. It's about values and principles. I oppose anyone who tries to divide my country."

-Eleni Bakopanos

## Graphic

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Photo: THE GAZETTE; Liberal candidate Eleni Bakopanos arrives at a polling station to cast her vote yesterday, hoping to take back her riding of Ahuntsic. ;

**Load-Date:** October 20, 2008

## *Israel agrees to free 150 Palestinians*

Ottawa Citizen

August 7, 2008 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A8

**Length:** 555 words

**Byline:** Ron Bousso, Agence France-Presse and Reuters

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM - Israel will release more than 150 Palestinian prisoners later this month as a goodwill gesture to President Mahmoud Abbas as part of U.S.-backed peace talks, officials said yesterday.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's spokesman, Mark Regev, said the move was requested by Mr. Abbas.

"We hope this gesture will help the peace process," Mr. Regev told reporters after the latest meeting between the two leaders.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said the meeting was "successful" and that Israel had agreed to release more than 150 prisoners.

"We agreed with the Israelis there will be a new batch of prisoners released on the 25th of August," Mr. Erakat told reporters after the meeting.

He declined to give names, but said Mr. Abbas urged Israel to release several prominent and long-serving prisoners, including Marwan Barghuti, a popular leader in Mr. Abbas's Fatah faction seen as a leading contender to succeed the Palestinian president.

Mr. Barghuti, a West Bank leader considered to have masterminded the second Palestinian uprising in 2000, was jailed in 2004 and is serving five life sentences for his role in deadly attacks.

Mr. Abbas also wants Israel to release prominent leaders from other factions, including parliament speaker Aziz Dweik from the Islamist Hamas movement, and Ahmed Saadat, the leader of the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Mr. Erakat said.

There are currently more than 11,000 Palestinians jailed in Israel, including at least 85 women and children and 11 people who are seriously ill.

In July, the Lebanese Hezbollah militia celebrated what it called a major victory when it traded the bodies of two Israeli soldiers for five Lebanese prisoners and the remains of about 200 Lebanese and Palestinian fighters.

## Israel agrees to free 150 Palestinians

Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, has been trying to secure a similar deal to swap Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, seized in a deadly cross-border raid from the territory in June 2006, for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

Yesterday's decision drew swift criticism from Israel's right-wing opposition Likud party, which said it endangered efforts to free Staff Sgt. Shalit.

"(The decision) to liberate Palestinian terrorists without receiving anything in return is a mistake for security and efforts to liberate Gilad Shalit," Likud MP Gideon Saar said in a statement.

Yesterday's meeting was the first between the two leaders since Mr. Olmert's surprise announcement one week ago that he would step down as premier after a Kadima party primary on Sept. 17 amid corruption allegations.

His imminent departure has cast a shadow over the peace efforts relaunched in November, when both sides pledged to try to reach a full agreement by the end of 2008.

Meanwhile, Israel freed two senior Hamas officials detained in the occupied West Bank during a security sweep after Staff Sgt. Shalit's abduction, their families said yesterday.

They said Abli Yaish, the Hamas mayor of Nablus, and Issa al-Ja'abari, a Hamas representative in Hebron, returned home after being freed on bail from the Ofer detention centre.

Israel freed another prominent Hamas official on Sunday. Omar Abdel Razek was finance minister when Israel arrested him in June 2006.

Nablus businessman Ziad Anatawi also went free yesterday after spending two weeks in Israeli custody, his family said.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Nayef Hashlamoun, Reuters; Former Hamas minister Issa al-Ja'abari is fêted by relatives after he was released on bail from an Israeli prison in Hebron yesterday. ;

**Load-Date:** August 7, 2008

## *Lebanon as seen through a warped looking glass*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

December 8, 2008 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 982 words

**Byline:** Marc J. Sirois

## **Body**

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Much as it rankles when historic events take place here in Lebanon and CNN spends its day serving our great messy dollops of some congressman's sexual escapades, this diminutive country definitely punches above its weight when it comes to the amount of attention it attracts from the international media.

First person by Marc J. Sirois

Much as it rankles when historic events take place here in Lebanon and CNN spends its day serving our great messy dollops of some congressman's sexual escapades, this diminutive country definitely punches above its weight when it comes to the amount of attention it attracts from the international media. That's not always a good thing, of course, but it raises an interesting question: Why do so many people around the world occasionally become transfixed by what goes on in Lebanon?

We all know the anecdotal answers, some of which are quite contradictory: Lebanon's diversity is captivating to outsiders because it's not something they associate with the Arab and Islamic worlds; the Lebanese diaspora is so huge (by some measures three or four times the population of the country itself) and so far-flung that it cannot help but to foster some degree of global awareness and interest; Lebanon is so often afflicted with one form or another of crisis that the media is never able to ignore it for long; etc.

All of these are at least partly true, especially the factors associated with diversity, which contribute to just about everything else that keeps Lebanon in the headlines. When things are going well, Western media editors lap up the usual features and photos about veiled and mini-skirted women walking arm-in-arm down a street in Beirut, or about wineries thriving in what is otherwise (we are told) the dark and spooky Bekaa Valley. More frequently, especially when the situation gets rocky, these same decision-makers resort to apocalyptic warnings about the precariousness of coexistence, and about the meddlings of some foreign powers (but not those of certain others).

In good times and in bad, the result is an imagined image of Lebanon built not just on stereotypes, some of which happen to be rooted in fact, but on wildly exaggerated versions of these. There are several reasons for this.

One is the fact that dichotomies are interesting subjects that the editors back home are frequently willing to run with, causing reporters here, whatever their nationality, to go looking for such topics - even when they are not representative of Lebanese society.

## Lebanon as seen through a warped looking glass

Another is the fact that so many media companies have taken to saving money by relying more on enthusiastic youngsters than on experienced professionals. Too often, this produces ignorant journalists who then infect audiences in the West with sweeping assumptions and unfounded judgments about this country. Never mind that the Lebanese, understandably, are still struggling to define themselves and their country: The supremely confident foreigner will do it for them, even if he or she ignores or disdains the differences between Parliament and Cabinet, between Hizbullah and Hamas, and/or between Lebanon and Libya.

As is the case with Lebanon's poisonous politics, however, it would not be fair to blame all of this country's image problems on the foreigner. There are plenty of Lebanese who are only too happy to indulge their guests' fetish for stereotype, ranging from the enterprising sorts who offer camel rides to (thoroughly disoriented) tourists to the troublemakers who try to advance their own interests by feeding Western suspicions about all things Muslim (especially those of the Shiite variety). Yours truly admits to rage bordering on apoplexy when his pathetic attempts to understand something new about this endlessly fascinating country are answered by hackneyed slanders - usually confession-based - honed by generations of telling the Westerner what, it is believed, he wants to hear.

This habit is often accompanied by a marked tendency to rule out the very possibility that the "other" - as defined by faith and/or politics - might have something relevant to say. It has been made even more fashionable, I think, by the habits of the Bush administration, whose "with us or against us" approach has dovetailed very nicely with that of certain Lebanese political parties - including some that claim to champion democratic ideals - whose goal is not to defeat their rivals but to eliminate them as factors.

It is natural, in a sense, for people in far-off lands to be relatively ignorant about what Lebanon is and is not. For some Lebanese, however, it has required a consistent (even if unconscious) effort to remain so ill-, mis- and uninformed about their neighbors - even about those things that they have in common. This week's Muslim holiday of Eid of al-Adha, for example, celebrates the power of faith felt by Abraham, who is also revered as a prophet by Christians (and, incidentally, by Jews). I am not a religious man myself, but even the shared heritage and cultural kinship of Lebanese Christians and Muslims should be more than enough to overcome medieval-style prejudices. Sadly, for many it is not.

And yet despite all this, many Lebanese - especially those who care little for politics - do not even think of such matters, let alone feel a need to rise above them. That might be the real feature that so entrances outsiders, even if they don't know it: that despite the never-ending pressure applied by a political system that encourages economic exploitation, ethnic and religious hatred, and striking regional disparities, most Lebanese still get along with each other. They just don't talk to the press as much - or maybe the editors back home aren't interested in what they have to say because they'd rather sacrifice principle and feast on conflict.

Marc J. Sirois is managing editor of THE DAILY STAR. His email address is [marc.sirois@dailystar.com.lb](mailto:marc.sirois@dailystar.com.lb)

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2008

## **TODAY IN HISTORY**

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

August 11, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** AREA/STATE; Pg. A-2

**Length:** 539 words

### **Body**

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Aug. 11, 1909 - The first recorded use of the SOS distress signal was by an American ship, the Arapahoe, off Cape Hatteras, N.C.

1919 - Germany's Weimar Constitution was signed by President Friedrich Ebert.

1934 - The first federal prisoners arrived at the island prison Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay.

1942 - During World War II, Vichy government official Pierre Laval publicly declared that "the hour of liberation for France is the hour when Germany wins the war."

1954 - A formal peace took hold in Indochina, ending more than seven years of fighting between the French and the Communist Vietminh.

1956 - Abstract painter Jackson Pollock, 44, died in a car crash on Long Island, in Springs, N.Y.

1962 - The Soviet Union launched cosmonaut Andrian Nikolayev on a 94-hour flight.

1965 - Rioting and looting that claimed 34 lives broke out in the predominantly black Watts section of Los Angeles.

1984 - President Ronald Reagan joked during a voice test for a paid political radio address that he had "signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes."

1991 - Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon released two Western captives Edward Tracy, an American held nearly five years, and Jerome Leyraud, a Frenchman who had been abducted by a rival group three days earlier.

1992 - The Mall of America, the biggest shopping mall in the U.S., opened in Bloomington, Minn.

Ten years ago - President Bill Clinton made the first use of the historic line-item veto approved by Congress, rejecting three items in spending and tax bills. (However, the Supreme Court later struck down the line-item veto as unconstitutional.)

Five years ago - Karrie Webb won her third **Women's** British Open title. Dr. Steven J. Hatfill, a bioweapons expert under scrutiny for anthrax-laced letters, fiercely denied any involvement and said he had cooperated with the investigation. U.S. Airways filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

One year ago - The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution calling for a cease-fire between Israel and **Hezbollah**. BP PLC announced it would keep one side of the Prudhoe Bay oil field open as it replaced corroded pipes, averting a larger crimp in the nation's oil supply. TV talk show host Mike Douglas died in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., on his 81st birthday.

Virginia - In 1986, police in Richmond announced that Operation Stop-Shot had removed 401 illegal guns from Richmond streets since the start of the effort in January.

Today's Birthdays - Actress Arlene Dahl is 79. Actress Anna Massey is 70. Songwriter-producer Kenny Gamble is 64. Rock musician Jim Kale (Guess Who) is 64. Country singer John Conlee is 61. Singer Eric Carmen is 58. Wrestler-actor Hulk Hogan is 54. Singer Joe Jackson is 53. Playwright David Henry Hwang is 50. Actor Miguel A. Nunez Jr. is 43. Actress Viola Davis is 42. Actor Duane Martin is 42. Actor-host Joe Rogan is 40. Rock guitarist Charlie Sexton is 39. Rhythm-and-blues musician Chris Dave (Mint Condition) is 39. Hip-hop artist Ali Shaheed Muhammad is 37. Actor Will Friedle is 31. Rapper Chris Kelly (Kris Kross) is 29. Singer J-Boog is 22.

Thought for Today - "Literature is news that STAYS news." - Ezra Pound, American poet-critic (1885-1972).

## Graphic

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PHOTO

**Load-Date:** August 16, 2007

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## TODAY IN HISTORY

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

July 12, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** GENERAL; Pg. A-2

**Length:** 548 words

### **Body**

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July 12, 1862 - Congress authorized the Medal of Honor.

100 B.C. - Roman dictator Julius Caesar was born.

1543 - England's King Henry VIII married his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr.

1690 - Forces led by William of Orange defeated the army of James II at the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland.

1812 - U.S. forces led by Gen. William Hull entered Canada during the War of 1812 against Britain. (However, Hull retreated shortly thereafter to Detroit.)

1817 - Naturalist-author Henry David Thoreau was born in Concord, Mass.

1854 - George Eastman, inventor of the Kodak camera and film, was born in Waterville, N.Y.

1948 - The Democratic National Convention opened in Philadelphia.

1977 - President Jimmy Carter defended Supreme Court decisions limiting government payments for poor women's abortions, saying, "There are many things in life that are not fair."

1984 - Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale announced he had chosen U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York to be his running mate; Ferraro was the first woman to run for vice president on a major-party ticket.

1993 - About 200 people were killed when an earthquake measuring a magnitude of 7.8 struck northern Japan and triggered a tsunami.

Ten years ago - In Spain, kidnapped Basque politician Miguel Angel Blanco was found mortally wounded shortly after a deadline set by his militant Basque captors.

Five years ago - The Senate adopted a ban on personal loans from companies to their top officials, a practice that had benefited executives from Enron to WorldCom. The U.N. Security Council agreed to exempt U.S. peacekeepers from war crimes prosecution for a year, ending a threat to U.N. peacekeeping operations.

One year ago - Hezbollah guerrillas kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and killed eight others in a cross-border raid; Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon in response. World powers agreed to send Iran before the U.N. Security

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Council for possible punishment, saying Tehran had given no sign it would bargain in earnest over its disputed nuclear program.

Virginia - In 1960, the state hospital board agreed to transfer 200 acres at the Petersburg Training School and hospital to the College of William and Mary for the establishment of a two-year junior college, later named Richard Bland College.

Today's Birthdays - Artist Andrew Wyeth is 90. Movie director Monte Hellman is 75. Pianist Van Cliburn is 73. Comedian Bill Cosby is 70. Singer-musician Christine McVie is 64. Actress Denise Nicholas is 63. Singer-songwriter Butch Hancock is 62. Fitness guru Richard Simmons is 59. Actor Jay Thomas is 59. Singer Walter Egan is 59. Actress Cheryl Ladd is 56. Country singer Julie Miller is 51. Gospel singer Sandi Patty is 51. Actress Mel Harris is 50. Actor Buddy Foster is 50. Rock guitarist Dan Murphy (Soul Asylum) is 45. Rock singer Robin Wilson is 42. Actress Lisa Nicole Carson is 38. Olympic gold medal figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi is 36. Country singer Shannon Lawson is 34. Rapper Magoo is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tracie Spencer is 31. Actor Topher Grace is 29. Actress Michelle Rodriguez is 29. Actor Erik Per Sullivan is 16.

Thought for Today - "We think according to nature. We speak according to rules. We act according to custom." - Francis Bacon, English philosopher (1561-1626).

## Graphic

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PHOTO

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

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End of Document

## *Peace movement hypocrisy*

Nelson Daily News (British Columbia)

September 18, 2008 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 7

**Length:** 524 words

**Byline:** Roger Pratt, Nelson Daily News

### **Body**

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To the Editor:

Re: War Resisters

MP Alex Atamanenko wrote that Robin Long's deportation was a sad day for Canada. I disagree. I believe it was a great decision.

"Peace Activists" call deserters like Robin Long "war resisters." That is a false description. There is a war against the Jews in Israel by Hamas and Hezbollah, a war against the people of Afghanistan by the Taliban, a war against the people of Darfur by the government of Sudan, and a war against the people of Zimbabwe by Robert Mugabe. Robin Long and his ilk are not resisting any of those wars. In fact, Mr. Long insists that the reason he is against going to Iraq is because it is an illegal war. So, why did he not ask for a transfer to Afghanistan, which is a legal war?

While Mr. Long and his fellow deserters hide in comfort in Canada, Canadian soldiers are being killed in Afghanistan, and unarmed civilian aid workers of many nationalities are being murdered by the Taliban. Two Canadian aid workers were recently murdered. Mr. Long and his associates could have been carrying out guard duty in Afghanistan trying to protect civilians. Unfortunately, Alex Atamanenko and the peace movement seem to care nothing about the people of Afghanistan, and do not care how many schools and hospitals are destroyed, or how many civilians are murdered.

The peace movement claims that NATO's presence in Afghanistan is the problem. This is like saying that the existence of the RCMP and Nelson City Police are the cause of crime in Nelson. Suicide and other bombings and attempted bombings, have been taking place recently in India, Algeria, China and Israel, yet there are no NATO soldiers there. Mr. Long and his ilk seem delusional if they think they can escape terrorist war and violence in Canada. Last month twelve workers for the Canadian company SNC-Lavalin were murdered by jihadists in Algeria. They were constructing a water treatment plant. Mr. Long should know that the terrorist jihadist movement has frequently advertised that it intends to spread its hate-filled war across the entire world, no matter what happens in Afghanistan.

What is truly amazing is the fact that Alex Atamanenko and the peace movement continue to state that they are opposed to all war and violence, yet they refuse to condemn some of the worst atrocities, such as suicide bombings

## Peace movement hypocrisy

in markets, on buses, on trains, against pilgrims, against aid workers and against schools and hospitals. Their silence is sweet music to the ears of the jihadists.

In my recent Amnesty International Review it describes some of the events in Zimbabwe. It describes 64-year-old Costa, a widow looking after six orphaned grandchildren. She is banned from buying food from the government store because the authorities believe she supported the opposition party. She has joined WOZA, **Women** of Zimbabwe Arise. By now most people know about the violence against these **women**, and against aid workers in Afghanistan, Somalia, and other dangerous places. These **women** have real courage. They put themselves at risk to make the world a better place.

I regard the peace movement as a movement without a conscience

Roger Pratt

Nelson, B.C.

**Load-Date:** September 19, 2008

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## *Mute mufti told to speak up and lead*

Weekend Australian

August 11, 2007 Saturday

All-round Metro Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 6

**Length:** 555 words

**Byline:** Richard Kerbaj

### **Body**

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THE nation's Muslim leader has not delivered a sermon since taking over from the outspoken Taj Din al-Hilali and is angering even his closest supporters for failing to publicly defend Islam.

Fehmi Naji el-Imam's silence since assuming the coveted position of mufti has prompted whispers about his health and the influence of his advisers.

Muslim leaders yesterday accused the 79-year-old ailing cleric's advisers of muzzling him to protect his image at the expense of dealing with and expressing the Islamic community's concerns to wider Australia.

The former chairman of John Howard's Muslim reference council, Ameer Ali, yesterday accused Sheik Fehmi -- who is believed to be suffering from post-stroke health complications -- of failing to lead the community since his appointment in June.

Dr Ali said the mufti had failed Islamic Australians because he did not publicly question the Howard Government's role in the case against Muslim doctor Mohamed Haneef, who was charged with terror-related offences then freed after a bungled investigation.

"He has to lead the community because the community is looking forward to some leadership and he's not doing that at the moment," Dr Ali said.

He said Sheik Fehmi, who has not delivered a sermon since he replaced Sheik Hilali, risked being stripped of his title if he remained silent.

"The community will look for another mufti," Dr Ali said.

"They would look for someone who can provide some active leadership. His voice must be heard. You can't remain quiet and lead the community because it is an important position."

Islamic Council of Victoria spokesman Waleed Aly defended Sheik Fehmi, saying the spiritual head of Preston Mosque in Melbourne's north was not obliged to become involved in political debates such as the Dr Haneef saga because he was not a "PR guy".

Mr Aly said the cleric's role was to provide spiritual advice and answer religious questions.

## Mute mufti told to speak up and lead

"He may have responded to some political issues in the past; it's his prerogative to do that, but it's not his obligation," Mr Aly said.

"Just because the previous mufti had a media profile that was large and was prone to making lots of outbursts, I don't see why he should be expected to do the same thing."

Last year Sheik Fehmi sparked controversy when he pushed for the Government to reverse its decision on proscribing the Iranian-backed **Hezbollah** as a terrorist network and hailed the outfit's militant members as "freedom fighters".

Senior **female** Muslim leader Aziza Abdel-Halim, who is a closer friend and follower of Sheik Fehmi, also expressed her concerns about the mufti not being more proactive on Islamic issues in Australia.

She said that although his role was more geared towards answering the community's religious questions and not to provide political commentary, his followers expected more of him.

Sheik Fehmi, who migrated to Australia from Lebanon in 1951, was elected mufti by the Australian National Imams Council after the body sacked Sheik Hilali, who created international outrage last October when The Australian exposed his Ramadan sermon in which he likened **women** to uncovered meat and joked about the notorious Sydney gang rapes.

Sheik Fehmi's personal assistant, Baha, yesterday confirmed the cleric was having regular blood tests and that he had a short stay in hospital several weeks ago.

**Load-Date:** August 11, 2007

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End of Document

## *Israel vote puts Barak on path to a comeback*

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

May 30, 2007 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; International News; Pg. 9

**Length:** 533 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin, Jerusalem

### **Body**

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FORMER Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak has advanced towards an unlikely political comeback with a first-round victory in primaries for leadership of the Labour Party.

The former general, who ruled Israel from 1999 to 2001, took 36 per cent of the poll, just short of the 40 per cent needed for outright victory.

He goes head to head in two weeks against former spy chief and naval admiral Ami Ayalon, who took 31 per cent of the poll of Labour's 104,000 members.

The primaries have crucial implications for the coalition Government of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, in which Labour is the second biggest party.

In the lead-up to the poll, Mr Barak and Mr Ayalon sought to woo support by saying they did not wish to serve in a cabinet under Mr Olmert, who is desperately unpopular over his role in last year's botched war against the Lebanese militia **Hezbollah**. But both have left themselves room to serve under Mr Olmert should it prove opportune.

A Labour walk-out from government might prompt Mr Olmert to replace the party's 19 Knesset votes by courting parties on the far right. Alternatively, Labour's resignation from the coalition might trigger early elections in which all of the Government parties, including Mr Olmert's Kadima and the far-right Yisrael Beiteinu, are threatened by former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's resurgent Likud party.

Monday's Labour primaries also signal the political eclipse - though not necessarily demise - of current leader Amir Peretz, who is the Defence Minister in Mr Olmert's coalition cabinet. Like Mr Olmert, Mr Peretz has come under criticism over his role in last year's Lebanon war.

Mr Peretz had already said he would stand down after the leadership primaries and seek a financial or social cabinet seat to press on with his campaign for reforms to help the poor.

Although he came third in the primary with 22 per cent of the poll, the former trade union leader still commands enough support among the party's blue-collar sector to push the new leader for a role in cabinet, should Labour stay in coalition.

## Israel vote puts Barak on path to a comeback

Mr Barak came to power in 1991 after defeating then prime minister Mr Netanyahu, then and now a leading hawk, with a promise to find a final peace settlement with the Palestinians.

His premiership collapsed after crucial peace talks at Camp David ended in failure and the second Palestinian uprising broke out. Like Mr Netanyahu, Mr Barak retired from politics for several years to amass a fortune in business and on the lucrative US speaker circuit.

Meanwhile, Mr Olmert has nominated another former prime minister, Shimon Peres, as his Kadima party's candidate for the largely ceremonial presidency.

The incumbent, President Moshe Katsav, approaching the end of his seven-year term, has been forced to stand down temporarily to fight efforts to prosecute him for the alleged rape and sexual assault of several former **female** employees.

Mr Peres, 83, has himself been talked about as a possible caretaker leader of Kadima - and therefore prime minister for the third time - should Mr Olmert be forced to stand down by the fallout from Lebanon, by the Labour primaries or by one of the several fraud investigations currently under way into his affairs.

**Load-Date:** July 19, 2007

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**Digest**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 19, 2008 Monday

FIRST EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A10

**Length:** 585 words

**Byline:** FROM NEWS SERVICES

## **Body**

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JOHANNESBURG,

South Africa

At least 12 killed in attacks on immigrants

Violence against immigrants, like some windswept fire, spread across one neighborhood after another in South Africa's capital this weekend, and police said the mayhem left at least 12 people dead - beaten by mobs, shot, stabbed or burned alive.

Thousands of panicked foreigners - many of them Zimbabweans who have fled their own country's economic collapse - have deserted their ramshackle dwellings and tin-walled squatter hovels to take refuge in churches and police stations.

Police said they arrested more than 200 people over the weekend.

This latest outbreak of xenophobia began a week ago in the historic township of Alexandra and has since spread to other areas in and around Johannesburg: Cleveland, Diepsloot, Hillbrow, Tembisa, Primrose, Ivory Park and Thokoza.

President Thabo Mbeki said Sunday he would set up a panel of experts to investigate the causes of the disorder.

CAIRO, EGYPT

Reported bin Laden tape criticizes Arab leaders

Osama bin Laden released a new message on Sunday denouncing Arab leaders for sacrificing the Palestinians and saying the head of the Shiite militant group **Hezbollah** did not really have the strength to take on Israel.

In his second audio message in three days focusing on the Palestinians, the al-Qaida leader said the only way to liberate Palestine is to fight the Arab regimes that are protecting Israel. And he called on Muslim militants in Egypt to help break the blockade of Gaza.

## Digest

His 22-minute audiotape was posted on an Islamic militant website where al-Qaida leaders have issued past statements. The voice sounded like bin Laden's, although the authenticity of the tape could not be independently verified.

LIMA, PERU

Colombia denies that

troops were in Venezuela

Tension between Colombia and Venezuela increased Sunday after Colombia's defense minister rejected an accusation by Venezuela's government that 60 Colombian troops had illegally entered a border region of Venezuela known to be a redoubt for Colombian guerrilla groups.

Venezuela's foreign minister, Nicolas Maduro, said Saturday night that Colombian troops had been detected Friday in Apure state in western Venezuela, about 875 yards from the Colombian border. In a rare written protest, Maduro asked Colombia "to immediately cease these violations of international law."

On Sunday the Colombian defense minister, Juan Manuel Santos, denied Maduro's assertion. "There was no incursion," Santos said in comments broadcast on Colombian radio.

Briefly

- Afghanistan bombing: A suicide bomber blew himself up next to a police convoy in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing four civilians and wounding eight other people, an official said. A member of the U.S.-led coalition and a civilian died in a separate roadside blast, also in the south.

- Japan evacuation: About 16,000 residents were evacuated from their homes in Chofu, western Tokyo, on Sunday, while work was carried out to remove an unexploded bomb believed to have been dropped during World War II.

- Kuwaiti election: Muslim hardliners made strong gains in Kuwait's parliamentary elections while **female** candidates failed once again to win any seats, official results showed Sunday.

- Water tests: The U.S. military in Naples, Italy, is sampling tap water and soil for pesticides and other pollutants because of worries that tons of uncollected garbage pose a health risk for its personnel based in the city. Collectors stopped picking up Naples' trash in December because dumps are full.

**Load-Date:** May 19, 2008

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The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

May 30, 2007 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Load-Date:** July 3, 2007

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Weekend Australian

August 11, 2007 Saturday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 6

**Length:** 554 words

**Byline:** Richard Kerbaj

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"The community will look for another mufti," Dr Ali said.

"They would look for someone who can provide some active leadership. His voice must be heard. You can't remain quiet and lead the community because it an important position."

Islamic Council of Victoria spokesman Waleed Aly defended Sheik Fehmi, saying the spiritual head of Preston Mosque in Melbourne's north was not obliged to become involved in political debates such as the Dr Haneef saga because he was not a "PR guy".

Mr Aly said the cleric's role was to provide spiritual advice and answer religious questions.

## Mute mufti told to speak up and lead

"He may have responded to some political issues in the past; it's his prerogative to do that, but it's not his obligation," Mr Aly said.

"Just because the previous mufti had a media profile that was large and was prone to making lots of outbursts, I don't see why he should be expected to do the same thing."

Last year Sheik Fehmi sparked controversy when he pushed for the Government to reverse its decision on proscribing the Iranian-backed **Hezbollah** as a terrorist network and hailed the outfit's militant members as "freedom fighters".

Senior **female** Muslim leader Aziza Abdel-Halim, who is a closer friend and follower of Sheik Fehmi, also expressed her concerns about the mufti not being more proactive on Islamic issues in Australia.

She said that although his role was more geared towards answering the community's religious questions and not to provide political commentary, his followers expected more of him.

Sheik Fehmi, who migrated to Australia from Lebanon in 1951, was elected mufti by the Australian National Imams Council after the body sacked Sheik Hilali, who created international outrage last October when The Australian exposed his Ramadan sermon in which he likened **women** to uncovered meat and joked about the notorious Sydney gang rapes.

Sheik Fehmi's personal assistant, Baha, yesterday confirmed the cleric was having regular blood tests and that he had a short stay in hospital several weeks ago.

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2007

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End of Document

## *Militants killed as Lebanese tanks pound refugee camp*

The Evening Standard (London)

May 21, 2007 Monday

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# London Evening Standard

**Section:** B

**Length:** 538 words

## **Body**

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LEBANESE troops tightened their siege of a Palestinian refugee camp today, laying down a barrage of artillery.

It emerged that their target a militant group with ties to al Qaeda had been training fighters inside the camp for attacks on European and possibly US targets.

One militant killed in the two days of fighting, Saddam El-Hajdib a senior official in the Fatah Islam group was a suspect in a failed German train bombing last summer, said a Lebanese security official.

The death toll remained uncertain as hundreds of Lebanese troops, backed by tanks and armoured carriers, surrounded the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp on Tripoli's outskirts.

M-48 battle tanks unleashed their fire on the camp, sending orange flames followed by white plumes of smoke. The militants responded with mortars. At least 27 soldiers and 20 militants had been killed, Lebanese security officials said, but they did not know how many civilians had died inside the camp because they are forbidden to enter.

One official in the camp said 34 people had been killed inside the camp, including 14 civilians. That could not be independently confirmed.

Ahmed Methqal, a Muslim cleric in the camp, said sniper fire had confined the camp's 30,000 residents to their houses. "You can say there is a massacre going on in the camp of children and women who have nothing to do with Fatah Islam," he said.

Clashes between troops surrounding the camp and Fatah Islam fighters began after a gun battle raged in a suburb of Tripoli, a predominantly Sunni city.

Fighting spread after police raided suspected Fatah Islam hideouts, searching for men wanted in a recent bank robbery. A gun battle ensued and troops were called in.

### Militants killed as Lebanese tanks pound refugee camp

Militants then burst out of the refugee camp, seizing Lebanese army positions, capturing two armoured vehicles and ambushing troops, killing two soldiers.

The violence added further instability to a country already mired in its worst political crisis between the Western-backed government and **Hezbollah**-led opposition since the end of the 1975-90 Lebanese civil war.

Lebanon has struggled to defeat armed groups that control pockets of the country especially inside the 12 Palestinian refugee camps, housing almost 400,000 people, which are havens for Islamic militants.

Palestinian officials in the West Bank tried to distance themselves from the Fatah Islam group and urged the camp's refugees to isolate the militants.

"Entering the camp does not mean it will be easy to get rid of this (Fatah Islam) phenomenon," said PLO representative Abbas Zaki.

Lebanese TV reported that also among the dead were men from Bangladesh, Yemen and other Arab countries.

In Beirut, an explosion across the street from a busy shopping mall killed a 63-year-old woman and injured 12 other people in the Christian sector of the Lebanese capital further raising fears of unrest.

. The Israeli air force fired a missile at a house in Gaza City, killing eight people, in the deadliest attack since Israel started hitting back for rocket salvos from Gaza last week.

The apparent target of last night's airstrike, Hamas politician Khalil al-Haya, was not at home and was unharmed. At least 13 people were wounded. Israel stepped up the attacks today, killing at least five people..

## Graphic

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TERROR: SHOPPERS FLEE BLAST IN BEIRUT MALL

**Load-Date:** May 26, 2007



## **HEAD OF IMF RESIGNING IN FALL**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 29, 2007 Friday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2007 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD; WORLD BRIEFS; Pg. A-4

**Length:** 572 words

### **Body**

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WASHINGTON -- International Monetary Fund managing director Rodrigo de Rato, 58, will step down in October, he said yesterday, some six weeks after upheaval at the helm of the sister institution, the World Bank.

Mr. de Rato, a former Spanish economy minister, cited "family circumstances" as the reason for his resignation as head of the international lending institution.

He was due to end his five-year term in May 2009.

Former U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick takes over this weekend as head of the World Bank, replacing Paul Wolfowitz.

Putin welcomes Chavez

NOVO-OGARYOVO, Russia -- President Vladimir Putin yesterday welcomed firebrand Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez for talks at the Russian presidential retreat outside Moscow, saying economic affairs and military-technical cooperation were on the agenda.

Amid media speculation that Mr. Chavez would sign a major weapons deal while in Russia, Mr. Putin said bilateral relations were developing.

Mr. Chavez emphasized Venezuela's solidarity with the Kremlin leadership, which frequently complains of Washington's alleged dominance of global affairs.

Rail service suspended

TORONTO -- Canada's passenger rail system suspended today's service on two key routes because of worries that Canadian Indians might block a railway during a day of protests over poverty, poor health care and lack of education on their reservations.

Canada's provincial premiers and territorial leaders issued a rare joint statement yesterday acknowledging that Indian tribes were understandably disappointed and frustrated with past injustices, but urging that today's demonstrations be peaceful.

The train cancellations announced yesterday by Via Rail affected the Montreal-Toronto and Ottawa-Toronto routes. Service was expected to resume tomorrow.

## HEAD OF IMF RESIGNING IN FALL

## Britain's new Cabinet

LONDON -- New Prime Minister Gordon Brown appointed some critics of the Iraq war to his youthful circle of senior Cabinet ministers yesterday.

Mr. Brown has pledged to examine Britain's role in Iraq -- a subtle shift in language from his predecessor and perhaps his first diplomatic challenge in his relationship with the Bush administration, which considered Tony Blair its closest ally.

David Miliband, who at times criticized Mr. Blair's Middle East policy, was named foreign secretary.

Both he and Jack Straw, who was appointed justice secretary and lord chancellor, criticized Mr. Blair for not insisting on an immediate cease-fire when Israel went to war last summer with the Islamic militants of Hezbollah in Lebanon.

## French honor Streisand

PARIS -- Barbra Streisand performed her first-ever concert in France this week -- and was rewarded with a medal of the Legion of Honor.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy awarded the medal to Ms. Streisand in a ceremony yesterday.

"You are the America that we love," said Mr. Sarkozy, who is seen as more U.S.-friendly than [former President Jacques]Chirac. "Women like you ... do a lot to bring our two peoples together."

## Arrests in kidnapping case

MADRID, Spain -- Spanish police said yesterday they have arrested an Italian man and a Portuguese woman suspected of trying to extort money from the parents of 4-year-old British girl who vanished nearly two months ago during a vacation in Portugal.

Police said the pair was suspected of trying to contact the parents of Madeleine McCann to collect a reward for providing information about her whereabouts. They said it was likely a swindling case.

**Load-Date:** June 29, 2007

## World datelines

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

May 4, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

**Length:** 605 words

**Byline:** Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

### **Body**

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#### Australia

CANBERRA -- A governing party lawmaker who described a childless political opponent as "deliberately barren" faced further condemnation Thursday, as opponents agreed he struck a nerve among women facing tradeoffs between family and career. Bill Heffernan weathered criticism from across the political spectrum for a second day after he criticized Julia Gillard, a lawmaker from the opposition Labor Party, over her decision not to have children.

#### Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO -- Brazil moved closer to breaking a patent on a U.S.-manufactured anti-AIDS drug after negotiations with Merck & Co. broke down Thursday. The government last week declared Merck's efavirenz anti-retroviral drug a "public interest" medicine -- a move that effectively gave Merck, based in Whitehouse Station, N.J., seven days to negotiate lower prices with the government or have Brazil strip the patent by issuing a compulsory license.

#### Canada

OTTAWA -- Canadian soldiers will have access to prisoners they capture in Afghanistan even after handing them to Afghan authorities, government lawyers said Thursday, amid allegations that detainees were tortured after transfers in the past.

#### Colombia

BOGOTA -- A feared paramilitary boss has been charged with ordering the murders of two union leaders at a coal mine owned by Drummond Co. Inc., an Alabama company that is being sued in a U.S. court for alleged complicity in the killings. Rodrigo Tovar Pupo, better known as "Jorge 40," is accused of ordering hit men to kill the two men, the federal prosecutor's office said Thursday.

#### France

PARIS -- France's presidential candidates held their last major rallies Thursday ahead of the weekend election, with front-runner Nicolas Sarkozy extolling his love for the country and rival Segolene Royal calling herself a free woman who has victory within reach.

#### Ireland

DUBLIN -- The Ulster Volunteer Force, an underground Protestant army that terrorized Roman Catholics for decades and committed the bloodiest attack of the Northern Ireland conflict, renounced violence Thursday and promised to evolve into a force for good. Leaders of the British territory's Catholic minority welcomed the surprise announcement. But they also expressed skepticism.

#### Lebanon

BEIRUT -- Hezbollah's leader praised an Israeli government report that said Israel's summer war against the guerrillas was a failure. But the Lebanese government criticized the findings, saying the report did not address the massive destruction wrought on this country.

#### Mexico

## World datelines

MEXICO CITY -- Mexico has lost more people to migration to the United States than death since 2000, according to a government report released Thursday. Mexico's demographics agency found that an average of 577,000 people migrated to the U.S. each year between 2000-05, compared to 495,000 deaths a year in the same period. In 2006, 559,000 migrated and there were 501,000 deaths. Mexico had 104.9 million residents as of last year, an increase of 6.4 million since 2000. Nigeria

PORT HARCOURT -- At least 21 workers -- most of them foreigners -- were kidnapped Thursday in separate attacks in Nigeria's oil-rich delta region that left a Nigerian soldier dead, officials and witnesses said. Eight foreigners and a Nigerian driver were later freed. Pakistan

ISLAMABAD -- Pakistan plans to repatriate by 2009 all 2 million Afghan refugees who have fled violence in their homeland, even though most say they do not want to return, the government said Thursday. Venezuela

CARACAS -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Thursday threatened to nationalize the country's banks and largest steel producer, accusing them of unscrupulous practices.

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2007

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End of Document

## *Where does Australia stand on carnage in Gaza?*

Canberra Times (Australia)

January 3, 2009 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** A; Pg. B04

**Length:** 595 words

**Byline:** The Canberra Times

### **Body**

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Greg Rose's opinion piece "Israel's attacks are not extreme" (January 1, p9) which excuses Israel's protection of its citizens in attacking Palestine, contrasts dramatically with the report by Adel Zaanoun ("Traumatised children in front line of Gaza assault", January 1, p11) which highlights the terror of Palestinian children underneath Israel's shock and awe attacks.

Our less-than-pure ally, the United States nods its understanding of this disproportionate onslaught while the impoverished children of Gaza die.

Where does Australia stand among this carnage?

I know who I feel for, and it's not our side, I'm afraid.

Chris Yates, Scullin I agree with Kathryn Kelly (Letters, January 2) that "one state with democratic rights for all its citizens, Palestinians and Israelis" is the answer.

Indeed the Palestine Liberation Organisation at one stage had as its aim the establishment of just such a state.

But its commitment was at best half-hearted, and none of its actions indicated any real strategy for achieving this goal.

The obstacle to a one state solution is Zionism, the founding and still dominant ideology of Israel. It established the Israeli state on terror and genocide against the Palestinian people.

The Israeli military is the fourth most powerful in the world. The Israeli state only survives through the monetary, military and political support it receives from the US. The US does this because Israel is the attack dog for American imperialist interests. The Palestinians (let alone Hamas) cannot, on their own, defeat Israel and the US.

So is there no hope? No.

"The road to Jerusalem runs through Cairo." If the Arab masses were to rise up and overthrow their mainly US-backed dictatorships the whole face of Middle East politics would change. No longer would the US/Israeli alliance be able to control oil, undermining Israel's strategic importance to American imperialism.

## Where does Australia stand on carnage in Gaza?

More importantly the empowerment of ordinary working and farming people of itself presents a challenge to the Israeli state and its racist and terrorist existence. It is a historical step forward beyond the backwardness of Zionism and thus becomes attractive to many in the region, including in Israel where the majority are in reality also disempowered.

This is not going to happen overnight, and certainly Hamas with its islamic ideology and Fatah with its quisling approach won't adopt a strategy of encouraging revolution in other Arab and nearby Muslim countries.

But there have been massive strikes in Egypt recently which the US-backed Mubarak regime repressed violently.

They will recur. The Egyptian dictatorship is unstable and while the immediate beneficiaries of any overthrow might be the Hamas co- Islamists, the Muslim Brotherhood, in the long run the solution appears to me to be the Arab masses actually running society themselves. History may take its time but it will happen.

John Passant, Kambah Hamas uses Palestinian civilians as human shields.

These Arab terrorists locate launching pads and weapon storage in homes, schools, hospitals, mosques and community centers, while the Arab terrorists hide underground.

Hamas knows that Palestinian Arab civilians injured in the fire will be damaging to Israel, while the Arab terrorists murder innocent Israeli women and children.

Moreover, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Palestine Liberation Organisation Arab terrorists teach Arab children to hate all Israelis and teach that murder of Israelis is a grand goal, thus developing terrorists for future generations and continuing to block any chance for peace.

Alan J. Winters, Texas

**Load-Date:** January 2, 2009

## *Will Israeli army allow women on the battlefield?*

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

May 8, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** LIFESTYLES; Pg. 25

**Length:** 511 words

**Byline:** Matti Friedman, Associated Press

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM (AP) -- When Alice Miller petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court in 1995 to let her become an air force pilot, the country's president, himself a famous airman in his younger days, laughingly compared women flying planes to men darning socks.

But the court ruled in her favour, opening combat jobs to women for the first time. One of them was Keren Tendler, a flight technician killed last summer when her helicopter was shot down by Hezbollah guerrillas over Lebanon.

The fighting Israeli woman soldier may endure as a stereotype, but in reality, a female death in combat is extremely rare. Save for isolated cases in the Jewish state's 1948 war for independence, women in the army traditionally were confined to clerical and support jobs. But things have changed, and now an army-appointed commission of academics and officers is studying whether to integrate the army's last all-male preserve: infantry, armour and special forces.

Commission member Naomi Chazan, a prominent feminist and a former politician, says the focus will be on "increasing the equality" of women in uniform -- and that means admitting them to tank and infantry formations.

The move is not crucial for the army, Chazan said, but for Israeli women. The army plays a central role in Israel, Chazan said, and "If the army consciously creates inequality on any basis, these values get into Israeli society."

But Yaakov Amidror, a retired major general, says such principles cannot drive military policy in a country that feels its national survival is at stake.

"As we've seen in other armies, gender integration causes sexual tension and is detrimental to combat performance, and it's just not worth it," Amidror said. "It's not coincidental that throughout human history, men have done the fighting."

Feminists might call his views old-fashioned, but they face a question: do Israeli women even want to be on the front lines?

Lt. Col. Liora Rubinstein, a women's affairs adviser to the military chief of staff, acknowledges that few women volunteer for combat units. Many are turned off by having to sign on for an extra year to serve in most combat jobs.

## Will Israeli army allow women on the battlefield?

"My son does soccer and judo, and my daughter does ballet. But then we tell her: 'Go to the army, be equal to the men, go ahead.' But of course it doesn't work like that," Rubinstein said.

Lieut. Sivan Ben-Ezra, 21, commands a platoon in a mixed-gender "light infantry" unit, currently the closest women can get to front-line infantry. She isn't surprised more women aren't interested in jobs like hers.

"We have girls who come for the boots and the cool uniform. Those girls don't last," she said.

All Israelis except Arabs and ultra-orthodox Jews are drafted -- men for three years, women for two.

Ben-Ezra's unit is 70 per cent female, and its main duty is to patrol Israel's peaceful borders with Egypt and Jordan. Another mixed unit operates remote cameras and sensors to police the more sensitive Syrian and Lebanese borders, and women also serve in the border police and checkpoint units that maintain the occupation of the West Bank.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Associated Press; An Israeli soldier laughs as she looks in the mirror during a military training session near Jerusalem. ;

Colour Photo: Associated Press; An Israeli woman soldier prepares for a military training session near Jerusalem. ;

**Load-Date:** May 8, 2007



## *The end of peaceful Islam*

University Wire

October 18, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 The Good Five Cent Cigar via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 564 words

**Byline:** By Ryan Bilodeau, The Good Five Cent Cigar; **SOURCE:** U. Rhode Island

**Dateline:** KINGSTON, R.I.

### **Body**

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Islam is the submission of oneself to the will of Allah. The problem with that is, in fundamental terms (as subscribed to by Jihadists and fascists), the entirety of Islam was "revealed" to only one man, sixth-century prophet (and warlord) Mohammed, and no other. Quite convenient.

Mohammed wrote the Koran and Hadith, the two most important texts of Islam. They were written, one could say, for a much earlier and far different time than we are now living in. The problem with that is, fundamentalist Muslims don't agree. They think it's just fine to interpret it word for word, even today.

Admittedly, some of Mohammed's earlier teachings were what could be considered peaceful, written when he was relatively powerless and had few followers. What followed in later years -- and texts -- were ever-increasing espousals of and incitements to extreme violence, war, ethnic cleansing, foreign population subjugation and enslavement, and the extreme maltreatment of women, Jews, Christians and Zoroastrian Persians.

Fundamentalists subscribe to these later teachings written when the prophet Mohammed was more emperor and warlord than anything resembling a roving, peaceful teacher.

Today, we see the forced submission of others to the "will of Allah" all too frequently. In what were once heavily Christian and Jewish areas of the Middle East, including Jordan, Syria and especially Lebanon, we see today the increasing encroachment and spread of not "just" Islam, but of extremely radical and dogmatic Islam, the kind espoused by Hezbollah, Hamas and the PLO.

It is the kind that motivates ignorant, indoctrinated youth to launch rockets into Israel and to detonate themselves in marketplaces where women are buying food for dinner.

Islamic-fascism is rearing its ugly head on the battlefield of ideas on America's campuses as well. Through "political correctness," censorship of free speech, and even lawsuits, Islamists are fighting the West by using our freedoms against us, and by appealing to kind-hearted, yet foolhardy progressive liberals.

This past summer Robert Spencer, the author of "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam," was scheduled to speak at a conference held by the Young America's Foundation, a group that works to bring the conservative message to campuses across the country.

## The end of peaceful Islam

In response, the supposed "civil rights" group the Council for American Islamic Relations sent a letter to YAF threatening to "pursue every appropriate legal remedy" if Spencer was not struck from the conference agenda. That is correct, a "civil rights" group was threatening to censor an individual whose political point of view they did not agree with.

CAIR's actions were but another example of an attempt at the forced submission of others to Islamic fundamentalist views. Their technique is lifted directly from the dogmatic teachings of the Koran and Hadith. They are also a reminder that the war against America, in which the left and Islam have unwittingly -- or from the Islamist viewpoint, quite wittingly -- teamed up, is fought on many battlefields.

Come and see Robert Spencer, the man CAIR threatened to censor, speak about "Islamofascism." He will be speaking next Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom at the University of Rhode Island. It will surely open your eyes to the threat Islamic fundamentalism poses to us all.

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**Load-Date:** October 18, 2007

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**Guardian Weekly: Books: The colours of Allah**

Guardian Weekly

July 6, 2007 Friday

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## **TheGuardianWeekly**

**Section:** Pg. 39

**Length:** 990 words

**Byline:** Edward Mortimer

### **Body**

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Journey into Islam: The Crisis of Globalisation by Akbar Ahmed Brookings Institution Press 323pp pounds 17.99

Edward Mortimer

Once upon a time, in the mid-1980s, a young Pakistani civil servant wanted to carry on the best traditions of the British-created Indian Civil Service. Like many of his British predecessors, Akbar Ahmed combined his role as the government's political agent in a remote hill district with anthropological fieldwork, seeking to analyse and understand the unruly tribesmen whom his day job required him to pacify and subdue. A little pretentiously, perhaps, he called the resulting book Religion and Politics in Muslim Society . I remember being slightly disappointed when I first came across it to find that it dealt almost exclusively with the manners and customs of one particular Pukhtun tribe, which could hardly claim to be representative of the worldwide Muslim community.

Yet as it turns out, young Ahmed was in the right place. The province where he was stationed was South Waziristan, the wild area on the Afghan border where Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants are now believed to be hiding out. So in this new book the mature Ahmed can shake his head sadly over the clumsy handling of the Pukhtun tribes by the US and Pakistani governments. Commenting on "Operation Mountain Storm", the joint operation aimed at flushing out Bin Laden and the remnants of the Taliban in the spring of 2004, he is able to remark - patronisingly, perhaps, but pardonably so - that "neither the Americans nor city-dwelling Pakistanis like Musharraf and his generals appeared to have done their homework".

But the theme of Journey into Islam is much broader. In part it is an account of a literal journey - an "anthropological excursion" - that Ahmed, now a professor at American University in Washington DC, undertook in various countries (Turkey, Qatar, Syria, Jordan, Pakistan, India, Malaysia, Indonesia) in 2005-6, accompanied by two of his non-Muslim American students (one male, one *female*) and one *female* Arab-American Muslim research assistant. It is not a travel book in any conventional sense - particular episodes are vividly described, but not as part of a continuous narrative. Rather they are woven into a sustained and passionate argument, almost a desperate plea, for better mutual understanding between the West and the Islamic world.

Inevitably the phrase "clash of civilisations" appears. It even appears as a chapter heading, though followed by a question mark - as it was in its first incarnation as the title of Samuel P Huntington's 1993 Foreign Affairs article.

Needless to say, Ahmed, who is proud to be both Muslim and western, is anxious to avert this clash as far as possible. Yet to a surprising extent he accepts Huntington's premise that Islam and the West are still distinct civilisations.

With that in view, his argument is carefully addressed to "both sides", in terms that sometimes seem to imply not only moral equivalence between western and Muslim societies but the equal complicity of both in particular acts of violence, such as "the shooting of an entire Haditha family [in Iraq] by American soldiers and the beheading of Nick Berg in Iraq and of Daniel Pearl in Pakistan".

This is slippery terrain and Ahmed must expect some angry reactions. But he will take comfort from his success in establishing friendly relations with people ranging from, on one side, Judea Pearl (Daniel's father) to, on the other, Aijaz Qasmi, whose chilling words, "the actions of Osama bin Laden, Hizbullah, Hamas and the Taliban, even if they kill women and children, are perfectly justified in Islam", he uses to open the book.

"But hold on," you are probably thinking, "what kind of symmetry is that? Judea Pearl is obviously a man of peace, willing to strive for understanding and reconciliation even with the faith and culture that produced his son's murderers, while Qasmi is going around inciting Muslims to more indiscriminate violence." Yes, but Qasmi turns out to be the ace up Ahmed's sleeve. By the end of the book he has become general secretary of an Islamic peace foundation and a showcase for the healing power of dialogue, "at last able to put a human face to what he had earlier called 'American barbarians'."

So the journey turns out to be not only a voyage of discovery, but also a kind of mission. The American students are brought along not only so that they can learn about Muslim attitudes at first hand, but also so that the Muslims they meet will see a different face of the West. The main purpose of the book, therefore, is to give western readers a more three-dimensional picture of the Islamic world, enabling them to engage with real-life Muslims and acknowledge "their common humanity". Ahmed's device for doing this is to introduce us to three "models" of contemporary Islam, which he associates with three rival centres - all in India, as it happens - that he and his team visit.

Aligarh, seat of the university founded on the Oxbridge model by the great 19th-century Muslim reformer Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan, stands for strengthening Islam by learning from the West. Deoband, a major madrasa in India, also founded in reaction to Islam's 19th-century crisis, asserts mainstream or orthodox beliefs and traditions. And finally Ajmer, shrine of the 12th-century Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti, stands for a more quietist, mystical Islam, stressing inner calm, transcendence of earthly passion and openness to other forms of spirituality such as Hinduism and Buddhism.

Crudely summarised, Ahmed's message to western leaders is to rely less on Aligarh products such as his younger self, and to engage with the Deobandis - those in the Muslim world who at first sight seem most fanatically hostile. In the end his advice to Muslims is to seek a synthesis of all three. Perhaps his next book should be a Journey into the West, on which his fellow travellers will be students from the Islamic world.

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2007

## **Brown unveils sweeping changes; Only one British cabinet post unchanged**

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

June 29, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A20

**Length:** 511 words

**Byline:** George Jones, The Telegraph; with files from Reuters and Agence France-Presse

**Dateline:** LONDON

### **Body**

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British Prime Minister Gordon Brown will set about repairing the damage caused to trust in politics during the Tony Blair era by summoning cabinet today to approve a new constitutional settlement between Parliament, the people and government.

After carrying out the most sweeping cabinet reshuffle of modern times, the prime minister will promise that in future ministers will have to seek parliamentary approval before a major commitment of troops overseas, subject to operational needs and secrecy.

There will be "confirmation hearings" for major public appointments, curbs on political advisers and an independent figure to investigate breaches of the code of conduct for ministers. Brown demonstrated he wants to set a cracking pace -- after months of limbo during Blair's farewell -- by summoning the new cabinet for its second meeting within 24 hours.

Brown's whirl of activity is also expected to see Digby Jones, the government's skills envoy under Blair, become a Labour peer, The Telegraph has learned. Such a coup is designed to underline Brown's pledge to bring in "all the talents" to form his new administration.

At today's meeting -- it is highly unusual for cabinet to meet on a Friday outside times of crisis -- ministers will discuss Brown's blueprint for constitutional reforms aimed at making a decisive break with the Blair years, which have been overshadowed by Iraq, spin and the sidelining of Parliament.

As police confirmed Blair had been interviewed for a third time by detectives investigating the "cash for honours" affair, Downing Street said a statement Monday to MPs would focus on "the conduct of government and the conduct of ministers."

Brown stunned Westminster with the scale of his reshuffle, which balanced youth and experience, promoted new faces and **women** and cut the number of Scots by one. Every post changed hands, except for Des Browne, who stays as defence secretary, as the prime minister culled more than a third of the cabinet inherited from Blair.

## Brown unveils sweeping changes; Only one British cabinet post unchanged

He appointed the youngest cabinet in living memory, with the average age down from 54 to 49, and the first woman home secretary, Jacqui Smith. Smith, formerly Labour's chief whip, was the biggest surprise. She said she was "pleased and proud" to be given the job of leading the fight against crime and terrorism.

David Miliband, 41, is the youngest foreign secretary in 30 years.

Miliband last year criticized Blair's position on Israel's conflict with Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon. Miliband, who Blair once hoped would stand for the party leadership, was rewarded for not challenging Brown.

Prisons and other functions come under the control of Jack Straw, the justice secretary, who also becomes the first MP to take up the post of lord chancellor, previously always held by a member of the House of Lords.

Alistair Darling, 53, one of Brown's close associates, becomes chancellor -- the competent "bank manager" type of minister the prime minister favours. Analysts expect little change in economic policy under Darling, after Brown's decade-long tenure as finance minister.

## Graphic

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Photo: Stephen Hird, Reuters; New British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, centre, heads his first cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street on Thursday. ;

Photo: Alistair Darling ;

Photo: David Miliband ;

**Load-Date:** June 29, 2007

## OPP WALKS OUT OVER STUDENT'S MURDER

The Nation (AsiaNet)

June 13, 2007 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1054 words

### **Body**

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ISLAMABAD - The combined opposition on Wednesday staged walkout from the National Assembly twice to protest the killing to All Pakistan Muttahida Students Organisation leader Syed Wasif Aziz and absence of the ministers and secretaries from the proceedings. As the House continued debate on the budget 2007-08, MMAMNA Liaquat Baloch said on a point of order that student Wasif Aziz was abducted and tortured before the murder and his body was thrown on the roadside last night. He demanded of Sindh government to conduct investigation about this incident and its report must be presented in the House.

The MQM leader Dr Farooq Sattar on the floor of the House said that his party strongly condemned the killing of student in Karachi. He said that it was a big conspiracy against the MQM over May 12 incident. He said that peace process of Karachi has been sabotage and added that the Sindh government will fulfil its responsibilities and will take the Parliament into confidence. Treasury Member Ali Akbar Vanse said that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure the presence of ministers in the House and secretaries in official gallery. "Our friends are not taking interest in the budget debates. Bureaucracy is not giving importance to the representatives of the people."

State Minister for Finance Division Omar Ayub Khan said that the National Assembly, Senate and standing committee of the Senate are functioning simultaneously. For this reason the ministers and secretaries have been divided.

PML-N leader Tehmina Daultana during her speech carried the photo of former Prime Minister Main Nawaz Sharif and walked toward the Leader of the House Shaukat Aziz's chair. While putting the poster of Nawaz Sharif on the desk of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, she said that he (Nawaz) is constitutional Prime Minister of Pakistan.

On this occasion, treasury women rushed to Tehmina but PML-N MNAs scatted her back on her seat to avoid any scuffle between her and PML-Q women legislators. During the budget debates, the opposition members highlighted the problems of their constituencies. They protested against the government for freezing their development funds. They demanded of the prime minister to release their development funds.

In this regard, MMA leader Hafiz Hussain Ahmed also continued his protest for the provision of gas to Hanna Orak, Zarkhu, Panjpai and other surrounding villages of Quetta City.

MMA leader Abdul Ghafoor Haydri in his budget speech said that Pakistan has more than \$ 40 billion foreign debt. He claimed that the rulers are presenting good economy position of the country after taking foreign debts and the national assets are being sold at low price. He said that wide difference is being created between the rich and the poor segment due to wrong economic policies of the government.

## OPP WALKS OUT OVER STUDENT'S MURDER

He claimed that the relations of Pakistan with neighbouring countries including Afghanistan, Iran and China were no more cordial due to flawed policies of the government. He alleged that President General Pervez Musharraf has destroyed all the national institutes including Parliament, Judiciary and administration.

About the law and order situation, he said, "We are fighting and killing our innocent people in Balochistan, Waziristan for the interest of other country. He said the government has frozen development funds of the opposition members. He said that the development projects have been iced up in the constituencies of the opposition members.

Treasury Member Mehnaz Rafi said the government should give small loans to the women of rural areas.

She proposed that gender budget should be allocated to improve the standard of the women in health, education, agriculture and labour institutions. She said that the government is constructing three dams to overcome the loadshedding and irrigation for agriculture sector. During budget speech, Murtaza Sati said that MQM should resign if it could not fulfil its responsibilities about law and order. He said that poverty; price hike and unemployment are increasing day by day in the country. He said that profitable institutions are being privatised. He added that as many as Rs 80 million has been allocated in the budget for privatisation. Federal Minister for Labour and Manpower and Oversees Pakistani said the MMA has played a positive role for the functioning of the assemblies. It played pivotal role for LFO and elected General Pervez Musharraf as President in uniform.

He said that the PML-Q would succeed forthcoming election due to its performance of five years. He added that it is budget of salary vide and worker segments. He said that minim wages has been increased from RS 4000 to 4600.

He said that Labour Ministry would give Rs 50000 for wedding of labourers' daughters. He added that the ministry has increased death compensation from Rs 50000 to 300000. He said that the ministry would also bear all expenditure of the children of workers for higher education who will get high marks in intermediate.

Fareed Ahmed Paracha said that the government employees should be given 25 per cent increase in the salaries. He said that 15 per cent increments are very small because the prices of commodities have been reached at double. The prices of gas, electricity have been also escalated. He said that six per cent in education and four per cent GDP in health sectors should be increased.

About the agriculture sector, he said that the government should give subsidy in diesel oil more subsidies should be given to farmers in electricity. He strongly condemned the bloodbath in Karachi on May 12. Shahabuddin of Fata said that 60 years have been passed but the FATA were not including in NFC Award. We are not allowed politics in the FATA. "A total of 12 elected representatives of FATA can legislate for others but not for their people."

"We became frontline state in anti-terrorism war. New weapons and modern technologies were tasted on our people. Our people are living on the heap of explosive and 80 per cent people are living below the poverty line," he added. MNA Ayesha Munawwar, Israrul Ibad, Ghulam Farid, Hizbullah Bhogo, Noorul Qadri, Sher Akbar Advocate, Zulfiqar Dilo, Manzoor Wassan, Qari Gul Rehman, Safdar Shakir, Anwer Ali Bhutto and others also participated in budget debate.

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2007



**Guardian Weekly: Israelis are choosing a bubble existence: After 60 years  
the song of peace has been muffled by cynicism and distance**

Guardian Weekly

May 16, 2008 Friday

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## ***The*GuardianWeekly**

**Section:** Pg. 24

**Length:** 984 words

**Byline:** Jonathan Freedland

### **Body**

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In the wee small hours on Israeli television they show reruns of what was once a staple form of mass entertainment: kibbutz choirs - the men in pressed work shirts, the women in peasant skirts - singing Hebrew folk melodies exalting the Land of Israel, while a smiling audience joins in. The pictures were black and white, the sets cardboard, and the programmes interminable - a socialist-realist tableau of a simple farming nation engaged in patriotic amusement.

Visiting Israel last month, I sat transfixed when I stumbled across the public service channel that replays those old shows. Last week the national celebrations were more up to date, as Israel marked its 60th anniversary with street parties and beach barbecues. Yet if the world was watching, trying to understand the place Israel was and what it has become, it could do worse than start with those cheesy TV specials.

For one thing, too many critics like to depict the establishment of Israel in May 1948 as little more than an act of western imperialism, inserting an alien, European enclave into the mainly Arab and Muslim Middle East. In this view, the Jewish Israelis of today, with their swimming pools and waterside restaurants, are no different from their counterparts in other settler societies - the whites of Australia or, more painfully, South Africa. A look at the faces of Jewish Israel is one easy rebuttal: the new nation that has formed by mixing Moroccan and Russian, Ethiopian and Kurd, is one of the most ethnically diverse in the world. But there is a more substantial counter-argument, one that can be picked up even on those old TV singalongs.

A favourite in the patriotic repertoire is "Ein Li Eretz Acheret" (I Have No Other Land). In a way, no other sentence conveys the tragedy of Israel and Palestine more concisely - because of course, and with good reason, the Palestinians feel exactly the same way. They, too, have nowhere else. Yet this Zionist anthem articulates something very deep in Israelis' sense of themselves: they are a nation formed by those who had no other place to live. The Holocaust, inevitably, looms large in this: the establishment of a Jewish state just three years after the liberation of Auschwitz was no coincidence. After 2,000 years the world was finally persuaded that the Jews deserved what every other people regarded as a basic right: a place of their own.

A poignant reminder that Jews really had no other place - because the rest of the world did not want them - came with the death last month of Yossi Harel, captain of the Exodus, the leaking, rusting ship that carried 4,500

Guardian Weekly: Israelis are choosing a bubble existence: After 60 years the song of peace has been muffled by cynicism and distance

Holocaust survivors from Europe to Palestine in 1947, only to be sent back - by the British - first to France and then, incredibly, to Germany.

This, surely, gives the Israeli experience a different texture to the founding of, say, New Zealand, Argentina or the US. Those enterprises were fuelled chiefly by ambition and appetite for material resources. Even if those who landed on Plymouth Rock were fleeing religious intolerance, the circumstances of America's pioneers were not those of the Jews in the 1940s. The moral difference between the Jews and the white settlers of America, Africa and Australasia is the difference between a homeless man who needs a roof over his head and the landowner who fancies a second home. Those who lazily brand Zionism as imperialism should be able to tell the difference - and to remember that those who boarded those battered ships felt less like imperialists than refugees desperate for shelter.

The old TV shows provide another, related corrective. Back in the 1970s, all Israeli floors looked the same: the tiles were mass-produced and there was only one style. Every toilet seat was made by a single kibbutz.

That collectivism is all but gone. Most of the kibbutzim have privatised: individual members now own their own houses and earn different wages from each other. The kibbutz was never Israel, but it stands as a metaphor for what is happening in the wider society.

Israel itself is privatising, as Israel's people withdraw from the collective sphere and retreat into their own individual lives. Many speak of the bu'ah they construct for themselves, the bubble in which they can hide away from the fears and angst of Israel's "situation". Polling reveals the dichotomy: while nearly 40% believe the country faces a "serious threat of destruction" from its neighbours, about 83% are "satisfied or very satisfied" with their own lives.

All of which has a bearing on the other meaning of last week's anniversary. The US administration has set the date as a deadline for Israelis and Palestinians to show some progress in the talks launched at Annapolis last November, ahead of President Bush's visit to the region this week.

Israel insists that it is straining every sinew seeking peace, just as it has insisted throughout the past 60 years. But when Jimmy Carter was in Jerusalem last month, carrying messages from Damascus and Hamas, no frontline Israeli minister would so much as meet him. In this, the government is doing no more than follow the national mood. Israelis have grown cynical about peacemaking. "We pulled out of Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza in 2005, and what did we get for our trouble? Katyushas from Hizbullah and Qassams from Hamas. No thanks." Besides, and few Israelis like to say this out loud, they believe they can get by without peace.

Thanks, they whisper, to the separation barrier or wall, terror attacks have dwindled: Palestinian violence is contained. As for the so-called demographic factor - the notion that soon Jews and Arabs in the entire land ruled by Israel will reach numerical parity - that feels abstract and far away.

Only a few Israeli insomniacs will watch the old shows and remember the long-ago melodies, including the one that sounds more passe now than ever. It's called "Shir L'shalom" - and it is the song for peace.

**Load-Date:** May 22, 2008

*It seems almost absurdly exotic at this remove, but in the early 1980s there was at least one punk living in Tehran.*

Irish Independent

April 19, 2008 Saturday

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Independent.ie 

**Section:** ENTERTAINMENT; Film

**Length:** 957 words

## Body

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Now resident in Paris, Marjane was born, in 1969, in a town called Rasht near the Caspian Sea, and raised by her middle class family in the Iranian capital. Tehran in the 1970s was a westernised and comparatively affluent place, and Marjane's parents lived the good life. Though in theory Marxist intellectuals, they drove a Cadillac, drank alcohol and ate at all the best places. But they detested the Shah and his corrupt regime, and looked forward to the coming Islamic revolution -- until it happened, that is.

In this tolerant domestic atmosphere Marjane grew up cocky, stubborn and opinionated, and it's the confrontation between her brave little personality and the harsh facts of history that forms the dramatic crux of *Persepolis* (the ancient Greek name, incidentally, for the land long called Persia, now Iran).

In two bestselling graphic novels, Iranian exile Marjane Satrapi told the extraordinary tale of her coming-of-age in one of the most turbulent periods in her country's history. She then teamed up with French artist and filmmaker Vincent Paronnaud to turn her story into a truly remarkable animated film, which opens at Dublin's IFI in Temple Bar next Friday. What immediately strikes you on seeing *Persepolis* is its startling freshness and originality. Shot mainly in black and white, the film tells Marjane's story in wonderfully graphic sweeps. Veiled women loom like birds of prey over the tiny but defiantly individualistic Marjane, who watches from her apartment window as one detested regime falls and another, if anything even harsher one, suddenly takes its place. A bold, confident and very refreshing film, *Persepolis* reminds you just how powerful and direct a medium animation can be.

In the film, Marjane grows up fascinated by Western culture, most particularly music. In the late 1970s, however, decades before the internet, the weight and significance of British and American culture tended to get a little garbled by the time it reached Iran. Which means that though Marjane considered herself a punk and an anarchist, some of the edgy bands she listened to included Kim Wilde, turgid prog-rock outfit Camel, and the ultra-radical Bee Gees. Bruce Lee, for some reason, also assumes an almost God-like significance.

However, things become more difficult for Marjane when Islamic fundamentalists led by radical cleric Ayatollah Khomeini seized power in 1979. Though her family had long looked forward to the deposal of the Shah, they were not prepared for the strict and retrograde restrictions the fledgling theocracy imposed on their lives. Marjane's fiercely independent mother and grandmother are forced to cover up, and have their movements severely restricted. So is Marjane, but all of these -- from her perspective -- nonsensical restrictions are red rags to a bull.

t It seems almost absurdly exotic at this remove, but in the early 1980s there was at least one punk living in Tehran.

She defiantly wears Michael Jackson T-shirts under her veil, and continues to sport her bright red western runners. But Marjane's parents quickly realise that her indomitable spirit is going to land her in trouble sooner or later, so she's sent away to Vienna to conclude her education.

In the West, where the film briefly flirts with colour, Marjane imagines she will experience glorious contact with the culture she has admired from afar, but it doesn't quite work out that way. She discovers boys and booze, but the shock of a culture so different from the one in which she was raised does not sit well with her, and after a time she decides to return to Iran. When she does, however, she finds it even more inhospitable than she remembers. She is homesick, she realises, for a country that no longer exists.

The style of Persepolis perfectly suits its subject. Dispensing with the rounded versatility of contemporary animation, Satrapi and Paronnaud stick to the stark, two-dimensional nature of her own drawings; the faces are little more than tapered ovals, and the characters have the graphic clarity of cutouts. And despite its serious content, the film never allows itself to become merely didactic or preachy. It's very much one character's confrontation with great events, though its view of the glorious Islamic revolution has of course inspired criticism in Iran.

Though a heavily censored version of the film was shown briefly in Tehran, the Iranian authorities have condemned it from a height and dismissed it as Islamophobic. Satrapi, though, has refuted this claim. She's an artist, she insists, not a religious commentator or politician. And while her film is scathing about the hypocrisy and cruelty of the Iranian theocracy, she has been equally critical in interviews of what she refers to as George Bush's Christian fundamentalism.

The west, she believes, is guilty of cultural imperialism, and of always reducing Iran to either the Arabian Nights or **Hizbullah** -- "the flying carpet or the flying rocket". All she wanted to do in Persepolis, she says, was tell her story and show what it means to her to be an Iranian.

Whatever she intended doing, it's made her a wealthy woman. When the original graphic novel was first published, Marjane Satrapi thought it would sell a few hundred copies because people would buy it "to help this poor Iranian girl living in Paris". To date the book has sold well over a million copies and been translated into 24 languages. And the subsequent animation has done well as an arthouse film around the world, not hindered by its Oscar nomination for best animated feature (Ratatouille won that battle).

Simple and stark, her film launches a thought-provoking broadside at the preconceptions of recent history. And perhaps the fact that it was shown in Tehran at all is reason for a certain amount of cautious hope.

Persepolis opens next Friday at the IFI Temple Bar, Dublin.

**Load-Date:** April 19, 2008

## *Where is Israel's satellite TV news channel?*

The Jerusalem Post

March 25, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 16

**Length:** 930 words

**Byline:** GAVIN GROSS

**Highlight:** The writer is director of public affairs for Britain's Zionist Federation, which was founded in London in 1899 to support the Jewish national movement.

### **Body**

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The email invitation from "Iran's Press TV" screamed out its subject line as it dropped into the Zionist Federation's inbox: "Very Urgent Media Request."

Would I agree to participate in a one-hour televised debate entitled "How Will the Map of Palestine Be Determined?" After conferring with two London-based Israeli academics who had previously appeared on the channel, I accepted.

"Press TV" is an Iranian government-backed, 24-hour English language satellite TV news channel headquartered in Teheran. Launched globally nine months ago, it now airs on 10 different satellite systems and is endeavouring to be added to Britain's Sky satellite package. The channel can also be watched "live" online from anywhere in the world. According to its Web site, regular programs include "Iran," covering life in the Islamic Republic; "Middle East Today," focusing on news from the region; "American Dream," billed as a "warts-and-all picture of life in the USA"; and "Minbar," a weekly Q&A on Islam "fielding questions about all aspects of the world's fastest growing religion."

Press TV claims that over 70% of the Web site's hits are from the United States, and the station has just hired Andrew Gilligan, an influential British journalist, former BBC correspondent and columnist for London's Evening Standard newspaper.

PRESS TV is only one part of Iran's effort to spread its message and authority around the world. According to a recent report on Al Jazeera English, Iran has become a growing presence in the global media market and is a major television producer with broadcasts in 27 different languages such as Arabic, Urdu, and Armenian. Iran's Al Alam Arabic language TV channel has a 60% market share in Iraq, and Hizbullah's Al Manar Television is largely funded though not operated by Iran.

The Islamic Republic will soon begin broadcasting in Spanish to Spain and across Latin America. By aggressively launching multiple media outlets Iran has, according to a media analyst, "taken a preemptive media strike" to convey its message.

In London, a Press TV taxi brought me to their impressive studios, housed in a modern office building in west London. I was politely ushered into a waiting lounge while producers and guests raced around between four different sets. All of the women had their heads covered. I was soon taken into the make-up room where an

## Where is Israel 's satellite TV news channel?

attendant prepared me for the cameras. A fellow guest, a Western woman judged to be showing too much flesh around her neck, was given a scarf to wear on air.

My three fellow panelists were an official from an Arab party in Israel which has three Knesset seats and believes in the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees; a Palestinian academic based in England; and the director of an international peace group. The host of the program was Yvonne Ridley, an English journalist who has been active in hard-Left and Islamist politics in Britain as a member of George Galloway's Respect party, and who once famously called Respect a "Zionist-free party."

It was only when I was being fitted with a microphone in the studio that I discovered the true title of the debate was actually, "Is the Zionist State Trying to Wipe Palestine off the Map?" Although I was treated fairly and given sufficient time to make my arguments, and the entire program was later broadcast unedited, the whole structure of the program from the crude title to the pre-recorded segments were designed to frame the discussion precisely according to the channel's viewpoint. For example, an inflammatory pre-recorded clip showed Muslims praying on the Temple Mount while a voice-over claimed that the foundations of the Al-Aksa mosque were being "deliberately destabilized" by Israel, which was trying to "ethnically cleanse" Palestinians from the holy city.

ALONGSIDE THE threats posed by Iran's nuclear program and support for terrorist organizations, the growth of Iran's broadcasting capabilities, and perhaps also that of Al Jazeera, is worrying for Israel. My personal experience on Press TV and work with the Zionist Federation in combating unbalanced British media coverage of Israel leads me to ask: Where is Israel's international satellite TV station?

At home my Sky satellite package features not only 24- hour Sky News, BBC News 24, CNN and Fox News, but also European English language news (Euro News), Indian English language news (NDTV), Russian English language news (Russia Today), French English language news (France 24), Chinese English language news (CCTV-9), and Al Jazeera's English service.

Recently, Jerusalem Post editor David Horovitz attacked Israel's "criminal strategic insistence" on refusing to invest the necessary resources in competent public diplomacy. With today's brave new world characterized by around-the-clock global media outlets and high-speed Internet access in even less developed countries, how can it be that Israel doesn't have an English language or Arabic language news channel, and is in fact cutting back on its foreign language radio transmissions?

Battles are now fought not only in the military field but in the arena of public opinion. With all the ingenuity and resources available within Israel and the Jewish world, and expertise in hi-tech and communications, isn't it possible to fund and produce a credible, serious TV channel presenting an Israeli viewpoint? Without it, we will remain preoccupied with scrounging around for fair coverage on other people's media outlets, and Israel's global image will deteriorate further, with negative consequences for the country's future security and prosperity.

## Graphic

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Photo: 'IS THE Zionist state trying to wipe Palestine off the map?' Discuss.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## **Israel mobilizes troops as assault widens**

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

December 29, 2008 Monday

Copyright 2008 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

**Length:** 1360 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak and Karin Laub Associated Press

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY -- Israel widened its deadliest-ever air offensive against Gaza's Hamas rulers Sunday, pounding smuggling tunnels and a central prison, sending more tanks and artillery toward the Gaza border and approving a reserves call-up for a possible ground invasion.

Israeli leaders said they would press ahead with the Gaza campaign, despite enraged protests across the Arab world and Syria's decision to break off indirect peace talks with the Jewish state. Israel's foreign minister said the goal was to halt Gaza rocket fire on Israel for good but not to reoccupy the territory.

With the two-day death toll nearing 300 Sunday, crowds of Gazans breached the border wall with Egypt to escape the chaos. Egyptian forces, some firing in the air, tried to push them back into Gaza, and an official said one border guard was killed.

Hamas, in turn, fired rockets deeper than ever into Israel, near the Israeli port city of Ashdod.

Yet Hamas leaders were forced into hiding, most of the dead were from the Hamas security forces, and Israel's military intelligence chief said Hamas' ability to fire rockets had been reduced by 50 percent. Indeed, Hamas rockets dropped off sharply, from more than 130 on Saturday to just over

20 on Sunday. Still, Hamas continues to command some 20,000 fighters.

Israel's intense bombings -- some 300 airstrikes since midday Saturday -- wreaked unprecedented destruction in Gaza, reducing entire buildings to rubble.

After nightfall, Israeli aircraft attacked a building in the Jebaliya refugee camp next to Gaza City, killing a 14-month-old baby, a man and two women, Gaza Health Ministry official Dr. Moaiya Hassanain said. Israeli aircraft also bombed the Islamic University and government compound in Gaza City, centers of Hamas power. Witnesses saw fire and smoke at the university, counting six separate airstrikes there just after midnight.

Shlomo Brom, a former senior Israeli military official, said it was the deadliest force ever used in decades of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. "Since Hamas took over Gaza (in June 2007), it has become a war between two states, and in war between states, more force is used," he said.

European leaders called on both Israel and Hamas to end the bloodshed.

## Israel mobilizes troops as assault widens

French President Nicolas Sarkozy spoke Sunday with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who leads a rival government to Hamas in the West Bank, and condemned "the provocations that led to this situation as well as the disproportionate use of force."

The White House was mum about the situation in Gaza on Sunday after speaking out expansively on Saturday, blaming Hamas for provoking Israel's retaliatory strikes.

In the most dramatic attacks Sunday, warplanes struck dozens of smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border, cutting off a lifeline that had supplied Hamas with weapons and Gaza with commercial goods. The influx of goods had helped Hamas defy an 18-month blockade of Gaza by Israel and Egypt, and was key to propping up its rule.

Sunday's blasts shook the ground several miles away and sent black smoke high into the sky. Earlier, warplanes dropped three bombs on one of Hamas' main security compounds in Gaza City, including a prison. Moments after the blasts, frantic inmates, their faces dusty and bloodied, scrambled down the rubble. One man, still half buried, raised a hand to alert rescuers.

Gaza's nine hospitals were overwhelmed. Hassanain, who keeps a record for the Gaza Health Ministry, said more than 290 people were killed over two days and more than 800 wounded.

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, which keeps researchers at all hospitals, said it had counted 251 dead by midday Sunday, and that among them were 20 children under the age of 16 and nine women.

Across Gaza, families pitched traditional mourning tents of green tarp outside homes. Yet the rows of chairs inside these tents remained largely empty, as residents cowered indoors for fear of new Israeli strikes.

Israeli leaders gave interviews to foreign television networks to try to win international support.

Public Security Minister Avi Dichter, speaking Arabic, spoke on Arab satellite TV stations, denouncing Hamas rule in Gaza. And Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni told NBC that the assault came because Hamas, an Islamic group backed by Syria and Iran, is smuggling weapons and building a "small army."

In Jerusalem, Israel's Cabinet approved a call-up of 6,500 reserve soldiers, raising fears of an impending ground offensive. Israel has doubled the number of troops on the Gaza border since Saturday and also deployed an artillery battery. It was not clear, though, whether the deployment was meant to pressure Hamas or whether Israel is determined to send ground troops.

Since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, after 38 years of full military occupation, Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to the territory to hunt militants. However, Israel has shied away from retaking the entire strip, for fear of getting bogged down on urban warfare.

Military experts said Israel would need at least 10,000 soldiers for a full-scale invasion.

The diplomatic fallout, meanwhile, was swift.

Syria decided to suspend indirect peace talks with Israel, begun earlier this year. "Israel's aggression closes all the doors" to any move toward a settlement in the region, Syria said.

The U.N. Security Council called on both sides to halt the fighting and asked Israel to allow humanitarian supplies into Gaza; 30 trucks were let in Sunday. The prime minister of Turkey, one of the few Muslim countries to have relations with Israel, called the air assault a "crime against humanity."

The carnage inflamed Arab and Muslim public opinion, setting off street protests across the West Bank, in an Arab community in Israel, in several Middle Eastern cities and in Paris.



## Israel mobilizes troops as assault widens

Some of the protests turned violent. Israeli troops quelling a West Bank march killed one Palestinian and seriously wounded another. A crowd of anti-Israel protesters in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul became a target for a suicide bomber on a bicycle. In Lebanon, police fired tear gas to stop demonstrators from reaching the Egyptian Embassy.

Egypt, which has served as a mediator between Israel and the Palestinians as well as between Hamas and its rival Fatah, has been criticized for joining Israel in closing its borders with Gaza. The blockade was imposed immediately after the Hamas takeover in June 2007.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit called on Hamas to renew its truce with Israel. The cease-fire began unraveling last month, and formally ended more than a week ago. Since then, Gaza militants have stepped up rocket fire on Israel, prompting the latest offensive.

A Hamas leader in exile, Osama Hamdan, said the movement would not relent. "We have one alternative which is to be steadfast and resist and then we will be victorious," Hamdan said in Beirut.

Also in Beirut, Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Hezbollah militia, said he would not abandon Hamas, but did not threaten to attack Israel. During the Israel-Hezbollah war of 2006, the militia fired thousands of rockets into Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said it was unclear when the operation would end but told his Cabinet was "liable to last longer than we are able to foresee at this time."

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis live in cities and towns in Gaza rocket range, and life slowed in some of the communities. Schools in communities in a 12-mile radius from Gaza were ordered to remain closed beyond the weeklong Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, which ends Monday.

In the southern city of Ashkelon, home to some 120,000 people, streets were relatively busy, despite the military's recommendations against being out in the open.

Several times throughout the day, however, that routine was briefly interrupted by the sounds of wailing sirens warning of an imminent attack. Pedestrians scurried for cover in buildings. After a number of rockets landed in the distance, a woman taking cover nearby briefly fainted. She refused water and food from bystanders, instead shivering in a corner, apparently in shock. Additional reporting by Aron Heller in Ashkelon, Israel. Karin Laub reported from Jerusalem.

**Load-Date:** December 29, 2008

**Israel widens Gaza attack; Death toll nears 300 as air offensive targets Hamas leaders**

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

December 29, 2008, Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. P1A

**Length:** 1347 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak and Karin Laub, The Associated Press

## **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israel widened its deadliest-ever air offensive against Gaza's Hamas rulers Sunday, pounding smuggling tunnels and a central prison, sending more tanks and artillery toward the Gaza border and approving a reserves callup for a possible ground invasion.

Israeli leaders said they would press ahead with the Gaza campaign, despite enraged protests across the Arab world and Syria's decision to break off indirect peace talks with the Jewish state. Israel's foreign minister said the goal was to halt Gaza rocket fire on Israel for good, but not to reoccupy the territory.

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The White House was mum about the situation in Gaza on Sunday after speaking out expansively on Saturday, blaming Hamas for provoking Israel's retaliatory strikes.

In the most dramatic attacks Sunday, warplanes struck dozens of smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border, cutting off a lifeline that had supplied Hamas with weapons and Gaza with commercial goods. The influx of goods had helped Hamas defy an 18-month blockade of Gaza by Israel and Egypt, and was key to propping up its rule.

Sunday's blasts shook the ground several miles away and sent black smoke high into the sky. Earlier, warplanes dropped three bombs on one of Hamas' main security compounds in Gaza City, including a prison. Moments after the blasts, frantic inmates, their faces dusty and bloodied, scrambled down the rubble. One man, still half buried, raised a hand to alert rescuers.

Gaza's nine hospitals were overwhelmed. Hassanain, who keeps a record for the Gaza Health Ministry, said more than 290 people were killed over two days and more than 800 wounded.

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, which keeps researchers at all hospitals, said it had counted 251 dead by midday Sunday, and that among them were 20 children under the age of 16 and nine women.

Across Gaza, families pitched traditional mourning tents of green tarp outside homes. Yet the rows of chairs inside these tents remained largely empty, as residents covered indoors for fear of new Israeli strikes.

Israeli leaders gave interviews to foreign television networks to try win international support.

Public Security Minister Avi Dichter, speaking Arabic, spoke on Arab satellite TV stations, denouncing Hamas rule in Gaza. And Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni told NBC that the assault came because Hamas, an Islamic group backed by Syria and Iran, is smuggling weapons and building a "small army."

In Jerusalem, Israel's Cabinet approved a callup of 6,500 reserve soldiers, raising fears of an impending ground offensive. Israel has doubled the number of troops on the Gaza border since Saturday and also deployed an artillery battery. It was not clear, though, whether the deployment was meant to pressure Hamas or whether Israel is determined to send ground troops.

Since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, after 38 years of full military occupation, Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to the territory to hunt militants. However, Israel has shied away from retaking the entire strip, for fear of getting bogged down on urban warfare.

Military experts said Israel would need at least 10,000 soldiers for a full-scale invasion.

The diplomatic fallout, meanwhile, was swift.

Syria decided to suspend indirect peace talks with Israel, begun earlier this year. "Israel's aggression closes all the doors" to any move toward a settlement in the region, Syria said.

The U.N. Security Council called on both sides to halt the fighting and asked Israel to allow humanitarian supplies into Gaza; 30 trucks were let in Sunday. The prime minister of Turkey, one of the few Muslim countries to have relations with Israel, called the air assault a "crime against humanity."

The carnage inflamed Arab and Muslim public opinion, setting off street protests across the West Bank, in an Arab community in Israel, in several Middle Eastern cities and in Paris.

## Israel widens Gaza attack Death toll nears 300 as air offensive targets Hamas leaders

Some of the protests turned violent. Israeli troops quelling a West Bank march killed one Palestinian and seriously wounded another. A crowd of anti-Israel protesters in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul became a target for a suicide bomber on a bicycle. In Lebanon, police fired tear gas to stop demonstrators from reaching the Egyptian Embassy.

Egypt, which has served as a mediator between Israel and the Palestinians as well as between Hamas and its rival Fatah, has been criticized for joining Israel in closing its borders with Gaza. The blockade was imposed immediately after the Hamas takeover in June 2007.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit called on Hamas to renew its truce with Israel. The cease-fire began unraveling last month, and formally ended more than a week ago. Since then, Gaza militants have stepped up rocket fire on Israel, prompting the latest offensive.

A Hamas leader in exile, Osama Hamdan, said the movement would not relent. "We have one alternative which is to be steadfast and resist and then we will be victorious," Hamdan said in Beirut.

Also in Beirut, Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Hezbollah militia, said he would not abandon Hamas, but did not threaten to attack Israel. During the Israel-Hezbollah war of 2006, the militia fired thousands of rockets into Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said it was unclear when the operation would end but told his Cabinet was "liable to last longer than we are able to foresee at this time."

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis live in cities and towns in Gaza rocket range, and life slowed in some of the communities. Schools in communities in a 12-mile radius from Gaza were ordered to remain closed beyond the weeklong Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, which ends Monday.

In the southern city of Ashkelon, home to some 120,000 people, streets were relatively busy, despite the military's recommendations against being out in the open.

Several times throughout the day, however, that routine was briefly interrupted by the sounds of wailing sirens warning of an imminent attack. Pedestrians scurried for cover in buildings. After a number of rocket landed in the distance, a woman taking cover nearby briefly fainted. She refused water and food from bystanders, instead shivering in a corner, apparently in shock.

**Load-Date:** December 29, 2008

**Rockets are fired from Lebanon into north Israel; Possibility of second front in war seen**

The International Herald Tribune

January 9, 2009 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1338 words

**Byline:** Steven Erlanger - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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Thanassis Cambanis contributed reporting from Beirut.

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Israel's conflict with Hamas in Gaza threatened to broaden Thursday as several rockets were fired into the north of Israel from Lebanon.

The rockets, presumably launched in support of Hamas, could presage the opening of a second front. The Israeli Army, in a brief statement, said it had "responded with fire against the source of the rockets," which landed near the town of Nahariya. Two Israelis were slightly wounded, the police said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. A spokeswoman for the militant group Hezbollah, which triggered a war with Israel in 2006 by firing rockets into northern Israel from Lebanon, said an investigation was under way. "We are still looking for information about it," she said.

Prime Minister Fouad Siniora of Lebanon immediately condemned the attack, which involved at least three rockets.

In 2006, after the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier just outside Gaza, a large Israeli operation there was overshadowed by Israel's massive response to an attack in the north by Hezbollah, which turned into what is known as the Second Lebanon War.

On Thursday, Israel sent senior officials to talk with Egypt about halting the conflict in Gaza, but there were no signs of a diplomatic breakthrough. International pressure for a negotiated cease-fire intensified after Israeli shells killed some 40 people at a United Nations school in Gaza on Tuesday. Israel said Hamas militants had fired mortar shells from the school compound prior to the Israeli shelling.

On Wednesday, Israel suspended its military operations in Gaza for three hours to allow humanitarian aid and fuel for power generation to reach Gazans, who used the afternoon break to shop.

But fighting resumed soon afterward and continued into a 13th day Thursday. For the second successive day, Israel said it paused its offensive for three hours to permit Gaza residents to seek medical and food supplies.

Rockets are fired from Lebanon into north Israel Possibility of second front in war seen

On Wednesday evening, the Israeli Army dropped leaflets warning the residents of Rafah, next to the border with Egypt, to leave their homes. Israel has been bombing the tunnel networks through which arms and consumer goods are smuggled from Egypt into Gaza.

The rockets fired Thursday from Lebanon fell in residential areas. Shimon Koren, head of the northern district police, instructed residents of Nahariya and Kabri to enter bomb shelters, and he instructed residents in nearby localities to open their shelters. School was canceled in Nahariya and nearby Shlomi.

The Israeli government said it welcomed the efforts of France and Egypt to work out a durable cease-fire. It said it would end its assault if Hamas stopped firing rockets into Israel and ended the smuggling of weapons from Egypt. It added that if a durable cease-fire took hold, it would reopen border crossings into Gaza for goods and people.

But Israeli and Hamas officials both denied an assertion by the French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, that a cease-fire had been agreed upon.

"There is an agreement on general principles, that Hamas should stop rocket fire and mustn't rearm," a senior Israeli official said Wednesday evening. "But that's like agreeing that motherhood is a good thing. We have to transform those agreed principles into working procedures on the ground, and that's barely begun."

The Israeli government spokesman, Mark Regev, said that "the challenge now is to get the details to match the principles."

A senior French official in Paris said that Sarkozy's comment was misunderstood: "The plan is not a cease-fire; the plan is a road map toward a cease-fire."

There were early signs that a formal diplomatic negotiation could begin after days of fighting. The Egyptian chief of intelligence, Omar Suleiman, was expected to serve as a go-between for Israel and Hamas. Two Israeli officials - a senior aide to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Shalom Turgeman, and a senior defense official, Amos Gilad - arrived in Egypt on Thursday to begin discussions, Israeli officials said.

The United States has been involved behind the scenes, senior Israeli and French officials said, with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice "constantly on the phone" with Olmert, according to one Israeli official.

In Washington, the White House spokeswoman, Dana Perino, said of talks about a cease-fire: "As I understand, the Israelis are open to the concept, but they want to learn more about the details; so do we."

At the United Nations, several Arab delegates said Wednesday night that they thought they had enough votes to approve a Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire. That could put the United States and other Western powers, which oppose a binding resolution, in the awkward position of having to veto a cease-fire.

One crucial aspect of any deal is how to prevent new smuggling tunnels from being built under the Egyptian border with Gaza.

The senior Israeli official raised the possibility of reaching "tacit agreements" with Hamas to end rocket fire while also persuading Egypt to allow American and perhaps European army engineers to help seal its border with Gaza above and below ground.

Hamas is insisting that any new arrangement include the reopening of border crossings for trade with Israel and the reopening of the Rafah crossing into Egypt for people.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt has said that a 2005 agreement on the Rafah crossing, reached with Israel and the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah, must be respected. That agreement called for a Palestinian Authority presence at the crossing, supervision by European Union monitors and Israeli video surveillance of who entered and left.

Hamas wants to control the crossing itself and is not eager to cooperate with Fatah, its rival.

Rockets are fired from Lebanon into north Israel Possibility of second front in war seen

In Washington, the U.S. president-elect, Barack Obama, said Wednesday that upon taking office he would "engage immediately" in the Middle East crisis and that he was "deeply concerned" about the loss of life on both sides.

"I am doing everything that we have to do to make sure that the day I take office we are prepared to engage immediately in trying to deal with the situation there," he said at a news conference. "Not only the short-term situation but building a process whereby we can achieve a more lasting peace in the region."

In Gaza, John Ging, director of Gazan operations for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, visited the school in the Jabaliya refugee camp where Israeli shells fell Tuesday. He denied that Hamas militants had fired mortar shells from within the school compound and called for an international investigation into the attack, which he said had killed 40 people.

Israeli officials said they were continuing to investigate, but they reiterated that Hamas had been using the school as a base. Gilad, the defense official, told Israeli Army radio: "This school served as a base for Hamas men whose identity we know. They fired from inside the school compound, and the army fired back at the source. The time was after school hours, and this school is an example of the cynical and cruel use Hamas does with civilian facilities."

Casualty figures are hard to verify, but officials at Shifa Hospital in Gaza and the Gazan Ministry of Health said that 683 Palestinians had died since the conflict began Dec. 27, including 218 children and 90 women. They said 3,085 had been wounded. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza said 130 children age 16 or younger had died. The United Nations estimated a few days ago that a quarter of the dead were civilians.

But Palestinian residents and Israeli officials say that Hamas is tending its own wounded in separate medical centers, not in public hospitals, and that it is difficult to know the number of dead Hamas fighters, many of whom were not wearing uniforms.

Israel says it has killed at least 130 Hamas fighters. Ten Israelis have been killed during the offensive, including three civilians. Most of the seven dead Israeli soldiers were killed in so-called friendly fire.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2009

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## World datelines

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

May 20, 2008 Tuesday

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**Length:** 1380 words

**Byline:** Compiled from Deseret News wire services

### **Body**

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Colombia: Rebel feared for life

BOGOTA -- A day after surrendering to the army, Colombia's best-known female rebel commander urged other guerrillas Monday to follow her example and abandon their decades-long struggle.

Nelly Avila Moreno, better known as "Karina," denied her bloody reputation during a news conference and said her surrender owed much to intense military operations. She said she feared for her life after the recent murder of a fellow rebel commander by one of his bodyguards.

Her surrender Sunday was a major propaganda victory for President Alvaro Uribe, who has made defeating the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the cornerstone of his administration.

Cuba: U.S. envoy criticized

HAVANA -- Cuba on Monday accused America's top diplomat in the country of ferrying funds to dissidents on the island from a man it characterizes as a terrorist.

E-mails and other correspondence suggest U.S. Interests Section chief Michael Parmly was asked to carry cash from Miami to dissidents in Havana, Cuban authorities said. In one e-mail, activist Martha Beatriz Roque urged her nephew in Miami to give "letters" to Parmly. Cuban officials claim the word "letters" was code for cash, but they gave no proof money was involved.

India: Lethal brew kills 59

NEW DELHI -- Locally brewed liquor apparently tainted with lethal chemicals killed at least 59 people in southern India over the weekend, police said Monday.

Bootleggers began selling the deadly brew on Saturday after police shut authorized liquor shops in parts of the Karnataka state because of voting for the state government, said Sri Kumar, the state police chief.

In India, liquor stores and bars are routinely closed during elections to prevent politicians from handing out free alcohol in a bid to win votes.

Lebanon: Talks near collapse



## World datelines

BEIRUT -- Talks between rival Lebanese factions teetered near collapse Monday as Arab League mediators in Qatar pressed the parties to resolve the political strife that erupted into bloody violence and pushed the country to the brink of a new civil war.

The Doha-hosted talks followed Lebanon's worst internal fighting since the 1975-90 civil war, with clashes between pro-government groups and the Hezbollah-led opposition raging in the streets of Muslim west Beirut, the central mountains and the north. At least 67 people died.

Taiwan: New president

TAIPEI -- Nationalist Party leader Ma Ying-jeou took office as Taiwan's president today, promising to seek greater economic cooperation with rival China and ease nearly six decades of tensions.

The inauguration of the 57-year-old Ma represents a clear break from the eight-year presidency of Chen Shui-bian, whose confrontational pro-independence policies often led to friction with Beijing -- and with the United States, Taiwan's most important foreign partner.

Vice president Vincent Siew, 69, was sworn in shortly after Ma, together with Premier Liu Chao-shiuan and his Cabinet.

Venezuela: Airspace violation

CARACAS -- Venezuela wants the U.S. ambassador to explain a violation of its airspace by a U.S. Navy plane, the country's foreign minister said Monday.

The S-3 U.S. Navy plane was detected in Venezuelan airspace on Saturday night near the Caribbean island of La Orchila, and questioned by the Caracas airport control tower, Defense Minister Gen. Gustavo Rangel Briceno said.

U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the plane "may have strayed inadvertently into Venezuelan airspace" while conducting a counter-drug mission.

Yemen: Terror suspect jailed

SAN'A -- A Yemeni-American on the FBI's Most Wanted list of terror suspects was jailed in Yemen after an appeals court upheld his 10-year prison sentence, officials said Monday.

Washington had offered a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to Jaber Elbaneh's arrest, but Yemeni law forbid his extradition even after police arrested him in 2004.

Elbaneh, who has been accused of belonging to al-Qaida, has been convicted of plots to attack oil installations in Yemen and of involvement in a 2002 attack on the French tanker Limburg off Yemen's coast that killed one person.

DESERET NEWS, TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008

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## World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)

May 13, 2008 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. C2; World Report

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**Byline:** Compiled from Star News Services

## **Body**

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### MIDEAST

#### SECTARIAN BATTLES RESUME IN NORTHERN LEBANESE CITY

TRIPOLI, Lebanon - Fierce battles between supporters of Lebanon's Western-backed government and the Hezbollah-led opposition resumed today in the northern city of Tripoli, a security official and an AFP correspondent said.

The battles erupted in the Bab al-Tebbaneh and Jabal Mohsen neighbourhoods, located on the northern edge of the city, with fighters using machine guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

The fighting between Sunnis loyal to the government and pro-Hezbollah Alawites eased about a half hour later.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Similar violence had shaken the area on Monday leaving at least one person dead and forcing army troops who had deployed there earlier to pull back.

#### DUBAI POLICE SEIZE 24 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN

DUBAI - Dubai police said on Monday they had seized 24 kilos of heroin with a street value of \$1.6 million and broken up a drug network led by three Asians.

The official WAM news agency quoted Colonel Khalil al-Mansuri as saying that the Asians smuggled the drugs in a cargo of citrus fruit from Pakistan into Dubai where a second group run by Africans took it out of the emirate.

### NORTH AMERICA

#### N.Y. MAN SUES U.S. AIRLINE OVER FLIGHT SPENT IN TOILET

NEW YORK - A New York man who says he was denied a seat on a five-hour jetBlue flight and was instead told to "hang out" in the plane's bathroom has sued the airline for \$2 million, saying he suffered "extreme humiliation."

## World Report

When Gokhan Mutlu arrived to check in for a jetBlue flight from San Diego to New York in February he was told the flight was full, according to the lawsuit filed in New York State Supreme Court.

But Mutlu was allowed to board after a jetBlue flight attendant agreed to give up her seat and travel in an airline employee "jump seat." It was not clear in the lawsuit whether the flight attendant was working.

However, 90 minutes into the flight, the pilot told Mutlu the flight attendant was uncomfortable and he would have to give up his seat and "hang out" in the bathroom for the remainder of the flight, the lawsuit said.

The pilot "became angry at (Mutlu's) reluctance" and said Mutlu "should be grateful for being onboard," the lawsuit said. When Mutlu volunteered to sit in the "jump seat," he was told it was reserved for airline personnel.

At one point, the airplane experienced turbulence and Mutlu sat on the toilet seat without a seat belt, causing him "tremendous fear," the lawsuit said.

## EUROPE

## CARLA BRUNI-SARKOZY'S GRANDAD WEDS AT 88

ROME - The grandfather of French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy remarried Monday at the age of 88, local officials and Italy's domestic ANSA news agency said.

Giorgio Remmert, a widower, tied the knot with Carla Silvestri, an Italian aged 67, in the town of Caselle Torinese, northwest of the northern city of Turin.

His son Maurizio Remmert, a businessman in Brazil, is the biological father of Bruni-Sarkozy, 40, whose mother Marisa Borini is the wife of Italian tire tycoon Alberto Bruni Tedeschi. Bruni-Sarkozy wed French President Nicolas Sarkozy in February.

## POPE SPEAKS OUT AGAINST ITALIAN ABORTION LAW

VATICAN CITY - Pope Benedict said on Monday that 30 years of legalized abortion had devalued human life in Italy, but the centre-left opposition said legislation had helped reduce the number of terminated pregnancies.

The pontiff's comments added to an emotional debate in the mainly Catholic country over abortion, which was a prominent issue in campaigning for last month's election, 30 years after it was legalized despite opposition from the Vatican.

"Allowing the termination of pregnancies not only did not resolve the problems afflicting many women and more than a few families, but has also opened more wounds in our societies," the Pope told a delegation from Italy's Pro-Life Movement.

## POLE SAVED 2,500 JEWISH CHILDREN FROM HOLOCAUST

WARSAW - Irena Sendler, who saved the lives of some 2,500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw ghetto during the Second World War Nazi occupation, has died aged 98.

Sendler died in Warsaw on Monday, her daughter Janina Zgrzemska said.

Born on Feb. 15, 1910, Sendler, who was not Jewish, was a social worker before the war, caring for poor Jewish families in Warsaw.

Pre-war Poland was home to more than three million Jews, the largest Jewish population in pre-war Europe, and the capital alone had a community of some 400,000.

## World Report

"I was raised to react and save someone who is drowning, regardless of their religion or nationality," Sendler said on the [www.dzieciholocaustu.pl](http://www.dzieciholocaustu.pl) (Children of the Holocaust) Internet site, dedicated to her by a group of those she saved.

After the 1939 German invasion of Poland, the Nazis set up ghettos across the occupied country to isolate and eventually wipe out the Jews.

The Warsaw ghetto was walled off in November 1941.

Using the cover of a sanitation worker -- a limited number of whom were allowed into the ghetto by the Nazis to check for epidemics -- Sendler smuggled in food, clothing and medicine.

#### BAR OWNERS CAUTIOUS ON BREATH TEST PLAN

PARIS - French bar owners, just getting used to a smoking ban imposed at the start of the year, reacted cautiously on Monday to a government proposal for compulsory breathalyzer tests in late night bars and cafes.

The plan, announced by Environment Minister Jean-Louis Borloo late on Sunday, came on a deadly weekend on France's roads, with media reporting at least seven fatal accidents with up to 17 deaths, several involving drugs or alcohol.

Bernard Cartier, head of the National federation of bars, cafes and discotheques, told France Info radio the government would do better to target supermarkets where alcohol was sold "to anyone at all."

"We have just had the prohibition on smoking, the fight against alcoholism, noise, hygiene," he said. "We have trained our professionals so that they know not to sell alcohol beyond a certain point," he said.

#### AFRICA

##### ARMY WORMS SPREAD TO KENYA COAST: OFFICIAL

NAIROBI - Army worms that destroyed swathes of farmland in central Kenya have spread to the country's poor coastal region, an official said Monday.

The voracious worms have hit the coastal Kwale district, a part of Kenya that suffers from chronic food shortages, said agricultural officer Arphaxad Kimani.

Last week, the government raised the alarm after the worms destroyed at least 30,000 hectares of maize around the Mount Kenya region and were still moving on as authorities were battling them.

#### ASIA

##### UNLUCKY LICENCE PLATE SELLS FOR \$130,000: REPORT

HONG KONG - A Hong Kong woman splashed out US\$130,000 for a car licence plate carrying "4444," despite the number's traditional links to death in Chinese culture, a report said Monday.

The bidder paid one million Hong Kong dollars in a government auction of 270 unusual licence plates on Sunday, the Chinese-language Apple Daily said.

The number four is often avoided by Chinese people because its pronunciation is similar to the word for "dead."

Some skyscrapers do not include floors that end with the number, such as 14th or fourth, as they are less likely to be rented.

However, car licence experts told Apple that four was a lucky number for people originating from Chaozhou, a city in the southern Guangdong province, as it sounds like the word for "water" in their dialect.

**CONDEMNED BOMBER WEDS AGAIN IN INDONESIA**

JAKARTA - An Indonesian Islamist awaiting execution for his role in the 2002 Bali bombings remarried his ex-wife by proxy on Monday after authorities refused permission for a death-row wedding, his lawyer said. Lawyer Fachmi Bachmid said Amrozi, 46, was represented by his younger brother at the ceremony at his bride's house in East Java. The man is convicted for helping plan multiple suicide bombings which killed more than 200.

**Graphic**

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Colour Photo: Carla Bruni-Sarkozy ;

Colour Photo: Irena Sendler ;

**Load-Date:** May 13, 2008

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End of Document

## *Deadly gamble in Hamas rout*

Canberra Times (Australia)

January 8, 2009 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** A; Pg. 9

**Length:** 1230 words

**Byline:** The Canberra Times

### **Body**

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The scenes of calamity just get worse. This week Guardian readers awoke to an image that will haunt many for years: three young children, their eyes closed as if in sleep, laid out dead on a hospital floor. One was no bigger than a baby; next to him, a toddler wearing junior tracksuit trousers, the kind your own son might wear. Except these were dyed red with blood.

Somehow, and quickly, even that horror was surpassed with the news that a United Nations school, used as a shelter, had been hit, killing more than 40 Palestinians, more than half of them women or children. Israel says Hamas fighters were launching mortar shells from the UN facility, which is why Israel hit back. Either way, Operation Cast Lead seems designed to leaden the heart with sorrow.

Still, we have no cause for self-righteousness. The scale of the Israeli offensive is shocking, and yet the killing is not of a greater order than that of the two wars, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I spoke this week with one foreign diplomat based in Jerusalem who recalled how, during an earlier posting in Afghanistan, he had seen the remains of an entire village razed to the ground by American fighter jets in pursuit of a couple of Taliban commanders. "All that was left was rubble and body parts," he says now.

Seen in the context of the past seven years, the grim truth is that Israelis are not guilty of a unique crime in Gaza.

When and how will this end? "The sooner, the better," says Ehud Olmert, the accidental Israeli Prime Minister whose tenure began with the pounding of southern Lebanon and will end with the pummelling of Gaza. He told Israeli daily newspaper Ha'aretz that he was in touch with world leaders seeking a diplomatic way out but he did not sound like a man in a hurry.

The conventional wisdom suggests crises like this conclude when the international community finally says enough is enough. But in the Middle East, the international community is a fiction. The only pressure that counts is from the United States and nothing is coming from that direction. President George W. Bush fully endorses Israel's action and President-elect Barack Obama is sticking to the protocol that a president-elect stays quiet till he has sworn the oath on January 20.

That leaves the only pressure that can divert Israeli governments: Israeli public opinion. If the fathers and mothers of Israel's soldiers turn on this operation, then its days will be numbered. For that to happen, the Israel Defence



## Deadly gamble in Hamas rout

Forces would have to sustain serious casualties. Support for the 2006 war in Lebanon melted when too many Israeli families were burying their dead.

But that does not seem to be about to happen.

For one thing, the IDF is winning plaudits from the Israeli media for proceeding gingerly, pushing its ground troops forward with caution as if they have learned some of the operational lessons of 2006.

More importantly, Hamas is not staging anything like the opposition mounted by Hezbollah in Lebanon, when Israeli fatalities reached triple figures. It lacks the resources of Hezbollah, with its open border and supply lines to Syria.

Hamas is in tiny, sealed-off Gaza.

True, it is backed by Iran which partly explains the strength of support for Cast Lead from an Israeli public long fearful of an Iranian proxy on its southern border but relying on smuggled kit is not the same as having a powerful patron across the border.

Unless, of course, this is all a fiendish plot by the Hamas leadership. On this theory, they are not really cowering in their underground bunkers too scared to resist, saving their own skins, as the uncle of those dead toddlers accusingly said. Instead they are waiting to lure the IDF in, enticing Israeli troops deep into Gaza's cities where they will be most vulnerable.

But in the absence of such a lethal Hamas fightback, the ending of this conflict will be in Israel's hands.

The Israelis won't end it now, not when they are still finding weapons caches or other Hamas military capacity to be degraded. It is too tempting to press on, to crush the enemy. That way Israel gets to claim what it could not in 2006: a clear and total victory.

But there is a massive risk. Such a victory will not just achieve Cast Lead's original stated aim, namely altering Hamas's calculus reducing its incentive to fire rockets at civilian targets inside Israel but could topple the Hamas Government altogether.

Israeli officials deny that regime change in Gaza is either likely to happen or is the goal of their mission. But that may end up being the result: intelligence reports suggest the organisation has been eviscerated, its ability to govern all but destroyed. Israeli leaders will crow at that; their poll numbers will surge. But it will surely prove a pyrrhic victory. For what would be the consequences of crippling the Hamas administration in Gaza?

Israel would be confronted with a sharp dilemma. Either it would have to stay, resuming the occupation it sought to end in 2005 a notion with zero popular appeal in Israel. Or it would have to withdraw, leaving behind a huge and dangerous question mark. Gaza could rapidly descend into a lawless badland of warlords and clans. A new force could seek to replace Hamas. Most likely it would be even more radical: al-Qaeda has long been pushing at the edges of Gaza, eager to find a way in. Would either of those options appeal to Israel? Of course they wouldn't. As one Israeli commentator said, "In this context the IDF is afraid of being too successful."

Israel's preferred scenario, having pushed Hamas out of the way, is for the pro-Western moderates of Fatah to take over. But Fatah knows that to return to Gaza on the back of an Israeli tank is the kiss of death: it would forever be branded collaborators with the enemy.

Israel may try to dump responsibility for Gaza on a coalition of moderate Arab states and others, including the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority. But would any of them be willing to take it on? Analyst Ahmad Khalidi notes that the "amount of aid, reconstruction and psychological nursing is of such intensity" that surely no one would step in. Israel may be left recalling what Colin Powell once called the Pottery Barn rule: "You break it, you own it."

And from the rubble of Gaza, the attacks on Israel will surely resume.

## Deadly gamble in Hamas rout

Hamas is too deeply rooted to disappear. New cells will arise, more filled with hatred and bent on revenge than ever. Already there are warnings of a return to suicide bombing, inside Israel and beyond.

And, Khalidi warns, there would be no Hamas leadership with undeniable discipline over its forces and the pragmatism to see the benefits of a ceasefire to rein in these new, angry fighters. The great irony is that Israel may well decapitate Hamas only to regret the passing of a Palestinian administration with sufficient stature to bring order.

Perhaps Israel's leadership will see this danger and hold back, pushing for a ceasefire that would be robust and externally supervised but would ultimately, if indirectly, amount to a deal with Hamas. If that is the outcome, it will be a strange kind of victory. For Israel could have got that through diplomacy, without causing the death, mayhem and damage to its international reputation now unfolding before our eyes. If it goes further, it will have removed one danger only to have replaced it with one far greater.

Jonathon Freeland writes for The Guardian.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2009

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## *Wounded Soldier: A Lebanon Casualty's Road to Recovery*

The Forward

November 23, 2007

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**Section:** Fast Forward; Pg. B8

**Length:** 1155 words

**Byline:**

Shahar Smootha is a freelance writer living in Tel Aviv. He frequently writes for Ha'aretz.

### **Body**

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Last month, my cousin Roei Ziv began studying behavioral science and human resources management at the College of Management in Rishon Le Zion, a city south of Tel Aviv. It's a perfectly natural step for a 23-year-old to take, but this past summer, the classroom was the farthest thing from Roei's mind.

At about 2 p.m. on a Wednesday in July, everything seemed to be going according to Dr. Joel Feldman's plan. Four hours earlier, the plastic surgeon from Mt. Auburn hospital in Boston started stretching Roei's chest skin so that it would cover the tough scar tissue that had formed on the right side of his face. The doctor cut and pulled and stretched and stitched, and shortly after lunchtime Feldman sent his patient to the recovery room and told Roei's parents, Ginat and Igal, that the surgery was a success.

But when Roei's mother, Ginat, went to take a look at her son, she noticed something strange. I knew that his face would be swollen right after the operation, she told me a few days later when I came to visit Roei. It looked like he had another head attached to the right side of his face.

Feldman was called in to take a look, and immediately he knew what had happened: A capillary under Roei's newly stretched skin had burst, and blood was quickly filling the gap between layers of skin, deforming his face.

At around 8 p.m. the surgeon came out with good news. Though all present let out a big sigh of relief, they also knew that it was only the beginning; the operation was the first of three or four that Feldman will perform on Roei's face in the next two years. There's still a long way to go.

Two years ago, my younger cousin was a healthy Israeli backpacker in India. The pictures from the trip show a long-haired, green-eyed, handsome young man who smiled a lot at the camera.

Roei, like many recent veterans of the Israeli army (and like me, back in 1994), felt that he needed some time away from Israel after he finished his three-year-long service in August 2005. He served as a tank gunner and had seen lots of action in the West Bank and in Gaza. I haven't seen him a lot since he joined the army in 2002, but I knew exactly how he felt. He needed some time off.

But in late June 2006, Roei decided that his hiatus from life should end. He landed in Tel Aviv on July 7, but five days later his plans changed. **Hezbollah** attacked an Israeli patrol on the border, killing four soldiers and abducting two others. Israel retaliated, and within three days the border incident had already escalated into a war.

## Wounded Soldier: A Lebanon Casualty's Road to Recovery

After three weeks of waiting, Roei got the call for reserve duty. But not a lot happened during the first few days. For three days, most of what we did was to sleep and hang out and drink Turkish coffee, he told me.

All this changed on the fourth night. After finishing his guard duty at around 5 a.m., Roei got into his sleeping bag which he put on the tank's turret and fell asleep.

But less than half an hour later, he awoke to a loud bang. About 2 meters above me, I saw a rain of gold. Millions of tiny stars glowing in the air, making a sizzling sound, and then they hit me and I felt crazy heat on my face, he recalled.

Roei wasn't hit by a Hezbollah rocket. An electrical malfunction in the tank that was parked next to his accidentally caused a white phosphorus canister, which is designed to shield the tank behind a screen of smoke against enemy fire, to launch.

His long hair burning, my cousin jumped to his feet and tried to put out the fire while standing in a crazy cloud of white smoke and hearing the sizzling sound all around me. He then jumped off the tank and collapsed to his knees, still burning. His friends poured gallons of water on him, and his battalion's doctor gave him two or three shots of morphine. Minutes later, a helicopter was called. Less than an hour after his injury, Roei was airlifted to Rambam hospital in Haifa.

High on morphine and not in pain anymore, he took a cell phone from a young female soldier and called his parents. It was 8 a.m., and my aunt picked up the phone. I've been hurt, Roei told her. What happened? his mother asked. I've been burnt a little, Roei replied.

Where exactly? she demanded to know. But Roei wasn't sure.

I heard him ask someone where his burns were, and I said to myself: 'God, please don't let it be his face. God, please don't let it be his eyes,' my aunt recalled.

When my parents arrived, my dad looked pretty shocked but my mom kept a poker face, Roei said with a smile. They saw to it that I wouldn't have any mirrors around me so I didn't know how bad it was until a few days later when I accidentally saw myself.

During those first few days of treatment, Roei already knew that he was suffering from third-degree burns. The white phosphorous burned holes on the right side of his face. He lost most of his right ear and had bad burns on his neck, chest and hands. But knowing all that didn't prepare him for what he saw a few days later. I was in a stainless-steel room while the nurse washed me and scraped pieces of white phosphorus that were still in me. I saw my reflection on the wall and froze, he told me. Half of my face was red and black, and it was deformed. I looked like a person who just had a stroke. I was terrified by what I saw. I understood that it wasn't a minor burn. My thoughts were racing: What will I do? Will I ever look the same? I understood that it would be a long process.

It still is. In the summer of 2006, Roei had a skin transplant. He was released from the hospital in Israel after a month and a half and wore a facemask to protect his burns during most of the year.

His physical condition improved progressively, but after the pain subsided from his skin, he realized that the injury left him with mental scars, too. He suffers from nightmares about exploding bombs, fires and golden particles raining down upon him.

Roei still goes to the hospital twice a week. He sees a psychologist and receives occupational therapy. In April 2008 he will return to Boston for another surgery. This time, a balloon will be implanted under his neck skin and will be blown gradually over the course of three months. In July he'll return to Boston yet again this time for the big operation. The balloon will be removed, a few of Roei's facial features will be reconstructed and the excess skin that will form around the balloon will be cut away. If all goes well, the next step will be the reconstruction of his ear.

Now, a year and a half after he was injured, Roei is optimistic and focused. He says he's happy at school, and he notes that he was quite surprised that, so far, no one has asked him about his injury. You know, it's not a secret

## Wounded Soldier: A Lebanon Casualty's Road to Recovery

and everyone can see it, but I like the fact that no one bothers me and that I'm not being treated differently, he said.

## Graphic

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IMAGE

IMAGE: Recovery:Roe Ziv traveled around India in 2006 (left), before he was injured. He underwent several operations, including one in July 2007 (right).

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**Comment & Debate: Gaza after a Hamas rout will be an even greater threat to Israel: Amid the rubble there would be a leadership vacuum, opening the door for Somali-style warlords or even al-Qaida**

The Guardian - Final Edition

January 7, 2009 Wednesday

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theguardian

**Section:** GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES ; Pg. 29

**Length:** 1249 words

**Byline:** Jonathan Freedland

## Body

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The scenes of calamity just get worse. Yesterday Guardian readers awoke to an image that will haunt many for years to come: three young children, their eyes closed as if in sleep, laid out dead on a hospital floor. One was no bigger than a baby; next to him, a toddler wearing junior tracksuit trousers, the kind your own son might wear. Except these were dyed red with blood.

Somehow, and quickly, even that horror was surpassed with the news yesterday that a UN school, used as a shelter, had been hit, killing more than 40 Palestinians, more than half of them women or children. Israel says Hamas fighters were launching mortar shells from the UN facility, which is why Israel hit back. Either way, Operation Cast Lead seems designed to leaden the heart with sorrow.

Still, Britons and Americans have no cause for self-righteousness. The scale of the Israeli offensive is shocking, and yet the killing is not of a greater order than that of the two wars, in Iraq and Afghanistan, in which our very own British troops are taking part. I spoke yesterday with one foreign diplomat based in Jerusalem who recalled how, during an earlier posting in Afghanistan, he had seen the remains of an entire village razed to the ground by American fighter jets in pursuit of a couple of Taliban commanders. "All that was left was rubble and body parts," he says now. Seen in the context of the last seven years, the grim truth is that Israelis are not guilty of a unique crime in Gaza.

When and how will this end? "The sooner, the better," says Ehud Olmert, the accidental prime minister whose tenure began with the pounding of southern Lebanon and will end with the pummelling of Gaza. He told Ha'aretz last night he is in touch with world leaders seeking a diplomatic way out - but he did not sound like a man in a hurry.

The conventional wisdom suggests crises like this conclude when the international community finally says enough is enough. But in the Middle East, the international community is a fiction. The only pressure that counts is Washington's and nothing is coming from that direction. George Bush fully endorses Israel's action and Barack Obama is sticking to the protocol that a president-elect keeps his mouth shut till he has sworn the oath on January 20.

Comment & Debate: Gaza after a Hamas rout will be an even greater threat to Israel : Amid the rubble there would be a leadership vacuum, opening the door for So....

That leaves the only pressure that can divert Israeli governments: Israeli public opinion. If the fathers and mothers of Israel's soldiers turn on this operation, then its days will be numbered. For that to happen, the Israel Defence Forces would have to sustain serious casualties. Support for the 2006 war in Lebanon melted once too many Israeli families were burying their dead.

But that does not seem to be about to happen. For one thing, the IDF is currently winning plaudits from the Israeli press for proceeding gingerly, pushing its ground troops forward with caution as if they have learned some of the operational lessons of 2006. More importantly, Hamas is not staging anything like the opposition mounted by Hezbollah in Lebanon, when Israeli fatalities reached triple figures.

It lacks the resources of Hezbollah, with its open border and supply lines to Syria. Hamas is in tiny, sealed-off Gaza. True, it is backed by Iran - which partly explains the strength of support for Cast Lead from an Israeli public long fearful of an Iranian proxy on its southern border - but relying on smuggled kit is not the same as having a powerful patron across the border.

Unless, of course, this is all a fiendish plot by the Hamas leadership. On this theory, they are not really cowering in their underground bunkers - too scared to resist, saving their own skins, as the uncle of those dead toddlers accusingly told the Guardian yesterday. Instead they are waiting to lure the IDF in, enticing Israeli troops deep into Gaza's cities where they will be most vulnerable. But in the absence of such a lethal Hamas fightback, the ending of this conflict will be in Israel's hands. The Israelis won't end it now, not when they are still finding weapons caches or other Hamas military capacity to be degraded. It is too tempting to press on, to crush the enemy. That way Israel gets to claim what it could not in 2006: a clear and total victory.

But there is a massive risk here. Such a victory will not just achieve Cast Lead's original stated aim, namely altering Hamas's calculus - reducing its incentive to fire rockets at civilian targets inside Israel - but could topple the Hamas government altogether.

Israeli officials deny that regime change in Gaza is either likely to happen or the goal of their mission. But that may end up being the result: intelligence reports suggest the organisation has been eviscerated, its ability to govern all but destroyed.

Israeli leaders will crow at that; their poll numbers will surge. But it will surely prove a pyrrhic victory. For what would be the consequences of crippling the Hamas administration in Gaza? Israel would be confronted with a sharp dilemma. Either it would have to stay, resuming the occupation it sought to end in 2005 - a notion with zero popular appeal in Israel. Or it would have to withdraw, leaving behind a huge and dangerous question mark.

For Gaza could become a vacuum, rapidly descending into Somalia, a lawless badland of warlords and clans. A new force could seek to replace Hamas. Most likely it would be even more radical: al-Qaida has long been pushing at the edges of Gaza, eager to find a way in.

Would either of those options appeal to Israel? Of course they wouldn't. As one Israeli commentator put it yesterday: "In this context the IDF is afraid of being too successful."

Israel's preferred scenario, having pushed Hamas out of the way, is for the pro-western moderates of Fatah to take over. But Fatah knows that to return to Gaza

on the back of an Israeli tank is the kiss of death: they would for ever be branded collaborators with the enemy.

Israel may try to dump responsibility for Gaza on a coalition of moderate Arab states and others, including the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority. But would any of them be willing to take it on? Analyst Ahmad Khalidi notes that the "amount of aid, reconstruction and psychological nursing is of such intensity" that surely no one would step in. Israel may be left recalling what Colin Powell once called the Pottery Barn rule: "You break it, you own it".

And from the rubble of Gaza, the attacks on Israel will surely resume. Hamas is too deeply rooted to disappear. New cells will arise, more filled with hatred and bent on revenge than ever. Already there are warnings of a return to

Comment & Debate: Gaza after a Hamas rout will be an even greater threat to Israel : Amid the rubble there would be a leadership vacuum, opening the door for So....

suicide bombing, inside Israel and beyond. And, warns Khalidi, there would be no Hamas leadership - with undeniable discipline over its forces and the pragmatism to see the benefits of a ceasefire - to rein in these new, angry fighters. The great irony is that Israel may well decapitate Hamas - only to regret the passing of a Palestinian administration with sufficient stature to bring order.

Perhaps Israel's leadership will see this danger and hold back, pushing for a ceasefire that would be robust and externally supervised but would ultimately, if indirectly, amount to a deal with Hamas. If that is the outcome, it will be a strange kind of victory. For Israel could have got that through diplomacy, without causing the death, mayhem and damage to its international reputation now unfolding before our eyes. If it goes further, it will have removed one danger - only to have replaced it with one far greater.

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**INSIDE THE TIMES: January 5, 2009**

The New York Times  
January 5, 2009 Monday  
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**Section:** Section A; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

**Length:** 2184 words

## **Body**

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International

### **IRAN CRACKS DOWN ON REFORMERS**

As Iran's presidential election heats up, hard-liners are cracking down on activists who have supported reformist candidates in the past. PAGE A6

### **IRANIAN PILGRIMS KILLED IN BAGHDAD**

At least 40 people were killed and 72 wounded in Baghdad, many of them Iranian pilgrims, in a suicide bombing at the doorstep of one of Iraq's holiest Shiite shrines, government and hospital officials said. The attacker appeared to be targeting a procession of Iranian pilgrims visiting the shrine. PAGE A6

### **PATIENTS SUFFER UNDER OLD LAWS**

In Bulgaria, as in many former Communist countries in Europe, people with mental disabilities are stripped of rights and sequestered without recourse under rules left over from the Communist era. The laws give control of the patients to guardians, often regardless of the severity of the patient's disability, according to human rights groups. And the laws in Bulgaria and the region often fail to ensure any oversight of the guardians. Memo from Pravda PAGE A7

### **RUSSIA RAISES GAS PRICE FOR UKRAINE**

Gazprom, the Russian gas monopoly, raised the price it wants Ukraine to pay for fuel again, escalating a politically tinged dispute that led to a complete halt in supplies to Ukraine and disruptions to four other Eastern European countries. The dispute has caught Ukraine's economy, already shaken by the global financial crisis, at a bad time PAGE A7

Conflict in Gaza

### **WITH WORDS ONLY, HEZBOLLAH ASSAILS ISRAEL**

The leader of Hezbollah has been delivering furious speeches in Beirut, Lebanon, against Israel for its assault on Gaza and against Arab countries for their passivity. But he has not ordered his own powerful militia into action,

INSIDE THE TIMES: January 5, 2009

because Hezbollah believes Hamas will emerge triumphant, and it cannot risk drawing Lebanon into a conflict. PAGE A9

#### EUROPE SEEKS CEASE-FIRE

Europe, stepping into the diplomatic shoes left by the departing Bush administration, is sending two missions to the Middle East to try to get a cease-fire in Gaza and is offering more humanitarian aid. PAGE A10

#### BUSH STAYS BESIDE ISRAEL

As others called urgently for a cease-fire in Gaza, the Bush administration has blamed Hamas for the fighting, maintaining to the end its eight-year record of stalwart support for Israel. A News Analysis. PAGE A10

National

#### PELOSI MAKES ROOM

For New No. 1 Democrat

In her two years as House speaker, Nancy Pelosi has been the driving force behind the Democratic Party, using her influence to set its course. But in the coming months, her role will change, as she concedes the party's reins to the next president, Barack Obama, whose success could cement her legacy as a pivotal Congressional figure. PAGE A13

#### THE MALL ARCADE AS RECRUITING TOOL

The Army hopes a \$13 million video arcade in Philadelphia's Franklin Mills mall will become a model for recruitment in urban areas, where the armed services typically have a hard time. The arcade boasts 14,500 square feet of mostly shoot-'em-up games and three full-scale military simulators -- including of an AH-64 Apache Longbow helicopter, an armed Humvee and a Black Hawk helicopter with M4 carbine assault rifles. . PAGE A11

#### VIRGINIA GOVERNOR TO HEAD PARTY

Gov. Tim Kaine of Virginia, who was once a contender to be President-elect Barack Obama's running mate, has been selected by Mr. Obama to become the next chairman of the Democratic National Committee. PAGE A12

#### CHALLENGE TO DISCRIMINATION RULING

President-elect Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress plan to write legislation to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in a 2007 case that made it harder for people to challenge discrimination in employment, education, housing and other venues. The legislation would give people more time to file charges by relaxing the statute of limitations in various civil rights laws. PAGE A13

#### WITNESS'S IDENTITY SHOCKS ACTIVISTS

Brandon Darby, a community organizer from Austin, Tex., surprised fellow activists when he announced in an open letter that he acted as a government informant in the scheduled federal trial against two Texas men arrested during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul. The two men are charged with making and possessing Molotov cocktails. PAGE A14

Obituaries

#### PAT HINGLE, 84

A versatile character actor of stage and screen, he was used to winning the approval of critics and the delight of the public in a career that spanned five decades. PAGE A17

NICK SCANDONE, 42

A sailing gold medalist at the Beijing Paralympics, he was a former United States Yachtsman of the Year. PAGE A17

Metro

TRADING SAFETY FOR PRIVACY TO END A PREGNANCY AT HOME

In the socially conservative Dominican neighborhoods of Manhattan, many Latinas want to end their pregnancy at home. Experts offer a variety of reasons, like mistrust of doctors and a culture where women solve their own problems. Two new studies found reports of women mixing malted beverages with aspirin, salt or nutmeg; throwing themselves down stairs or having people punch them in the stomach; and drinking teas of avocado leaf, pine wood and oak bark. PAGE A15

BLOOMBERG SHOWS SUPPORT IN ISRAEL

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg went to Israel to show his support for the country and to enhance his standing with Jewish voters back home. The mayor got a taste of the conflict when he was touring a rocket-battered town and had to take cover in a safe room. He emerged unscathed, calm but somber. PAGE A15

Big City: In the Attic, Newspapers From 1930 A16

Sports

THE EAGLES TOPPLE THE VIKINGS, AND GET TO MEET THE GIANTS AGAIN

For the better part of the National Football Conference wild-card game, the Philadelphia Eagles' offense suffered an afternoon of frustration against the Minnesota Vikings. Philadelphia led by 2 points late in the game, but the Vikings seemed one big Adrian Peterson play away from stealing the game. Then, with less than seven minutes to play, Brian Westbrook took a short pass, turned upfield and dashed for a 71-yard touchdown, earning a trip to the second round, where the Eagles will face the New York Giants. PAGE D1

Stoops Seeks His Own Legacy D2

Florida's Sun-Kissed Walk-On D2

N.B.A. PLAYERS STILL FEEL OLYMPICS

As the regular season approaches intermission, the results have been mixed for the 25 N.B.A. stars who played in the Beijing Summer Olympics. Some of them used the games as a springboard into the new season; half the league's top scorers participated in Beijing. But of the 25 Olympians, 17 are scoring fewer points this season than they did a year ago. PAGE D3

An Understudy on Center Stage

The Chargers' LaDainian Tomlinson, hobbled by a groin injury, started San Diego's American Football Conference wild-card game against the Indianapolis Colts, but he couldn't finish it. He stepped out of the spotlight, and his backup, Darren Sproles, stepped into it. PAGE D4

Business

BLU-RAY FORMAT STRUGGLES

With Uncertain Prospects

## INSIDE THE TIMES: January 5, 2009

At this year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, many eyes will be on Blu-ray, which is viewed by many in the industry as the only high-definition heir apparent to the DVD. A growing chorus of skeptics say the window for a high-definition disc format like Blu-ray may be closing fast as a new wave of digital media services will soon begin flowing into living rooms. PAGE B1

## CNN'S NEW YEAR'S HANGOVER

Like New Year's Eve partygoers who may have pushed the revelry a bit too far, CNN, chasing a younger audience, may have greeted Jan. 1 with a tinge of regret. The network's live New Year's Eve program included eyebrow-raising performances and cringe-worthy jokes. PAGE B1

## MOVIE STUDIOS COUNT BLESSINGS

As companies big and small stagger into January after a dismal 2008 -- if they still exist at all -- Hollywood is quietly celebrating solid if not spectacular box office sales. PAGE B1

Auto Sales Expected to Dip 30% B1

Breakingviews.com

New Year's Resolutions for Obama

The Breakingviews.com gang offers some resolutions that President-elect Barack Obama should make. A few of them are: Raise the federal excise tax on gasoline; offer incentives to exchange clunkers for new, green cars; and take a 10 percent salary cut. PAGE B2

## TWEETING WHILE FAMOUS

As celebrities take advantage of Internet tools like Twitter that break down the barrier between stars and the public, they are being forced to weigh the benefits of having intensely loyal fans deeply engaged in their daily lives against the pitfalls of having intensely loyal fans deeply engaged in their daily lives. PAGE B3

Universal Sells Rogue Pictures B3

## A TV THAT CAN TALK TO THE INTERNET

LG Electronics, the third-largest television manufacturer in terms of United States sales, is set to announce a line of televisions that can directly receive Internet video in addition to satellite and cable signals. PAGE B4

Investors' View of Future Technology B4

## WB'S YOUTH PULL REMAINS

Though the WB ceased to exist as a broadcast network, its brand remains potent among the coveted 18-to-24-year-old demographic. Warner Brothers hopes that brand loyalty and exclusive content will attract those young eyeballs - and advertisers -- to TheWB.com. PAGE B5

Arts

## AMID LAYOFFS AND CUTBACKS,

A New Austerity in Publishing

For decades, the New York publishing world promised employees a romantic life of fancy lunches and sparkling parties. If the salaries were not exactly Wall Street caliber, well, they came with a milieu that mixed cultural swagger with pure Manhattan high life. But amid a relentless string of layoffs and pay freezes, book publishers are clamping down on some of the industry's cozy traditions, and the cushy schmooze fest seems to be winding down. PAGE C1

## Music Review

## Bandleader Accents Cuban Roots

Cuban music is the core of the Cuban saxophonist, clarinetist and composer Paquito D'Rivera's repertory, but he has never before now, with a first-time run of shows at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, led a Cuban band in this country. Mr. D'Rivera is a complicated performer: a virtuoso, a scholar and a gold-plated ham in equal parts, Ben Ratliff writes. PAGE C1

## REISSUING A TREASURY OF CHOPIN

A remarkable new four-CD set, "Nadia Reisenberg: A Chopin Treasury," has the potential to bring the pianist Nadia Reisenberg's musically sensitive and technically effortless artistry to the attention of a generation of listeners who have heard little about her since her death in 1983. In all these works, her playing is exceptionally beautiful, distinguished by warm tone, impressive clarity, unostentatious virtuosity and unerring musical insight, Anthony Tommasini writes. PAGE C1

## Television Review

## Spinoffs Plucked From 'The Hills'

In MTV's new series "The City," the person-character of Whitney Port from the "The Hills" moves to New York to work as a publicity assistant. She describes it as "an opportunity of a lifetime," but the job seems to require only that she show up in good shoes. Still, its pleasures are greater than any attempted in "Bromance," which "The City" follows in the broadcast lineup, in which Brody Jenner, also from "The Hills," sets out to find a best friend among a bunch of competing chumps, Ginia Bellafante writes. PAGE C1

## A PARADE OF INDIAN HISTORY ON PBS

"The Story of India," a six-hour, three-night PBS mini-series, is the latest television opus from the British pop historian Michael Wood, whose projects have included "Art of the Western World" and "Conquistadors." If you like the idea of watching a National Geographic article brought to life, with the lush photography, fascinating facts, sense of discovery and slight superficiality that implies, you'll love the series, Mike Hall writes. PAGE C5

## Books of the Times C4

## Editorial

## NO MUGS, BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE FEES?

New pharmaceutical industry guidelines should stop most drug companies from distributing trinkets to doctors. The rules are the industry's latest attempt to restore public confidence that doctors are prescribing medicines in the patient's interest, but the code still has far too many loopholes. PAGE A20

## A PITCH FOR MASS TRANSIT

Barack Obama comes to the presidency with a clear appreciation of the urgent problems of climate change and America's growing dependency on foreign oil. One way he can address both is to give mass transit the priority it deserves and the full financial support it needs. PAGE A20

## Op-Ed

## WILLIAM KRISTOL

Israel -- assuming it succeeds -- is doing the United States a favor by taking on Hamas now. The huge challenge for the Obama administration is going to be Iran. PAGE A21

INSIDE THE TIMES: January 5, 2009

PAUL KRUGMAN

Recent economic numbers have been terrifying. So this is our moment of truth. Will we do what's necessary to prevent a second Great Depression? PAGE A21

RESTORE THE SENATE'S TREATY POWER

Presidents are often tempted to circumvent the requirement that treaties be approved by two-thirds of the Senate. In an Op-Ed article, John R. Bolton and John Yoo write that Republicans can help shape a bipartisan foreign policy by insisting that Barack Obama obey the Constitution. PAGE A21

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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PHOTOS

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**INSIDE THE TIMES: June 2, 2008**

The New York Times

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## **Body**

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International

U.S. SAYS MYANMAR GUILTY

Of 'Criminal Neglect'

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said Myanmar was guilty of "criminal neglect" for blocking large-scale international aid to cyclone victims. It was the strongest dismissal yet by a high-ranking American official. He said that four Navy warships that were stationed in the waters off Myanmar's coast would withdraw because permission to deliver their cargo of emergency supplies was unlikely to come. PAGE A5

IRAQ DEATH TOLL FALLS TO NEW LOW

Nineteen Americans died in Iraq in May -- the lowest monthly level of American deaths in Iraq since the war began in 2003. Officials, though, were slow to call the number a milestone, as there have been declines in American casualty rates before, only to be followed by increases. The news came as there was a setback in negotiating a security pact that would set out how long American forces stay in Iraq. PAGE A5

A VOTE ON SWISS CITIZENSHIP

Sixty-four percent of Swiss voters chose to defeat a measure that would have legitimized the practice of allowing secret votes by townspeople on granting citizenship to foreigners in their communities. The vote was seen as an indicator of whether Switzerland was turning away from its more welcoming past as immigrants flood the country. PAGE A11

**HEZBOLLAH** RETURNS REMAINS

**Hezbollah**, the militant Shiite group based in Lebanon, transferred what it said were the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in the 2006 war in Lebanon. Israel, for its part, sent back a Lebanese man imprisoned in Israel for spying. It was a possible prelude to a prisoner exchange involving the two Israeli soldiers whose capture by **Hezbollah** set off the monthlong war. PAGE A11

VIOLENCE MARS MACEDONIA VOTING

INSIDE THE TIMES: June 2, 2008

Violence erupted during parliamentary elections in Macedonia, leaving one person dead and nine others wounded, and delivering a huge blow to Macedonia's hopes of joining the European Union, which will depend on the Balkan country's democratic credentials. There were also allegations of election fraud and stolen voting materials. PAGE A8

#### A SOMBER CHILDREN'S DAY

Children's Day is supposed to be a day of celebration in China. But in the aftermath of the powerful earthquake that left more than 69,000 people dead in the country, many parents of children killed by collapsed school buildings used the day to protest and demand answers to why the schools were so poorly built. "We firmly ask for justice for the dead students," their T-shirts read. The official news media, however, largely ignored the gatherings. PAGE A9

#### NATIONAL

##### LOUISIANA SHOWS INKLINGS

###### Of a Sharp Turn Right

In Louisiana, legislators have unleashed a host of bills on school vouchers, creationism, stem cell restrictions and tax and spending cuts that would warm a Bible-toting conservative's heart. And Bobby Jindal, governor for about five months, is being mentioned for a place on the ticket with Senator John McCain. PAGE A12

##### A SEAT UP FOR GRABS

The race for the Fourth Congressional seat in California is just the sort to inspire speculation. The incumbent, a Republican under fire over his ties to a convicted lobbyist, is not seeking re-election. Neither of the two Republicans seeking to succeed him lives among the people who will be represented. And the man in whom Democrats are placing their hopes to wrest the seat away is a former Republican himself. PAGE A12

##### A CHURCH'S STRUGGLE

The pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ on Chicago's South Side made no mention during Sunday's sermons about the political tumult surrounding the church or about the departure of its most famous member, Senator Barack Obama. But a flier workers slipped inside the church programs addressed the struggle, and outside, members who would speak said they were angry, mostly at the news media. PAGE A14

#### METRO

##### COUNCIL AWARDS MILLIONS

###### For Questionable Requests

Every year, the City Council receives a huge wish list of requests from local organizations for capital project money. And in recent years the Council leadership has deemed some \$500 million in projects worthy of public money, even projects that are parochial, overly ambitious or sponsored by organizations with spotty financial histories. PAGE B1

##### FASHION ADVOCACY

His suits and shirts are Paul Stuart, his ties Brooks Brothers, his underwear Bloomingdale's. So it is safe to say that when the Council of Fashion Designers of America gives Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg its annual award, it will not be for his fashion sense. Instead, it will be for his advocacy on their behalf, displayed most vividly two years ago when he intervened to keep the city's annual fashion shows from being booted out of Bryant Park. PAGE B1

##### AN UNEXPECTED FIGHT



INSIDE THE TIMES: June 2, 2008

As Senator Frank R. Lautenberg and Representative Robert E. Andrews head into Tuesday's Democratic primary for Mr. Lautenberg's seat, Mr. Andrews has made age -- and, by association, competency -- the cornerstone of his upstart challenge. "This is change versus the status quo," he says. But Mr. Lautenberg says questions about his age only divert attention from policy differences with his more conservative opponent, whom he has branded an eager surrogate for President Bush. PAGE B1

#### INSPECTIONS TO SLOW CONSTRUCTION

The construction of several large buildings in Manhattan is likely to be delayed for days, if not weeks, as city officials determine the safety of the tower cranes being used at those sites, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said. "There are too many accidents, and we're going to see if we can do more to make sure everything is safe," he said, two days after a crane crashed into a 23-story apartment building, killing two workers. In March, seven people were killed when a crane collapsed. PAGE B3

#### BUSINESS

##### A GLOBAL MEDIA COMPANY

##### Takes a Less Sexy Approach

Hartmut Ostrowski, chief executive of Bertelsmann, knows he is viewed by critics inside and outside the company as an agent of retreat: pulling Bertelsmann away from the dazzle of recording stars like Alicia Keys to the humdrum world of offset printing and call centers. He flatly rejects that thesis, declaring that Bertelsmann will remain a player in media and in the United States. PAGE C1

##### DEVIL IN CARBON CAP DETAILS

Often-tense discussions have been taking place among some of the most powerful corporate leaders in America about proposals for a national policy to limit carbon emissions. What unites the groups is a desire to deal with climate change. What divides them is that dealing with climate change will almost certainly hurt some industries and enrich others, with billions of dollars at stake. PAGE C1

##### COMPETING WITH FACEBOOK

Much of the appeal of college alumni magazines is in the class notes, those updates on who got married, had a baby or landed a job you wish you had. But as younger alumni are increasingly exchanging information in real time on Facebook and MySpace, some magazines are rethinking how to use their space. PAGE C6

##### THE YOUTUBE CANDIDATE

Steve Novick came close to winning the Democratic Senate nomination in Oregon with an unusual campaign, which included a YouTube video in which he uses the hook he has for a left hand to casually open a beer while talking. And can a Garfield comic strip work without Garfield? Media Talk. PAGE C6

##### WHAT TIME IS AL GORE'S SHOW ON?

Discovery Communications will roll out Planet Green on Wednesday, which it promotes as the first 24-hour channel dedicated to eco-friendly living. It will replace the Discovery Home Channel in more than 50 million homes, Discovery being confident that it can attract more viewers with green-themed programming. But some of Planet Green's advertisers could raise eyebrows. General Motors, maker of the Hummer, is the "exclusive automobile sponsor."

PAGE C8

A Bear Stearns Refugee C5

Virgin Radio Sold C7

Financier Strikes D.W.I. Deal C6

## SPORTS

### LESSONS FROM OTHER SPORTS

#### Can Translate Into Golf

The notion that one sport is incompatible with another used to be what passed for common wisdom. Now that sort of thinking falls into the category of old wives tales. "I've been hearing that the baseball swing is counterproductive to the golf swing all my life, and that's just so wrong it's unbelievable," said Butch Harmon, perhaps the country's best-known golf teacher. PAGE D5

#### CAN THE CUBS DO IT?

In recent years the Red Sox, White Sox and Angels have ended championship droughts. And now, 100 years after their last World Series championship, the Cubs have the best record, 36-21, in the major leagues, and are on a seven-game winning streak. Is that good? "Terrible signs are pointing toward disillusionment," George Vecsey writes in Sports of The Times. PAGE D7

#### THE EUROPEAN OPEN

Geographical shifts in power are not uncommon in an individual sport like tennis. But the depth of the European presence at the French Open this year is unprecedented. Of the players in the fourth round of singles, 30 of 32 were European, including all 16 women, which is a first at any Grand Slam event since the Open era began in 1968. PAGE D8

## OBITUARIES

#### LOUISE FIROUZ, 74

An American-born horse breeder who while roaming a mountain range in Iran in 1965 discovered a pony-size Caspian horse, from a breed that had long been thought extinct. PAGE A17

#### YOSEF LAPID, 76

A former Israeli justice minister, journalist and outspoken critic of Israel's Orthodox religious establishment, he was one of Israel's most prominent journalists and television personalities, renowned for his sharp tongue, acerbic pen and dry wit. PAGE A17

#### WALTER H. DIAMOND, 95

An expert on international taxation, trade and economics, he advised world leaders and wrote more than 80 books. He had a wide-ranging career in academia, the private sector and government, becoming involved in international affairs as early as World War II. PAGE A17

## ARTS

### ELECTRONIC BOOKS STIR

#### Worries for Publishers

The electronic book was a big topic of conversation at BookExpo America, the publishing and bookselling industry's annual trade show that just ended in Los Angeles. Kindle, Amazon's electronic reader, created much of the excitement, but there were worries about Amazon's still-growing power as a bookseller and fears that Amazon will begin using the Kindle's popularity as a lever to demand that publishers cut prices. PAGE E1

## STILL HOLDING ON

New CDs reviewed this week include works by Journey, Jewel, Weezer and the Pinker Tones. Journey is of course still without Steve Perry; the latest lead singer is Arnel Pineda, a 40-year-old from the Philippines said to sound like Mr. Perry. And the album, Ben Ratliff writes, "is, actually, good. Mr. Pineda, who sings hard and with the appropriate vulnerability, gives it some distinction. Beyond that, the band seems to have taken rock vitamins: it feels alive." PAGE E1

## STILL ON THE EDGE

Two weeks into his band's summer reunion tour, Scott Weiland, the troubled lead singer of Stone Temple Pilots, offered these words Saturday night to the crowd at the PNC Bank Arts Center in New Jersey: "Sometimes you make crazy choices." "And judging by Saturday's show," Nate Chinen writes in his review, "the decision to tour right now may be one of them." PAGE E2

## BETWEEN FORMALISM AND ANARCHY

In another context, it might even be considered greedy: not content with being half of the Grammy-winning White Stripes, Jack White makes up one-quarter of the Raconteurs, which just ended a sold-out, three-night stand at Terminal 5 in Manhattan. "Friday's show felt uncomfortably oversold, and Terminal 5 is a hall with sound and sight problems," Ben Ratliff writes in his review, "but Mr. White pretty much made you forget the irritations." PAGE E5

## BLURRING THE BOUNDARIES

This weekend's 12 hours of the Bang on a Can Marathon, in the Winter Garden of the World Financial Center, produced the unlikely (a mosh pit), the polarizing (the guitarist Marnie Stern blissfully strumming raucous chords) and the appealing (the violinist Owen Pallett) along with new iterations of familiar themes, Steve Smith writes in his review. PAGE E3

Dances and Song B3

Grooming Tomorrow's Players B5

Tough Guy at the Border B1

## EDITORIAL

## ROVE TALKS, BUT DOESN'T ANSWER

In a recent television appearance, Karl Rove was asked if he had a role in the Justice Department's decision to prosecute Don Siegelman, a former Democratic governor of Alabama. Mr. Rove talked a lot but didn't answer the question. PAGE A18

## REPAIRING A JUSTICE SYSTEM

Albany is not dealing with three big problems that are dragging the state's judicial system into crisis. PAGE A18

## CHILDHOOD OBESITY NUMBERS

It is a sad commentary on the health of American youngsters that we are cheering a leveling-off of childhood obesity rates. PAGE A20

## OP-ED

WILLIAM KRISTOL

INSIDE THE TIMES: June 2, 2008

Commencement speeches are hard. You can't help but admire those who can pull them off, as Barack Obama did at Wesleyan University. But his speech was also revealing about his view of himself and of public service. PAGE A19

PAUL KRUGMAN

The emerging conventional wisdom seems to be that the Fed has been fighting the wrong enemy: inflation, not financial collapse, is the real threat. And to head off that threat, the critics say, the Fed has to reverse course and raise interest rates -- never mind the risks of recession. But the new conventional wisdom is all wrong. We're not watching a rerun of that 70's show and the misguided belief that we are could do a lot of harm. PAGE A19

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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PHOTOS

**Load-Date:** June 2, 2008

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## *Middle East violence deeper reality for some*

University Wire

January 12, 2009 Monday

Copyright 2009 Iowa State Daily via U-Wire

**Length:** 2011 words

**Byline:** By James Pusey, Iowa State Daily; **SOURCE:** Iowa State U.

**Dateline:** AMES, Iowa

### **Body**

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On Dec. 27, while most Americans were still caught up in holiday cheer, Omar Manci felt something else: anger.

He watched the television in disgust as the satellite news broadcast from the Middle East displayed images of women and children-bodies blown to pieces-being pulled from the rubble of Gaza City.

Manci, a Iowa State University senior majoring in accounting, traces his ancestry to Palestine. He said he has good friends in Gaza, whom he has not been able to talk to since Israel began its attack on the area several weeks ago.

"I haven't been able to get a hold of them, I haven't been able to talk to them to see if they're OK. I hope they are and pray to God everyday that they are, but I still haven't found out," Manci said.

On Dec. 27, the Israeli military launched an attack on Gaza in response to repeated missile attacks on southern Israel by Hamas, the governing group in Gaza. To date, Israel's latest round of attacks has killed 898 Palestinians and wounded 3,695, with women and children making up 45 percent of the casualties, according to CNN.

As the bombs continue to drop, many people worldwide are joining the chorus of protesters against Israel's actions, including Manci and other members of the Ames and ISU community.

Manci said he organized two protests in Ames, one on Sunday at the corner of Lincoln Way and Grand Avenue, and another on Monday in front of the Memorial Union.

He said he was disturbed by the way the United States and Western media have responded to the conflict. He said he believes the news coverage has been favoring Israel, and that the world is overlooking the disproportionate and inhumane response of the Israeli military.

"Even if you want to use the fact that Hamas fires rockets into southern Israel as an excuse, it's inexcusable. The infrastructure damage and the amount of death is just unbelievable," Manci said.

Manci said he understands Hamas' frustration because Israel has been treating the Palestinians there unfairly, blocking supplies to Gaza.

"If you corner someone enough they're going to fight back. I think it's provoked by Israel, and I think it's justified by Palestinians to fight back and resist," Manci said.

However, others believe the Israeli attacks on Gaza were necessary for the protection of Israel's civilian population.

## Middle East violence deeper reality for some

Michelle Garland Stern, graduate student in curriculum and instruction for educational psychology, was born and raised in Iowa. She gained dual citizenship with Israel in 2001 and spent more than four years living and raising her kids in Haifa. She said she sees Israel's actions as a logical defense.

"What in the hell were the Israelis supposed to do? Missiles are being shot into Israel on a daily basis," Garland said.

In March of 2003, Garland witnessed an attack by a Hamas bomber. She and her three children were on their way to the bus stop when they heard the explosion. As they neared the bus stop, they saw the burning wreckage of what was once a public bus filled with passengers. She said she will never forget what she saw that day.

"It was unreal. It was absolutely unreal. I saw someone without a head on their body," Garland said. "The thing that struck me the most is how much hatred it had to have taken for someone to do this."Â

Fortunately for her, Garland and her children were running late that afternoon. If it hadn't been for a few unexpected phone calls, she and her kids would have been sitting in the path of the explosion.Â

Later, she read online that the mother of the bomber was praised by her neighbors, and was treated to a party with pastries and sweet coffee.

"Just think, they could have had this celebration over the death of me and my children," Garland said.

Richard Mansbach, professor of political science, specializes in foreign policy and said Hamas was among the first groups to orchestrate these types of attacks.

He said he understands the outcry from the Palestinian community in the wake of the Israeli attack on Gaza, but he said the fault does not lie completely with Israel.

"I don't blame them for not being happy about what Israel is doing. But they should probably be even less happy with what their own leaders have done," Mansbach said.

Mansbach said Hamas has been firing rockets into Israel since it took control of Gaza in 2006. In June of 2008, the two sides worked out a six-month truce in which Hamas wasÂ expected to halt rocket-fire on Israel, and Israel agreed to lift its blockade on supplies to Gaza.

Mansbach said both sides failed to respect their agreements completely, though both sides disagree about who crossed the line first.

At any rate, the truce expired on Dec. 22. In the following week, more than 300 Hamas rockets were fired into southern Israel.Â

According to the BBC, Israel was in favor of prolonging the cease-fire, but Hamas refused the offer because Israel had failed to respect the original terms of the truce.

"It was an absolute invitation to war," Mansbach said.Â

Though he said the loss of civilian life in Gaza is undoubtedly tragic, Mansbach said it could hardly be avoided due to the dense population of Gaza and the fact that the missiles striking southern Israel were launched from the homes of civilians in Gaza.

"You either turn the other cheek and say, 'Keep launching your missiles,' or presumably you strike at where the missiles were launched from," Mansbach said. "In effect, Hamas is using their own citizens as human shields."

Manci said this is an unfair argument because Hamas is firing its missiles from the same densely populated areas that Israel boxed them into in the first place.Â

But Mansbach said constant rocket-fire is just the beginning of what is at stake for Israel in this conflict.

## Middle East violence deeper reality for some

According to the New York Times, the Israelis believe Hamas is being backed by Iran, a country Mansbach said is seeking to increase its influence in the Middle East and is on the verge of obtaining nuclear weapons.

"That's really scary stuff. That's what the Israelis refer to as an existential threat," Mansbach said.

Mansbach said Israel's situation is made more complex by the fact that it not only faces opposition from Hamas to the south, but also from Hezbollah fighters positioned on its northern border. Neither Hamas nor Hezbollah recognizes Israel as a sovereign nation.

"Imagine just for a moment that Iowa was a country and you had two terrorist groups with missiles who refused to recognize you, in Nebraska and Illinois. How do you react?" Mansbach said.

But Mancini said this is an unfair comparison as not all countries consider Hamas and Hezbollah terrorist groups, and the Palestinian people see the situation from an entirely different perspective.

"Imagine if someone came in, stole your house, took your land, set up shop there, expanded, made it nicer, prettier and everything. They called it their own, and you have no right to it just because it was taken by force," Mancini said.

Garland said Jews and Arabs have both had a constant presence in Palestine for more than 3,000 years, and both sides claim the land as their own.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has been going on since 1948, when Israel was established as a home for the Jews, while the Palestinian people living there, including Mancini's ancestors, were forced to leave their homes.

Last summer Mancini said he traveled to Palestine and saw his ancestors' homeland for the first time. He is the first member of his family to return since 1948.

After 60 years of conflict in Palestine, Mansbach said a solution to the problem is closer than most people realize.

"I think almost everyone knows what the outcome is going to be within a few kilometers. There's going to be two states," Mansbach said.

The problem is, Mansbach said, though most people favor a two-state solution, Palestine is divided among three groups: Israel, Hamas and Fatah, which presides over the West Bank. Mansbach said attempts at getting the three sides to agree has proved nearly impossible.

Garland said most Israelis support the two-state plan.

Mancini said the fighting won't stop until Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory comes to an end.

Both said they just want peace.

"I could almost lay out for you what a final agreement would look like," Mansbach said. "The problem is how to get there."

## The current conflict

**Hamas** - Hamas is the smaller of the two main Palestinian political groups. It has been in control of the Gaza Strip since June 2007, after seizing power from the Fatah party in multiple conflicts. Hamas said it fired missiles into Israel in response to Israel blocking supplies to Gaza.

**Israel** - The state of Israel was established in 1948 and is the world's only Jewish state. It is bordered by Lebanon, Egypt and Syria, and is also adjacent to Gaza and the West Bank. Israel is a parliamentary democracy led by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. On Dec. 27 Israel launched an attack on Gaza in response to repeated missile attacks on southern Israel by Hamas.

## Middle East violence deeper reality for some

- Information from the New York Times

## Timeline of Israel and its relations with neighboring regions

May 14, 1948 - Israel officially established itself as a state after the British Mandate expired, forcing Palestinians out of the area. Israel faced opposition from its Arab neighbors, and on the following day Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq invaded Israel, launching the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

May 11, 1949 - Israel joined the United Nations.

June 1967 - For years Arab countries refused to acknowledge Israel's independence and intermittent fighting was common. Israel accused Egypt of blocking its access to an important waterway. This launched the Six-Day War between Israel and Egypt, Jordan and Syria, although Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tunisia contributed to the Arab forces. Israel captured four territories including the Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, Sinai Peninsula and West Bank.

Sept. 1970 - The month is known as Black September as King Hussein bin Talal of Jordan attempts to restore his monarchy from the Palestine Liberation Organization's invasion of his country. Thousands of Palestinian armed forces were killed and the rest were forced to Lebanon.

April 25, 1982 - Israel withdraws from the Sinai Peninsula in accordance with a 1979 Israel-Egypt treaty.

Jan. 1991 - Operation "Desert Storm" begins with a U.S. attack on Iraq. Former President Saddam Hussein responds by firing missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia. Israel does not respond to the attack. In February, Iraq offers a complete withdrawal from Kuwait but insists Israel pull out from all Arab territories it occupies.

Sept. 13, 1993 - A Declaration of Principles, commonly known as the "Oslo Accords," which stated that "a transfer of authority from Israeli military government ... to authorized Palestinians" would begin as soon as the declaration entered into force.

Oct. 26, 1994 - In a peace treaty with Jordan, the international boundaries between the two countries were established as following the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers, effectively resolving the territorial disputes between the two.

May 25, 2000 - Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon, a territory occupied since 1982.

April 2003 - A quartet among the U.S., EU, U.N. and Russia attempts to bring peace between Israel and Palestine but is thwarted by violence between the two from September 2003 to February 2005.

Feb. 2005 - An agreement is reached and a Palestinian cease-fire is brokered, causing violence in the region to drop significantly.

Summer 2005 - Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip but maintains control of most access points to the region.

Jan. 2006 - Hamas is elected in to head the Palestinian Legislature, which causes a halt in relations between Israel and the authorities in Palestine. Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's sovereignty, won't honor previous peace agreements between the two countries and is rejected as a legitimate leader by the international community.

- Information for this timeline compiled from the CIA World Factbook, USA Today Gulf War Chronology, the Yale Law School Avalon Project and the United Nations

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## Middle East violence deeper reality for some

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## *Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait, meets leaders*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

January 12, 2008 Saturday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

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## **Body**

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US President George W. Bush met Kuwait's emir on Friday after arriving in the emirate to start a Gulf tour aimed at rallying the support of Arab allies against what Bush calls the Iranian "threat." Bush flew into Kuwait from Israel after his first presidential trip to the Holy Land, where he said he believed a Middle East peace.

US President George W. Bush met Kuwait's emir on Friday after arriving in the emirate to start a Gulf tour aimed at rallying the support of Arab allies against what Bush calls the Iranian "threat." Bush flew into Kuwait from Israel after his first presidential trip to the Holy Land, where he said he believed a Middle East peace treaty would be signed within a year and called on Arab nations to reach out to Israel.

His tour of Washington's closest friends in the oil-rich Gulf region comes amid escalating tensions between the United States and Iran over a naval confrontation in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said talks would now turn to "the threats that we've seen in the Gulf, the problem of extremism, whether it be extremism from Al-Qaeda, Sunni extremism, or whether it be Iran and its tentacles, like Hizbullah and the part of Hamas that Iran supports."

But several commentators in the region have voiced strong misgivings about his intentions, amid fears Washington could resort to military action to halt Iran's disputed nuclear drive.

Although Kuwait is welcoming Bush as a friend, officials have said the emirate will not allow the United States to use its territory as a launching pad for any strike against Iran.

"Mr. president, the region needs smart initiatives, not smart bombs," Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai said in a front-page editorial.

Kuwait was a springboard for the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq that toppled then president Saddam Hussein, whose forces had invaded his tiny neighbor in 1990 before the emirate was liberated by a US-led coalition in early 1991.

Kuwait's state KUNA news agency said Bush's talks with emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah focused on "bilateral issues and the latest political developments in the Middle East." The Kuwaiti ruler, who led a red-carpet welcome for Bush when he flew into the country, hosted a banquet for the US leader.

## Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait , meets leaders

The Gulf monarchies all have close military ties with the United States and are major buyers of American weaponry.

About 15,000 US troops are stationed in Kuwait, which hosts one of Washington's largest military bases in the region, Camp Arifjan, and other smaller camps used as a transit point for US-led forces in Iraq.

Security was tight for the visit, which will see Bush address troops on Saturday and hold a meeting with Kuwaiti women activists.

Meanwhile, a group representing relatives of Kuwaiti detainees at the US military facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, called in a statement for the release of the four remaining Kuwaiti prisoners so they could be tried in the emirate.

From Kuwait, Bush will make the first visit by a sitting US president to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates before going to Saudi Arabia, the regional Sunni Arab powerhouse and world's top oil exporter.

In Israel on Wednesday, he warned that Iran posed "a threat to world peace" and should not be allowed to develop the know-how to build a nuclear weapon. Iran denies seeking nuclear arms.

A US intelligence report made public last month said Tehran halted a covert nuclear weapons program in 2003, but Bush insisted: "A country that once had a secret program can easily restart a secret program."

Bush also warned Tehran of "serious consequences" if it attacked US warships following a face-off in the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran accuses Washington of using the incident in the waterway - a vital conduit for energy supplies - as a propaganda stunt to paint Iran in a bad light during Bush's Middle East trip.

Bush's Gulf trip coincided with a rare visit to Tehran by UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei, who is seeking more answers over its atomic program.

After two days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Bush predicted they could sign a peace treaty within a year, a deal that would give him a foreign policy triumph. Sending a symbolic message, Bush ended the first leg of his weeklong Middle East tour by visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus is believed to have intoned "blessed are the peacemakers," and the ruins of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee.

On Thursday, he called on both sides to make "difficult choices" to enable the creation of a Palestinian state and end Israel's 40-year occupation. He also urged Arab countries "to reach out to Israel."

Negotiations were revived amid great fanfare in November after a near seven-year freeze but have faltered over settlement expansion and escalating Israeli-Palestinian violence, underlining the tough task ahead.

Bush said he planned to re-turn to Israel for its 60th anniversary in May and to help advance the peace talks.

He has voiced support for an Arab plan revived in March last year that offered full normalization of ties with Israel in return for its withdrawal from all Arab land.

Meanwhile, Israel's government spokesman said the two sides would start talks next week on the core issues at the heart of their decades-old conflict - borders, settlements, refugees and Occupied Jerusalem.

But further complicating peacemaking is Hamas' bloody takeover in June of the Gaza Strip, a move that split Palestinian society and left President Mahmoud Abbas with authority over only part of a future state.

"There isn't going to be a blinding flash in any of this, not on this trip, not on the next trip, but this is a process of moving forward," Rice said. "You will see that as the bilateral process continues to move forward the Arabs will do more."

## Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait , meets leaders

Many in the Arab world are skeptical that Bush can be an honest broker, with Dubai's Gulf News launching a stinging attack on his administration's Middle East policy, chiefly its support for Israel despite the "oppression" of the Palestinians.

"We realize that containing Iran, selling more weapons and securing cheap oil supplies are the main issues on your mind as you tour the region," the paper said, dismissing Bush's "claim" to want to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. - **AFP, Reuters**

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## *Italian peacekeepers tread softly in wounded land*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

December 3, 2007 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

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## **Body**

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"We have to put boots on the ground, but at the same time we want to conquer hearts and minds," says Lieutenant Colonel Nicola Tereano, the young, charismatic base commander for the Italian peacekeepers in Zibqin, South Lebanon. Tereano leans back in his chair and sips espresso outside the base cafe.

TYRE: "We have to put boots on the ground, but at the same time we want to conquer hearts and minds," says Lieutenant Colonel Nicola Tereano, the young, charismatic base commander for the Italian peacekeepers in Zibqin, South Lebanon.

Tereano leans back in his chair and sips espresso outside the base cafe, a mandatory stop for all soldiers craving a taste of home. "Without the approval of the population we cannot fulfill our duty - it's impossible," he explains. "So the main task is to accomplish the mission as well as do activities with the community. Any other way is a risk to us."

Zibqin is a small, isolated farming town of 1,500 people perched on a rugged hilltop with breathtaking views of Tyre and the Mediterranean Sea below. Just a few miles from the Israeli border, the rubble and billboards commemorating Zibqin's "martyrs" tell of the town's long embattled history with its southern neighbor.

Last summer, Zibqin suffered a devastating blow when a bomb killed 12 members of the same family sitting down to breakfast at the start of the 34-day war with Israel. Sixty percent of the town's homes were subsequently destroyed by the bombardment, while thousands of cluster munitions now contaminate its agricultural fields.

Although **Hizbullah** gave those with damaged property up to \$10,000 in spending money after the cease-fire, residents complain that the long-term reconstruction aid promised by Premier Fouad Siniora's government has yet to materialize, forcing many to emigrate to Beirut, Africa, the Americas or the Gulf, unable to afford the expensive cost of rebuilding their homes and finding work.

"The first day back after the war was really very bad - there was a smell of death," recalls Fatima Bazzi, a schoolteacher living in a small cinderblock home with her family near the Italian base on the town's outskirts. "Now many people have moved away," she adds softly. "Before I had a lot of friends, but we've been apart for a whole year and our relationship has changed."

### Italian peacekeepers tread softly in wounded land

Tereano and his "Savoia Cavalleria" regiment of 150 men arrived in Zibqin one month ago, part of an ongoing six-month rotation. They are members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), initially established in 1978 and upgraded by Security Council Resolution 1701 to an expanded, more militarized presence below the Litani River at the end of last year's war.

With lead contributions by Italy, France, Spain and Germany, there are now 14,000 peacekeepers supporting the Lebanese Army enforcing the peace in the South.

Tereano's men patrol the area in light armored vehicles watching for illicit arms, provide security for the border demarcation with Israel, record daily flyover violations by Israeli jets, and put great store in maintaining community relations.

"The Italian unit is the best at doing this," former long-time UNIFIL adviser Timur Goksel told Inter Press. "They believe that going after hearts and minds provides security for the troops - it brings intelligence and warnings."

However, the roadside bombing that killed six Spanish troops on June 24 exacted a toll on community relations as peacekeepers throughout Lebanon's South retreated behind tall blast walls and armored patrols.

"UNIFIL is in a dilemma," explains Goksel. "On one hand as a military, they have to be seen as taking measures. However, this comes at a cost. Peacekeepers need to maintain relations with people as a stabilizer. You cannot do this by staying behind fences and in armored cars."

With the bitter winter rains approaching, rising fuel costs dominate the conversation at the Bazzi home while the television broadcasts the latest news about Beirut's political crises. This family is no stranger to hardship. Fatima and her sister Somaya teach to help support the family, while their ailing father had to destroy cluster bombs before harvesting his fields of olives and tobacco for minimal profit.

Fatima's grandparents moved in last summer after the bombing destroyed their house, while her older sibling had her legs blown off by another Israeli bomb, 15 years earlier.

The family's favorite pastime is spending evenings on their front porch, smoking argeleh and greeting neighbors, as the Italian patrols periodically pass by.

"The Nepalese were here until 2000. They acted like civilians and wanted to help everybody," recalls Somaya fondly.

"Italian UNIFIL doesn't talk to anyone, they just drive by in their vehicles," she continues, echoing a common refrain voiced by many in the community. "We don't feel a change, and Israeli fighters are still daily in the sky."

Tereano, in consultation with Zibqin's mayor, is working to reverse this perception. After a local woman and her child, with a cut, bleeding hand, was denied emergency medical care at the base's gate, the Italians listened to the community's subsequent indignation, apologized, and established a Friday morning first aid clinic in town.

Tereano is now looking to form a football team with the town's kids, a health forum for women and foot patrols with an interpreter along the town's main road.

"The risk at the moment is very low for the Italian contingents," he says. "Here in the village you can feel it - the situation is calm."

While the national political crisis overshadows daily life for Lebanese everywhere, Goksel dismisses rumors that UNIFIL will pull out of the South anytime soon. "They will continue to stress their relationship with the Lebanese Army, and be careful not to get involved in local politics," he says. "By next August [the date for mandate renewal talks] the government will have sorted itself out."

"We have good relations with the Italians," affirms Zibqin's mukhtar Raef Bazzi, whose job includes settling community disputes. Noting that cluster bomb removal is his primary concern, he is enthusiastic for the Italian's

Italian peacekeepers tread softly in wounded land

upcoming projects and hopes that emergency medical care on the base, road maintenance and increased interaction with the Italians happens.

"It's known that all the South loves UNIFIL and treats them like members of their own family. If something happens to them, it's not from the South but from the outside," he says.

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2008

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End of Document

**Motherly eyes in the sky. Two soldiers with babies are part of a growing number of females selected by the air force to serve in prestigious positions**

The Jerusalem Post

December 29, 2008 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 7

**Length:** 943 words

**Byline:** RUTH EGLASH

## **Body**

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It's Thursday afternoon at the Israel Air Force base at Palmachim - less than 48 hours before Israel launched Operation Cast Lead against Hamas - and, despite the looming threat of an attack on the Gazan rocket infrastructure, Capt. Shira and Sgt. Keren, two of the **female** engineers who operate Israel's unmanned aerial vehicles, appear fairly relaxed.

"I read in this morning's newspaper that there will be military action," says Shira, a 28-year-old who has been a professional soldier since finishing her compulsory IDF service eight years ago.

She is not allowed to talk too much about such an operation, but, she explains, "if there is such an action, our job is to help those who are on the ground. We'll be their eyes from above. Usually that means identifying hostile forces and warning the soldiers about what is waiting for them."

In essence pilots on the ground, the role of Keren and Shira (IDF regulations prohibit the publication of their full names) is to operate the planes, known as Herons, by remote control and monitor any military action with the help of built-in real-time video cameras.

While such jobs, which involve advanced training and understanding of technology, were traditionally held by men, the two **women** are part of a growing number of **females** selected by the air force to serve in such positions.

What sets Keren and Shira apart from the other 20 or so other **women** performing this task is that both are brand-new mothers.

Keren, 29, has a five-month-old at home. She shrugs off what could be weeks of intense shift-work and long periods away from her family as she helps to guide Israel's offensive.

"I don't believe we're moving toward a full-blown war right now," she observes. "If there is some type of military activity, it will likely only last for a few days, and not for months like the last war [in Lebanon]. However, if we do need to be here more than usual then we'll manage, just like anyone... That's why we have husbands and babysitters to look after the babies. It will be difficult, but we'll manage."

Two-and-a-half years ago, when Israel found itself at war with **Hizbullah** on the northern border, Keren - who has been a UAV operator for the past four years - was thrust into the midst of the fighting... albeit by remote.



Motherly eyes in the sky. Two soldiers with babies are part of a growing number of females selected by the air force to serve in prestigious positions

"It was a difficult period personally and professionally," she recalls, describing how she was scheduled to be married in mid-August 2006 and had to plan her wedding "between my shifts."

"It was an intense period and I didn't think any of my colleagues would be able to make it to the wedding. At one point, we even had a pilot's briefing about my wedding to discuss what would happen if the war continued and we had to have the wedding during the war!" Keren said.

Luckily, the Second Lebanon War ended two days before her wedding and Keren married her former commander, who was released from the IAF only six months ago.

Despite the stress of that period, Keren says she also "had a feeling of great satisfaction during the war."

"There are so many people who serve in the army for years and never get the opportunity to utilize their training and contribute to the protection of the State of Israel," she says. "Whatever your feelings were about Israel's successes in the war, I think the air force's performance was excellent. We met all our targets and our assignments successfully."

While Keren and Shira, who served in other roles during the Second Lebanon War, point out the high and low points of those tumultuous weeks, both acknowledge that their feelings toward any similar action in the future may be a little different now that they are mothers.

"Inside every young mother there's always that feeling of anxiety when you say good-bye to your child in the morning," Keren says.

"I try to leave early twice a week to be with my son," says Shira, whose baby just celebrated his first birthday.

"There is a price we have to pay to succeed here. We often have to work on holidays, over the weekend and through the night," she continues. "However, I do believe that having this job is a very real privilege. It is a very sought after and prestigious position in the air force; many people want to do it.

"Anyone who wants to progress in their career has to work hard and, today, there are lots of women who have to work on holidays and festivals or stay late in the office. It does not seem so unusual."

In fact, with the number of females serving in UAV unit having almost quadrupled over the last four years, both women agree that the army's attitude toward women and particularly mothers shows it "is one of the fairest employers in the market."

"In the army, all my rights as a woman are protected by rules and regulations," Shira points out. "They can't fire me if I'm pregnant and they're flexible enough to let me leave early sometimes to pick up my son from nursery school. I know there are national laws, but not every private employer follows these as closely as the army does."

Almost as an afterthought, she adds: "Even though it is a great place for women to work, you still need to have supportive family, especially your husband."

Keren agrees: "When I think about where I will be 10 years from now, I think that if there is one great reason to stay in the army it's the support they give me, which I'm not sure if I would get in another place."

"It's really nice to see the number of woman working in this field really growing," Keren says.

"We have to work our shifts in pairs, and today there are very often two sets of women working in two different UAV stations," she adds. "It gives me a great sense of satisfaction to finally hear lots of women's voices over the radio talkback."

## Graphic

Motherly eyes in the sky. Two soldiers with babies are part of a growing number of females selected by the air force to serve in prestigious positions

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Photo: UAV PILOTS Keren and Shira, who serve as 'eyes in the sky,' stand next to a model of a plane at the Palmahim base on Thursday. (Credit: Ruth Eglash)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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***For Israel, it's about deterrence; Hamas 'still has the ability to launch 100 rockets a day,' but having them and not firing them may be good enough to allow Israel to declare victory in Gaza***

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

December 31, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B7

**Length:** 559 words

**Byline:** David Blair, The Daily Telegraph

## **Body**

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As Israel's assault on Gaza enters its fifth day, much of Hamas's military machine remains intact, including about two-thirds of its stock of missiles.

A briefing for Israel's national security cabinet assessed that Hamas "still has the ability to launch perhaps 100 rockets a day," according to Mark Regev, spokesman for Ehud Olmert, the prime minister. Of an arsenal of about 3,000 missiles in Gaza, Israeli reports suggest that some 2,000 remain.

Israel's planners face a crucial problem: they must achieve their military objective before the government succumbs to outside pressure to halt the offensive. The more ambitious their goal, the harder this will be.

Ehud Barak, the defence minister, has raised expectations by pledging "all-out war" on Hamas to the "bitter end." This brand of fighting talk gives the impression that Israel's central aim is to topple Hamas from power in Gaza. If so, this would entail a full-scale invasion and probably a campaign lasting for months. If Hamas survived in power -- or returned to government after an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza -- the war would be deemed a failure.

So Israeli officials are carefully lowering expectations. Regev said that "regime change" was not Israel's goal and denied any intention to "reoccupy" Gaza. Instead, the campaign's only aim was to end the rocket attacks on southern Israel and bring a "sustainable situation of quiet." Just as Israel's northern border has been quiet for two years, despite the presence of **Hezbollah** in Lebanon, so the same can be done with Gaza.

Regev said this "peace and quiet" would be "based on deterrence and that will only be achieved if we continue to inflict painful and surgical blows on the Hamas military machine."

The crucial word here is "deterrence." Israel does not aim to destroy Hamas or overthrow its government in Gaza, nor even eliminate its ability to fire rockets. Instead, the aim is to drive home the cost of bombarding Israel. This campaign is designed to deprive Hamas of the will -- not necessarily the means -- to fire its missiles.

As war aims go, this is relatively modest. The question is whether Israel's armed forces will have enough time to achieve it.

For Israel , it's about deterrence; Hamas 'still has the ability to launch 100 rockets a day,' but having them and not firing them may be good enough to allow I....

"A lot depends on what we do and how we do it. If we continue to be as surgical as possible, that gives us more time," said Regev.

Israel has targeted Hamas targets, such as offices, weapons storage facilities, military wing buildings and bomb factories. But often these are close to civilian structures -- and Israel accuses Hamas of deliberately shielding military targets with civilians.

No-one can say for certain how many civilians have been among the 360 Palestinians killed so far. About 60 were women or children. Scores of police have also been killed -- and many question how they can be called military targets.

If one attack kills a large number of civilians, the entire operation may become untenable, just as the deaths of 106 refugees under Israeli shellfire in Qana, southern Lebanon, forced the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath in 1996.

But whenever this does end, Hamas likely will still be in power in Gaza. Israel hopes it will by then be deterred from launching any more rockets. Then Israel would declare victory.

If, however, Hamas promptly fires another salvo, having become still more radical and won greater popular support, Israel's campaign will have failed.

**Load-Date:** December 31, 2008

**National: Iran: Riches galore, but president's wasteful ways leave country in economic mess: Rural support could win Ahmadinejad second term, despite his many critics**

The Guardian - Final Edition

November 20, 2008 Thursday

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theguardian

**Section:** GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 33

**Length:** 1106 words

**Byline:** Ian Black, Tehran

## Body

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Tehran's metro system is a relief from the Iranian capital's polluted, car-choked streets. Fast and efficient, it has stations named after the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution or the eight-year "imposed" war against Iraq. Each Chinese-built train has a carriage reserved for women who wish to use it.

Still, Imam Khomeini station, where the underground's only two lines meet, teems in the afternoon rush hour. Three more lines are under construction but progress is painfully slow, adding to the crippling congestion in this city of 14 million. And the fact that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has a PhD in traffic management only fuels commuters' anger at the permanent gridlock.

"The traffic is a metaphor for politics in Iran," said Mohammad Atrianfar, a magazine publisher and one of many scathing critics of the president.

Ahmadinejad is best known in the west for his stance on Israel and the Holocaust, defiance of American hegemony and pursuit of Iran's nuclear ambitions, which he insists are peaceful. Barack Obama's lukewarm response to his letter of congratulations was a reminder of his semi-pariah status on the world stage.

But at home he is far more often blamed for the economic mismanagement that is the result of his spendthrift populism. And now his chance of re-election for a second term may be under threat - and with it, his enemies hope, the three-year ascendancy of Iran's hardline conservatives and clerics.

It should have been easy to finance the Tehran metro and other big projects. Iran has the world's second largest oil and gas reserves, and with oil prices peaking at \$147 a barrel in July the state's oil stabilisation fund should have been overflowing with spare cash.

But prices are now down to about \$55 - a red line for the government. And the kitty is all but empty after an estimated \$200bn windfall was squandered on imports ranging from fruit and other staples to the petrol the country has to buy abroad because of a lack of refineries. "The oil party is over," one MP said.

National: Iran : Riches galore, but president's wasteful ways leave country in economic mess: Rural support could win Ahmadinejad second term, despite his many ....

"Ahmadinejad has been a total disaster," said Sadeh Zibakalam, a Tehran University political scientist. "With falling oil prices it'll be interesting to see how he is going to survive."

"Whatever he touches is ruined," said Ahmed, a 50-something taxi driver who complains that he still does not own his own home and has seen his graduate son following him into unskilled work. Unemployment is officially 10% but among the under-35s it has hit 20% or more. Inflation, officially 30%, has hurt the poorest hard.

#### Price controls

Paramilitary Basij volunteers, operating under the Revolutionary Guards Corps, have been used to enforce price controls. At least 14 million Iranians live below the poverty line.

With revenues from oil (80% of total state income) in such sharp decline, it will be necessary to raise more cash from the public. But last month bazaar traders such as carpet seller Javad Abdi went on strike to protest against a new value-added tax, forcing the government to postpone implementation. "Why should we pay taxes when we have oil?" the burly Azeri shrugged as women in black chadors fingered the silky Tabriz rugs in his tiny shop.

Two central bank governors have been sacked in recent months after protesting against Ahmadinejad's policies, one of them complaining of the "looting" of state assets. Last week the president was lambasted by 60 leading Iranian economists and condemned for scaring off the kind of foreign investment the Tehran metro and other projects so desperately need.

Yet although all this looks like a Farsi version of "it's the economy stupid", Ahmadinejad's troubles may not be terminal. He is popular in the countryside and small towns for the projects and cheap loans he has funded with oil money, just as he promised. What plays badly in affluent north Tehran is applauded in rural Baluchistan, where his views on Jews or "global arrogance" are no more than plain speaking from a man who sounds like "one of us".

Now, with crucial presidential elections approaching next June, his plan for direct payments to replace subsidies is under attack as brazen vote-buying. "This is not economics, it's politics and propaganda and it can only be for the short term," warned economist Mohammad Khoshchereh. "It's like what Chavez did in Venezuela."

None of this muttering means that the regime is under threat. Nearly 30 years after the revolution, Iranian politics is still dominated by the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has cautioned against rapprochement with the US and, unlike Ahmadinejad, is neither standing for election nor is the butt of irreverent jibes.

It is possible, though, that the economic crisis could make the country more vulnerable if the Obama administration managed to galvanise international support for tougher action over the nuclear issue. With petrol already rationed, causing long queues on garage forecourts, an embargo would cause chaos. The economists who attacked the president noted that billions of dollars were being lost because UN sanctions forced Iran's trade to be conducted mostly through intermediaries.

#### Sanctions

Amir, a microbiologist who used to import medical diagnostic kits, has seen his company collapse and hospital laboratories become paralysed because of sanctions blocking "dual-use" equipment. "The government persists in enriching uranium but I'm not clear why," he said. Like many of his friends and other educated Iranians, he is considering emigrating.

Anecdotal evidence also shows objections to the money spent on supporting militant groups abroad - Hizbullah and Hamas - when there are so many pressing needs at home. "We elected a president to deal with the problems of Iran and not other people's," said Mohammad Ali Abtahi, a former vice-president.

The big question is who will challenge Ahmadinejad. The great hope of the reformists is the former president Mohammad Khatami, though there are doubts over whether he will stand - and whether he could win without a

National: Iran : Riches galore, but president's wasteful ways leave country in economic mess: Rural support could win Ahmadinejad second term, despite his many ....

unprecedented turnout. Many analysts argue that a reformist victory is a near impossibility and that a more pragmatic conservative would have a far better chance of unseating the incumbent.

Atrianfar believes the economy will be the dominant election issue. "Iranian citizens say 'I live in a rich country with oil but I don't have a job or money and I don't see a future for my child'. People need to get used to paying taxes - holding their government to account for what it does. If people have to pay significant taxes they will not let someone like Ahmadinejad be their president. If he doesn't cheat he can't win the election. And he can and will cheat."

**Load-Date:** November 20, 2008

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## *Medical workers say death toll reaches 1,000*

The Leader-Post (Regina, Saskatchewan)

January 15, 2009 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. D8

**Length:** 597 words

**Byline:** Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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As Hamas and Israel each gave mixed signals about whether they were willing to accept a ceasefire on Wednesday and a new audio message believed to be from Osama bin Laden called for Muslims to launch a jihad or holy war against the Jewish state, the death toll in Gaza passed 1,000, according to medical workers there.

After a chaotic news conference in Cairo that included much shouting but almost no information, exiled Hamas leaders returned to Syria on Wednesday to discuss reservations that they still had with an Egyptian-backed truce proposal, while their counterparts from Gaza, who were thought to be more flexible, stayed in Egypt to await more talks.

A senior Israeli envoy was slated to return to Cairo on Thursday to present its position to Egyptian go-betweens and to get from them as good an idea as possible of what Hamas's position was.

Until now, the Egyptian initiative has been hung up over Hamas demands that Israel withdraw all its troops from Gaza and completely re-open its borders with the territory.

For their part, Egyptian negotiators said some progress had been made towards agreement on a ceasefire. There were few details, but Hamas seemed prepared for the first time to accept a European offer of observers to monitor the tunnels used to smuggle arms from Egypt and a gradual ceasefire that, if it held, would soon be followed by an agreement covering the next year.

With the international clamour for a ceasefire growing louder, there was a growing feeling in Israel that the war, which has so far cost 13 Israeli lives, was now in its final stages. This sentiment has gone hand-in-hand with speculation here that Israel wants most or all of its troops out of Gaza before U.S. president-elect Barack Obama is sworn in.

"We can and should do all of this by the 20th," Giora Eilan, a retired major-general who was Israel's national security adviser from 2004 to 2006, told a group of foreign journalists. Eilan, who was a senior operations officer in the army, said that the delay in the talks now was not so much Hamas as it was Egypt, which also had concerns about the border with Israel that it wanted addressed.



## Medical workers say death toll reaches 1,000

Without elaborating, Eilan said: "Some people (in Israel) believe we are in exactly the right spot today and can reach a solution within a few hours or days ... A simple ceasefire can and should be agreed to by Israel in a short time."

Meanwhile, on the battlefield, Hamas and its allies fired at least 14 rockets at Israel. Israel struck back with 60 air strikes and assaults on what its military described as "approximately 20 terrorist sites," including nine areas used by rocket launchers. Several intense firefights were reported.

Three rockets were also fired at Israel from Hezbollah-controlled southern Lebanon. Israel countered those attacks with air strikes on the launch sites.

Of the Palestinians who have died in Gaza, more than 40 per cent of them were women and children, according to medical workers in the enclave. Mark Regev, who is Olmert's spokesman, expressed regret to the BBC over the civilian deaths, but said that Hamas was to blame because it insisted on fighting in heavily populated areas.

Israel also released an update on the delivery of 111 truckloads of humanitarian aid and 104,000 litres of fuel to Gaza. International aid agencies have said that this was not nearly enough assistance to alleviate a humanitarian crisis among the thin coastal strip's 1.5 million residents.

Islamist websites on Wednesday carried what was reported as a new audio message from bin Laden, urging a holy struggle over the Gaza offensive.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2009

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## *Overwhelming force is the only way to fight terrorists*

The Jerusalem Post

January 6, 2009 Tuesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 14

**Length:** 997 words

**Byline:** SHMULEY BOTEACH

**Highlight:** STRAIGHT TALK. The writer is the founder of This World: The Jewish Values Network. His new book, *The Kosher Sutra: Eight Sacred Secrets to Rediscovering Desire and Reigniting Passion for Life* is being published this week by HarperOne. [www.shmuley.com](http://www.shmuley.com)

### **Body**

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So Israel invades Gaza and the world thinks it's a disproportionate response to the Hamas rockets. Which begs the question, what would have been a proportionate response?

When the Allies fought Hitler, they bombed Germany's cities indiscriminately nearly every night for years, seeking to inflict the maximum number of casualties, nearly all of whom were civilians. In Dresden and Hamburg, which they bombed toward the end of the war when it was already clear that Germany was toast, they killed more than half a million civilians in just a few evenings. Harry Truman, of course, dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing about 350,000.

Ah, but Hamas is not Germany and Gaza is not Japan, you say. These were formidable military machines and maximum force had to be deployed against them. That made sense. But what's a couple of rockets? And Hamas is a joke anyway. Get over it.

This gets to the very heart of the matter. The world perceives the Palestinians as weak and the Israelis as strong, when in reality terrorist organizations are much stronger than any democracy. Democracies make themselves weak by subscribing to humane standards of fighting. No matter how strong their tanks, they won't send them crashing into kindergartens. No matter how powerful their jets, they won't deploy them against hospitals. No matter how formidable their artillery, they won't use it against shopping malls.

BUT THE terrorists are all-powerful. Unconstrained by any tinge of moral restraint, they will kill pregnant women, dismember infants and detonate the infirm. They kill whom they want, when they want and for as long as they want. Remember the brutal decapitation of Daniel Pearl and the all-powerful posture of the terrorist killers who slit his throat?

Those who live without moral restraints claim a godlike power to define right and wrong and to take life as they see fit. It is one of the reasons that people have always been drawn to evil. Going over to the dark side has its appeal, as Darth Vader discovered. Decency is incredibly limiting, while wickedness gives people an inordinate sense of dominance.

### Overwhelming force is the only way to fight terrorists

Witness the constant stream of statements coming from the Hamas leadership. Every day we hear how they're "going to make Gaza an Israeli graveyard," they'll transform their streets into "rivers of Israeli blood," or some such other blather that reflects their perception of themselves as all-powerful deities with the power to strike millions at their command.

Which is why there can be no compromise with terrorism; the only proportionality that can be used in fighting cold-blooded killers is overwhelming, maximum force. They can only be fought to the death, since their megalomania precludes the possibility of compromise. Proportionality is not a concept that can be employed in fighting those whose belief in their own power is unlimited. Morality and a respect for innocent civilian life is the only constraint that should limit a democracy in fighting those who operate without constraints.

It's bad enough that democracies have one hand tied behind their backs by their willful and laudable insistence on moral constraints. Their other hand - the military arm - must therefore compensate by employing every available means to crush the terrorists utterly. Nations must, of course, protect innocent civilian lives and minimize collateral harm to innocent bystanders. But short of this, nations must bring all their power to bear on extinguishing the dark night of terrorism.

When the body has cancer, the medical profession deploys every means at its disposal to eradicate it. There is no proportionality. Radiation, chemotherapy and anything else that works is sent into the battle when dealing with a disease that will otherwise snuff out life.

I should add that the destruction of Hamas is far more for the benefit of the Palestinians than the Israelis. It is the Palestinians who must live under the barbaric cruelty of an organization that terrorizes its citizens even more than its enemies.

One of my friends in the media was talking to me about how Israel is just as bad as Hamas - just as culpable as the terrorists. Rather than engage in a useless debate, I employed a variation on JFK's argument in the famous Ich bin ein Berliner speech of June 1963. OK, they're the same, I said. So I suppose given the choice of living under Israeli or Hamas control, you would just flip a coin? No, he said, he would never live under Hamas, under any circumstances whatsoever.

So much for the two sides being equal.

Which is why Israel's one million Arab citizens did not elect to live under the control of either the Palestinian Authority or Hamas, even though they had every opportunity of voting with their feet and leaving Israeli governance for Palestinian governance once those two regimes were established. In Israel they may have their complaints, but they can protest against the government, petition the High Court and enjoy every freedom. Under Palestinian control they face summary execution for merely being accused of collaborating, as we are seeing in the current conflict in Gaza, without so much as even a makeshift hearing.

And this argument is what gives the lie to all those who claim that their opposition to Israel is motivated by their concern for the Palestinians. If they really cared, they would never want a radical, hate-filled organization which teaches young Palestinians that their highest calling in life is to blow themselves up while committing murder. They would want real peace and prosperity for the Palestinians. For that matter, whoever claims to care about the Arabs throughout the Middle East should protest against them having to live under the House of Saud, Bashir Assad, **Hizbullah** and other assorted Arab governments which are the great enemies of Arab human rights, press freedoms and political liberty.

Or maybe they really don't care all that much about the Palestinians and just have an irrational dislike of Israel.

## Graphic

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Overwhelming force is the only way to fight terrorists

Photo: AN ISRAELI soldier watches fighter planes fly over the northern Gaza Strip. Democracies make themselves weak by subscribing to humane standards of fighting. (Credit: AP)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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***Smoke Screen; Israel's cause is just but some of its tactics are self-defeating***

The Times (London)

January 16, 2009 Friday

Edition 1

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# THE TIMES

**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 2

**Length:** 570 words

## **Body**

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Eleven days ago The Times reported that Israel appeared to be using white phosphorus shells over built-up areas of Gaza. Since then, Israeli spokesmen and women have issued a series of increasingly forlorn denials as the number of Palestinian deaths in Gaza has passed 1,000 and many of the injured have been treated for burns caused, apparently, by white phosphorus.

It is time to clear the air. Israel has a right to defend itself, and the nature of its enemy makes that task extraordinarily hard. Hamas, like Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, regards the use of civilians as human shields as a central plank of its strategy for tormenting Israel. Like its principal state sponsor, Iran, Hamas's rallying cry is not the creation of a Palestinian state but the destruction of the Jewish one. This is why, when a ceasefire ended last month with an onslaught of Hamas rockets aimed at civilian Israeli targets, Israel had no choice but to prosecute this war. But the need to strike back does not excuse the mistakes that Israel has made in doing so.

The dreadful death toll from 20 days of fighting points to three possible conclusions about

Israel's methods and intentions: first, that the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) are guilty of woeful failures of execution, not least the shelling of a UN aid distribution centre in Gaza City; second, that despite years of meticulous intelligencegathering on the Hamas threat, the IDF have committed needless tactical errors in fighting it; or, third, that Israel actually intends to send a message that it is willing to incur international opprobrium for the bloodshed in Gaza if that is the price of breaking the will of Hamas and the Palestinians of Gaza who suffer under its rule.

The first two conclusions are broadly accurate.

The third is not. Israelis grieve as all humans do for the children cut down in Gaza's maelstrom, and their leaders know full well the damage that this conflict is doing to the country's reputation, especially where images of Palestinian suffering are broadcast more as propaganda than news.

The IDF's continued obfuscation on white phosphorus only compounds that damage.

## Smoke Screen Israel 's cause is just but some of its tactics are self-defeating

White phosphorus is illegal under international law when used in built-up areas, but a legitimate weapon of war when used to provide cover for troops in open country. There is scant evidence of the IDF using it deliberately against civilians, but northern Gaza, where the fighting is concentrated, is one of the most densely populated places in the world. Civilian casualties were inevitable, and the deep burns that white phosphorus can cause are virtually untreatable. The longer that the IDF equivocate about its use, the more ammunition they hand to those who would accuse them of war crimes (see page 4).

It bears repeating that the crime that triggered this war was last month's Hamas rocket barrage; vivid proof of its defining dread of peace. Hamas knew then that only its refusal to acknowledge Israel's right to exist stood in the way of a resumption of the peace process. It knows now that only its refusal to end the rocket attacks and stop rearming through tunnels under Gaza's Egyptian border stands in the way of a ceasefire.

Israel holds itself to higher standards than its enemies. So does the world. That is why, as the world waits for Hamas to accept Israel and renounce violence, it also expects Israel to prosecute this war with greater respect for civilian life.

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2009

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End of Document

## *Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait, meets leaders*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

January 12, 2008 Saturday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 1042 words

**Byline:** Daily Star Staff

## **Body**

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US President George W. Bush met Kuwait's emir on Friday after arriving in the emirate to start a Gulf tour aimed at rallying the support of Arab allies against what Bush calls the Iranian "threat." Bush flew into Kuwait from Israel after his first presidential trip to the Holy Land, where he said he believed a Middle East peace.

US President George W. Bush met Kuwait's emir on Friday after arriving in the emirate to start a Gulf tour aimed at rallying the support of Arab allies against what Bush calls the Iranian "threat." Bush flew into Kuwait from Israel after his first presidential trip to the Holy Land, where he said he believed a Middle East peace treaty would be signed within a year and called on Arab nations to reach out to Israel.

His tour of Washington's closest friends in the oil-rich Gulf region comes amid escalating tensions between the United States and Iran over a naval confrontation in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said talks would now turn to "the threats that we've seen in the Gulf, the problem of extremism, whether it be extremism from Al-Qaeda, Sunni extremism, or whether it be Iran and its tentacles, like Hizbullah and the part of Hamas that Iran supports."

But several commentators in the region have voiced strong misgivings about his intentions, amid fears Washington could resort to military action to halt Iran's disputed nuclear drive.

Although Kuwait is welcoming Bush as a friend, officials have said the emirate will not allow the United States to use its territory as a launching pad for any strike against Iran.

"Mr. president, the region needs smart initiatives, not smart bombs," Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai said in a front-page editorial.

Kuwait was a springboard for the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq that toppled then president Saddam Hussein, whose forces had invaded his tiny neighbor in 1990 before the emirate was liberated by a US-led coalition in early 1991.

Kuwait's state KUNA news agency said Bush's talks with emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah focused on "bilateral issues and the latest political developments in the Middle East." The Kuwaiti ruler, who led a red-carpet welcome for Bush when he flew into the country, hosted a banquet for the US leader.

## Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait , meets leaders

The Gulf monarchies all have close military ties with the United States and are major buyers of American weaponry.

About 15,000 US troops are stationed in Kuwait, which hosts one of Washington's largest military bases in the region, Camp Arifjan, and other smaller camps used as a transit point for US-led forces in Iraq.

Security was tight for the visit, which will see Bush address troops on Saturday and hold a meeting with Kuwaiti women activists.

Meanwhile, a group representing relatives of Kuwaiti detainees at the US military facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, called in a statement for the release of the four remaining Kuwaiti prisoners so they could be tried in the emirate.

From Kuwait, Bush will make the first visit by a sitting US president to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates before going to Saudi Arabia, the regional Sunni Arab powerhouse and world's top oil exporter.

In Israel on Wednesday, he warned that Iran posed "a threat to world peace" and should not be allowed to develop the know-how to build a nuclear weapon. Iran denies seeking nuclear arms.

A US intelligence report made public last month said Tehran halted a covert nuclear weapons program in 2003, but Bush insisted: "A country that once had a secret program can easily restart a secret program."

Bush also warned Tehran of "serious consequences" if it attacked US warships following a face-off in the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran accuses Washington of using the incident in the waterway - a vital conduit for energy supplies - as a propaganda stunt to paint Iran in a bad light during Bush's Middle East trip.

Bush's Gulf trip coincided with a rare visit to Tehran by UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei, who is seeking more answers over its atomic program.

After two days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Bush predicted they could sign a peace treaty within a year, a deal that would give him a foreign policy triumph. Sending a symbolic message, Bush ended the first leg of his weeklong Middle East tour by visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus is believed to have intoned "blessed are the peacemakers," and the ruins of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee.

On Thursday, he called on both sides to make "difficult choices" to enable the creation of a Palestinian state and end Israel's 40-year occupation. He also urged Arab countries "to reach out to Israel."

Negotiations were revived amid great fanfare in November after a near seven-year freeze but have faltered over settlement expansion and escalating Israeli-Palestinian violence, underlining the tough task ahead.

Bush said he planned to re-turn to Israel for its 60th anniversary in May and to help advance the peace talks.

He has voiced support for an Arab plan revived in March last year that offered full normalization of ties with Israel in return for its withdrawal from all Arab land.

Meanwhile, Israel's government spokesman said the two sides would start talks next week on the core issues at the heart of their decades-old conflict - borders, settlements, refugees and Occupied Jerusalem.

But further complicating peacemaking is Hamas' bloody takeover in June of the Gaza Strip, a move that split Palestinian society and left President Mahmoud Abbas with authority over only part of a future state.

"There isn't going to be a blinding flash in any of this, not on this trip, not on the next trip, but this is a process of moving forward," Rice said. "You will see that as the bilateral process continues to move forward the Arabs will do more."



## Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait , meets leaders

Many in the Arab world are skeptical that Bush can be an honest broker, with Dubai's Gulf News launching a stinging attack on his administration's Middle East policy, chiefly its support for Israel despite the "oppression" of the Palestinians.

"We realize that containing Iran, selling more weapons and securing cheap oil supplies are the main issues on your mind as you tour the region," the paper said, dismissing Bush's "claim" to want to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. - **AFP, Reuters**

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2008

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## *Want the best president for Israel?*

The Jerusalem Post

January 30, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 13

**Length:** 1036 words

**Byline:** GIL TROY

**Highlight:** CENTER FIELD. The writer is professor of history at McGill University. The author of, *Why I Am A Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity, and the Challenges of Today*, and *Hillary Rodham Clinton: Polarizing First Lady*. His next book, *Leading from the Center: Why Moderates Make the Best Presidents* will be published by Basic Books this spring.

### **Body**

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'Super-Duper' Tuesday is looming February 5. Americans will vote in 22 states, including New York, New Jersey and California, all with major Jewish populations. As Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama fight fiercely for the Democratic nomination, many pro-Israel voters are asking, "who is best for Israel"?

Truth is, despite the murmurings about the "Jewish vote" and the "Israel lobby," few American Jews today are such narrow one-issue voters. Amid American Jews' lamentable but growing disinterest in Israel, most American Jews are more multi-dimensional, and frankly, more passionate about other stances such as being pro-choice and anti-Bush. With American support for Israel so widespread and "apple pie," most mainstream candidates make enough pro-Israel noises to satisfy the casually pro-Israel American Jew.

There is also a deeper debate about what kind of candidate is "best for Israel"? Many Israeli and American doves want a president "pro-Israel" enough to pressure Israel. Many hawks consider Bill Clinton a president who genuinely loved Israel, but whose policies intensified Palestinian terrorism against Israel.

Still, the tea leaves gathering around Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama on the Israel issue suggest different readings. Clinton's pro-Israel critics point to her activities in the 1970s leading the New World Foundation, which funded New Left darlings, including the Palestinians. They also note Clinton's infamous 1999 embrace of Yasser Arafat's wife Suha, immediately after she had accused Israel of gassing Palestinian women and children.

Any fair reading of Hillary Clinton's record, however, balances these moments with more compelling evidence of deep ties to Israel. As the First Lady of Arkansas in the 1980s, she proudly imported an Israeli program serving underprivileged youth, HIPPY, the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters. More recently, representing New York, Senator Clinton not only supported Israel enthusiastically, she was a leading Democratic voice opposing terrorism and the Iranian threat.

In fact, Hillary Clinton may feel the terrorist threat, and the need to support Israel, more viscerally than any presidential candidate except New York's former mayor Rudy Giuliani. In addition to visiting Ground Zero when it was still smoldering, as New York's Senator, Hillary Clinton experienced some panicky moments on September 11 when she could not locate her daughter Chelsea, who was in lower Manhattan that day. Mrs. Clinton's initial

## Want the best president for Israel?

accounts placed her daughter closer to the disaster than Chelsea's account did - psychobiographers can speculate whether that is maternal melodrama or Clintonesque spin.

Less well-known is Hillary Clinton's second heartbreaking window into Israelis' losses from terrorism. In February, 2002, while visiting Israel, Senator Clinton was photographed meeting Yochai Porat, a charming 26-year-old from Kfar Saba who coordinated the Jewish Agency's Foreign Volunteers Program. Barely a week later, on March 3, a Palestinian sniper attacked an army roadblock on the Ramallah-Nablus road. Serving in the reserves as a medic, Porat scrambled to help the wounded and ended up one of the 10 people murdered that morning. Three years later, when visiting Israel to mark Yitzhak Rabin's 10th *yahrzeit*, Senator Clinton met Porat's family. To her credit - and contrary to the Clinton reputation for milking every honest sentiment - she and her campaign have not publicized this firsthand lesson she learned about the horrors of Palestinian terror.

IN THIS REALM, as in so many others, Barack Obama's stance is vaguer. Still, even many who reject the libelous email falsely accusing him of mysterious Muslim ties are worried. Many of his foreign policy advisers, such as Zbigniew Brzezinski, have led the blame-Israel-first crowd for decades. The United Church of Christ to which Obama does belong has taken harsh anti-Israel positions that Obama has not repudiated boldly. More broadly, in appealing to the Democratic Left, Obama is allying with many who have been the most indulgent of Iran, critical of Israel, and skittish about fighting terrorism. And yet, in March 2007, Obama did what he does best - he gave a beautiful speech. At the AIPAC foreign policy forum, he championed Israel as America's special democratic ally while denouncing Hamas, *Hizbullah* and Iran. Obama's description comparing the American-style suburban idyll he witnessed on a visit to Kiryat Shmona in 2006 and the destruction he then saw from one Katyusha rocket - months before the Second Lebanon War - is typically vivid, empathetic, and moving.

If Obama wants to solidify his foreign policy credentials, and prove that soaring rhetoric can have real impact, he should pick a fight with one of the many anti-Israel leftists who masquerade their anti-Semitism behind anti-Zionism. Stealing a page from the Clinton playbook, remembering how effectively Bill Clinton dressed down an African-American racist, if Obama pulled such a "Sister Souljah" moment, he would prove he can stand up to any ugly elements festering among his own allies. Such a blow would do more for his campaign than the many pro-Israel Obamaniacs currently wandering around assuring everyone they can that Obama's "OK on Israel" and will fight terrorism aggressively.

ULTIMATELY, when it comes to the presidency, and especially regarding Middle East policy, biography is rarely destiny. George W. Bush was presumed to be uninterested in foreign policy. Also, the smart money suggested he would be as hard on Israel as the rest of the George H.W. Bush-James Baker crowd.

Amid all this confusion and speculation, a surprisingly easy answer emerges. The best president for Israel is the best president for America. No - anti-Semitic conspiracy types take note - Israel's and America's needs do not always converge. But Israel most needs a strong effective leader for America, Israel's truest friend, who will jumpstart America's economy, heal its social divisions, combat Islamo-terrorism, ensure victory in Iraq, and restore America's world standing. Ardent pro-Israel voters should pick the best person for that job, trusting that Israel needs a strong America more than a deferential president.

## Graphic

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Photo: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON campaigning. Is she a more known quantity than Barack Obama? (Credit: AP)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

Want the best president for Israel?

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## *Woman's bid to be Israel's prime minister under fire*

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 7, 2008 Sunday

FIRST EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A9

**Length:** 586 words

**Byline:** By Amy Teibel THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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For the first time since Golda Meir more than three decades ago, a woman is within reach of becoming the prime minister of Israel, a nation dominated by macho military men and a religious establishment with strict views on the role of women.

But unlike Hillary Rodham Clinton or Sarah Palin, Israel's Tzipi Livni doesn't talk about cracking glass ceilings, even as she leads the field in the ruling Kadima Party's Sept. 17 primary to choose the likely successor to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Yet the tough-minded foreign minister's gender is popping up.

Top male rivals have branded Livni with words such as "weak" and "that woman." And there is talk about ultra-Orthodox Jewish lawmakers who might be kingmakers in the next government being uncomfortable with the idea of a female leader.

Livni hasn't commented about the gender issue, and adviser Gil Messing said the foreign minister would not agree to be interviewed on the subject, but others have complained about the allusions to her gender.

Former lawmaker Naomi Chazan says the jabs at Livni are built on "deep chauvinistic foundations."

Livni, 50, had a brief career in the Mossad spy agency. She traded that in for a life as corporate lawyer, wife and mother of two sons. Nine years ago she entered politics as a protégée of then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. She is soft-spoken but has earned a reputation as a pragmatic straight-talker who disdains backroom politics.

She has held six Cabinet posts, including minister of foreign affairs, justice and immigrant absorption. As foreign minister and vice premier, she has led Israel's negotiations with the Palestinians on ending decades of conflict and establishing a Palestinian state.

Last year, Time magazine included her in its list of the world's 100 most influential people, and she was No. 52 in Forbes magazine's recent ranking of the planet's 100 most powerful women. But this résumé apparently doesn't impress political rivals in a nation at war that values toughness over sensitivity.

## Woman's bid to be Israel 's prime minister under fire

Defense Minister Ehud Barak, a former prime minister with an eye on his old job, recently played on an ad from Clinton's failed presidential bid that suggested rival Barack Obama was not the man to handle a 3 a.m. crisis call.

"The foreign minister, her background being what it is, is not cut out to make decisions, not at three in the morning and not at three in the afternoon," said Barak, who also served as commander of the military.

His comment was widely regarded in the media as veiled sexism, as was his pointed reference to Livni by her full name, Tzipora - Hebrew for "bird" and a name that aides say she despises.

Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, a former defense minister and military chief, is Livni's chief rival to become Kadima's new leader. His staffers have been quoted as saying Livni has "a weak personality."

In a recent appearance before foreign reporters in Jerusalem, Livni insisted she had plenty of security experience, including a key role as foreign minister during Israel's 2006 war against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. That war has been the target of intense criticism in Israel, but Livni emerged largely unscathed because of her calls to end the fighting quickly.

There are also ultra-Orthodox parties to consider. They are uneasy with a woman at the helm because "it's not modest" in their world view, said Menachem Friedman, an expert on religious society in Israel.

But Friedman, a professor at Bar Ilan University outside Tel Aviv, thinks practical politics would trump those concerns.

## Graphic

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PHOTO

PHOTO - Livni Foreign minister

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2008

## ***Latest 'martyr' buried in Lebanon; Political assassination fuels will to hold presidential vote***

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

September 22, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A12

**Length:** 594 words

**Byline:** Agence France-Presse

**Dateline:** BEIRUT

### **Body**

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BEIRUT - Lebanese politicians and thousands of mourners turned out on Friday for the funeral of anti-Syrian MP Antoine Ghanem, whose assassination has raised tensions ahead of a looming presidential election.

"Lebanon's soil has been drenched with the blood of our martyrs, but those who wish evil for Lebanon, who will not stop until they are deterred, will be deterred," vowed former president Amin Gemayel, fighting back tears, as he addressed mourners packed inside the Sacred Heart church east of Beirut.

"Your (Ghanem's) martyrdom is but an incentive to carry out the presidential election," added Gemayel, referring to a parliament vote next Tuesday to replace current pro-Syrian head of state Emile Lahoud, whose mandate expires in November.

Apart from Gemayel, whose own son industry minister Pierre was murdered last November, ruling majority leaders Saad Hariri, Walid Jumblatt, Samir Geagea and others attended the funeral amid tight security.

Gemayel said he feared the long-running crisis between the Western-backed government and the Hezbollah-led opposition would lead to Lebanon's division, and charged that the presidency standoff was "just meant to end the Christian role at the top of the state."

The presidency is traditionally reserved for Lebanon's Maronites, the country's largest Christian community.

In an emotional eulogy, Ghanem's eldest daughter Mounia said: "I want to address the killer with my own sharp weapon -- prayer.

"My father dedicated his life to Lebanon until his martyrdom."

After the ceremony, Ghanem's coffin, draped in the Lebanese and his Christian Phalange party flags, was taken for burial along with those of his two bodyguards.

Thousands of men, women and children as well as foreign diplomats attended the funeral of the 64-year-old member of parliament.

Latest 'martyr' buried in Lebanon ; Political assassination fuels will to hold presidential vote

Many mourners wept and waved national or party flags as brass bands played to pay their last respects.

**Women** threw rice and rose petals from balconies as the cortege moved from the mortuary of the Lebanese Canadian hospital, near the site of Wednesday's bomb blast that killed Ghanem and four others, to Furn el-Shebak.

"Ya habibi (my love), Ya habibi," Ghanem's widow Lola cried out as his coffin was carried from the hospital.

"We are all desperate," said mourner Siham, in her 40s. "We can't keep burying martyrs. Is there no end to these assassinations?"

Flags flew at half mast and schools and businesses were shut after the government declared a day of official mourning for the funeral.

In Washington U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her French counterpart Bernard Kouchner condemned the killing.

"The United States and France condemn in the strongest possible terms the brutal murder of Antoine Ghanem," they said in a joint statement after talks.

"It is crucial that the presidential election in Lebanon be held according to the Lebanese constitutional schedules and norms," they said.

Ghanem was the eighth anti-Syrian politician to be assassinated since the February 2005 murder of five-time prime minister and billionaire tycoon Rafiq Hariri.

Pro-government MPs in Beirut have pointed the finger of blame at Syria, which denied any involvement and called the bombing a "criminal act" aimed at undermining efforts at a rapprochement with Lebanon.

Opposition MP Ali Khreiss said "Ghanem's assassination is meant to harm stability in Lebanon. It is meant to foil Nabih Berri's initiative," he said, referring to parliament speaker's proposal that the opposition was ready to drop a demand for a unity government in return for a compromise on the new president.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Reuters; Lebanon's former president Amin Gemayel speaks during the funeral of assassinated anti-Syrian legislator Antoine Ghanem in Beirut on Friday. ;

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2007



## *Pathological culture kills*

The Jerusalem Post

February 28, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 15

**Length:** 1085 words

**Byline:** EVELYN GORDON

**Highlight:** The desire for revenge is a universal emotion, yet few societies have unleashed an onslaught of 'hero' suicide bombers. CIVIL FIGHTS

### **Body**

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Yet another study of suicide bombers was published recently, this time by researchers at the University of Toronto. Like almost all its predecessors, the study refuted the theory that such bombers are motivated by poverty and despair; most, it found, were not economically deprived. It also echoed previous studies in concluding that suicide bombers are not psychologically unstable.

But, again like many of its predecessors, it stopped short of the obvious conclusion: that suicide bombings are, overwhelmingly, a product of the surrounding culture.

The study, which focused on Palestinian bombers, concluded that their primary motivation was a desire for personal vengeance against Israel. Yet that begs an obvious question: If so, why do many violent conflicts not produce suicide bombers? The desire for revenge, after all, is a universal emotion, found in every conflict throughout the ages. Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland, for instance, were no less eager to avenge the deaths of loved ones than Palestinians are, yet their conflict produced no suicide bombers. The African National Congress produced no suicide bombers in its battle against apartheid, despite a plethora of victims. Wars have killed millions in other non-Islamic African countries without producing a single suicide bombing. Argentina's "dirty war" produced no suicide bombers despite thousands of governmental murders and kidnappings, nor has any other South American conflict. Nor have there been any Jewish suicide bombers, despite thousands of Israeli victims of Arab terror.

The same question applies to those who persist - despite all the studies showing that suicide bombers are typically relatively prosperous and well-educated - in deeming poverty the main motivator. Poverty in much of Africa, for instance, is far worse than in the Palestinian Authority; yet suicide bombings are unknown in non-Islamic parts of that continent.

THE ONLY explanation that consistently fits the data is the social and cultural milieu: Invariably, suicide bombers come from societies that view such bombings as an acceptable and even laudable response to grievance. Societies that deem them unacceptable do not produce suicide bombers.

That explains why most such bombers are Muslims: While an increasingly popular strain of Islam deems suicide bombers "holy martyrs" who merit praise on earth and reward in heaven, they have no such status in Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Confucianism or animism. Indeed, most religions deem suicide bombings an abomination.

## Pathological culture kills

But Islam alone cannot explain this phenomenon: Some Muslim countries, such as Bosnia and Kosovo, produced no suicide bombings despite suffering atrocities, while the predominantly secular Fatah frequently employs such bombings.

In the PA, however, secular society has reproduced the glorification of suicide bombings that Islamic fervor generates in groups like al-Qaida and Hizbullah. As leading Palestinian psychiatrist Eyad Sarraj told the Los Angeles Times in 2002, suicide bombers have "unparalleled" status in Palestinian society. "Their pictures are plastered on public walls, their funerals are emotional celebrations, their families often receive visits from state officials," the paper reported. "They become almost holy, praised by imams at mosques or over loudspeakers at rallies, where children are often dressed as shrouded dead or as pint-sized suicide bombers." "We have here a cultural glorification of martyrs," Sarraj concluded. "If you asked children 20 years ago what they wanted to be when they grew up, they'd say a doctor or an engineer. Now they say they want to be a martyr."

The Shin Bet security service reached an identical conclusion a few years back, based on interviews with would-be bombers who were caught before blowing themselves up. It found that the primary motivation was the desire to be a hero in society's eyes.

How does that square with the new study's finding that the main factor is a desire for revenge? Because while revenge is a universal emotion, its outlet is strongly influenced by culture. If channeling your desire for revenge into a suicide bombing would make you a hero, this becomes an attractive option. If it would make you a pariah, it looks much less attractive.

FAILED BOMBERS' stories illustrate this dynamic. Arin Ahmed, for instance, described how, two months after her boyfriend Jad was killed, she suddenly told some friends that she wanted to avenge him by becoming a suicide bomber. It was a spur-of-the-moment thought, the 20-year-old said in a published 2002 interview; "a moment earlier, I hadn't thought of anything like that."

Four days later, some Fatah operatives arrived and said her bombing was ready. From then on, they never let her alone. "They didn't let me think about it too much," she said. "They pressured me and persuaded me. They told me: You'll gain a very special status among women suicide bombers. You'll be a real heroine. It's for Jad's memory. You'll be reunited with him in heaven. You'll be with him in paradise."

Contrast this with a scene I witnessed at the shiva for a teenage girl killed in a suicide bombing. Her grief-stricken 17-year-old brother screamed that he wanted to avenge her by killing Palestinians. It was a normal teenage reaction, no different from Ahmed's. But his society's response was very different: Rather than being instantly surrounded by people who promised him honor and glory if he acted on this impulse, his father and others present told him unequivocally that this response was unacceptable. And, as in Ahmed's case, societal pressure had an impact: She set off to kill and landed in jail; he worked through his grief and got on with his life.

UNFORTUNATELY, the world largely ignores this all-important cultural factor, deeming anyone who is not a terrorist an "innocent civilian." That is why, for instance, it lambastes Israeli sanctions on Gaza even as Gaza's elected government bombards Israel with rockets: Such sanctions "hurt innocent civilians." Yet Gaza's civilians are not exactly innocent: They elected the terrorist Hamas; they overwhelmingly support attacks on Israeli civilians (as repeated polls show); and they actively participate, as Sarraj noted, in glorifying such attacks, thereby creating the atmosphere in which they flourish.

If the world truly wants to eradicate terror, it must address the culture factor. And that starts with ending the "innocent civilian" myth. Societies that glorify terror must not be given a free pass.

## Graphic

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## Pathological culture kills

Photo: THE MYTH persists that perpetrators of suicide bombings are motivated by poverty and despair. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolinski)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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**CNN's Soledad O'Brien talks diversity on TV,  
behind the scenes and in our lives Oct. 14 at Langford**

Inside Vandy: Vanderbilt University

September 30, 2008 Tuesday

University Wire

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 623 words

**Byline:** Tim Ghianni

## **Body**

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Soledad O'Brien, anchor and special correspondent for CNN's Special Investigations Unit, will deliver a talk, "Diversity: OnTV, Behind the Scenes and in Our Lives," 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, in Langford Auditorium at Vanderbilt University.

The lecture is part of the North Star Leadership Series sponsored by the Office of Leadership Development and Intercultural Affairs at Vanderbilt.

General admission tickets are \$10 for the public and are available through Ticketmaster at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), at the Sarratt Student Center box office on Vanderbilt's campus and at the door. Tickets are free to Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff at the Sarratt box office. Only one free ticket may be picked up per person with Vanderbilt identification card. Tickets are \$5 for non-Vanderbilt students with valid school or university identification - these tickets are also available at the Sarratt box office.

For CNN's Special Investigations Unit, O'Brien reports hour-long documentaries throughout the year and files in-depth series on ongoing and breaking news stories for all major CNN programs. She also covers political news as part of CNN's political team.

Most recently, she reported for CNN Presents: Black in America, an on-air and digital initiative revealing the current state of black America 40 years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The program features six hours of documentaries and weekly reports about the real lives behind the stereotypes, statistics and identity politics that frequently frame the national dialogue about black America.

O'Brien joined CNN in July 2003 as the co-anchor of the network's flagship morning program, American Morning. Her reporting following Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami in Phuket, Thailand, earned her numerous awards and critical acclaim.

She also covered the London terrorism attacks in July 2005 as well as the late count of Ohio's contested electoral votes in November 2004. Earlier that fall, she anchored the live coverage of the burial of Yasser Arafat. In fall 2003, O'Brien was the only broadcast journalist permitted to travel with first lady Laura Bush on her trip to Moscow.

O'Brien came to CNN from NBC News where she had anchored the network's Weekend Today since July 1999. During that time, she contributed reports for the weekday Today show and weekend editions of NBC Nightly News.

CNN "Soledad O'Brien talks diversity on TV, behind the scenes and in our lives  
Oct.14 at Langford

and covered such notable stories as John F.Kennedy Jr.'s plane crash and the school shootings in Colorado and Oregon. In 2003, she covered the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster and later anchored NBC's weekend coverage of the war in Iraq. Additionally, in 1998, she traveled to Cuba to cover Pope John Paul II's historic visit.

In 2007, O'Brien garnered a Gracie Allen Award for her reporting from Cyprus on the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict as well as her reports from the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. The NAACP honored her with its President's Award in recognition of her humanitarian efforts and journalistic excellence, and this year she received the first "Soledad O'Brien Freedom's Voice Award" created in her honor by Community Voices at the Morehouse School of Medicine. The award, which will be given each year, honors mid-career professionals who serve as catalysts for social change within their fields.

O'Brien was part of the coverage teams that earned CNN a George Foster Peabody Award for its Katrina coverage and an Alfred I. duPont Award for its coverage of the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia. In 2006, the National Urban League awarded her its Women of Power award. She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

She is a graduate of Harvard University with a degree in English and American literature.

-- Vanderbilt University News Service

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2018

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**Guardian Weekly: Reply: Attack on Gaza**

Guardian Weekly

January 16, 2009 Friday

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## *The***GuardianWeekly**

**Section:** Pg. 23

**Length:** 600 words

**Byline:** S A Seferiades, Derick Hawkins, Ray Johnstone and Michael Edwards

### **Body**

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\* Ian Black's article on the Israeli assault seems to have all too glibly fallen in with politically correct newspeak that comfortably passes over truths and obfuscates issues concerning the suppression of the captive and essentially defenceless Palestinian people of Gaza, which is nothing more than an enormous concentration camp (Long-planned strikes at Gaza launched by Israel, 2 January). Echoes of the Warsaw ghetto and collective punishment?

He says Hamas "took over" from Fatah, implying, by omitting the election, that there was something other than legitimacy involved. The phrase "targeting personnel" surely means extrajudicial assassination, not a process of law. Some might call it state terrorism.

"Not all the victims are from Hamas. Some are civilians," says Black. But in the densely populated areas of Gaza, how can an F16 dropping high explosives tell the difference?

S A Seferiades

Athens, Greece

\* You have devoted a lot of column inches to the situation in Gaza in the 2 January Guardian Weekly; however, it seems that you have a strong bias in favour of the Palestinians.

You say that the air strike proves Israel's indifference to human life, yet Israel gave plenty of warning to Hamas that it would strike if they did not stop the rockets; this they chose not to do. Hamas cynically position their security forces compounds between residential buildings (which you report) along with the rocket launchers. In so doing, Hamas has made it impossible for Israel to retaliate without collateral damage to civilians. Israel apologises for civilian casualties. In stark contrast to Israel, Hamas actively celebrates targeting Israeli civilians.

You do not report, nor have you done over the past months, any of the violations by Hamas in sending in rockets during the truce. Hamas steadfastly refuses to stop these attacks in spite of pleas from the PLO leader Mahmoud Abbas and from Egypt.

Surely it is Hamas who are ensuring that the two-state solution does not get off the ground. The chances of an agreement after the Israeli election will probably be greatly reduced.

Derick Hawkins

Chelmsford, UK

\* Ian Black's assessment of Israel's actions is in line with most military historians (Air strikes likely to boost Palestinian support for militia, 2 January). The bombing of civilian populations by the Luftwaffe on Britain and the allies on Germany in the second world war, and by the US on the North in the Vietnam war, had exactly the opposite to the planned effect. Rather than demoralising the targets, it steeled the populations' resolve to resist.

It therefore seems doubly surprising that the Israeli Defence Force did not learn that laying waste to Lebanese cities was not effective against the small, highly mobile Hezbollah rocket-launching teams in the recent war against Lebanon. This led to Israel's large, hi-tech army being seen as impotent by some observers and even as having lost the war by others. At the very least, the IDF risks being seen as having being outmanoeuvred once more.

Ray Johnstone

Mezin, France

\* What is the international community to do with this rogue state in the Middle East? It possesses weapons of mass destruction. It practices ethnic cleansing and the killing of innocent women and children. It uses disproportionate violence against the same. It cleanses other ethnic groups from villages they have lived in for hundreds if not thousands of years. It has built the first politically motivated wall since Berlin's. It consistently refuses to comply with UN resolutions.

What is one to do about Israel?

Michael Edwards

Townsville, Queensland, Australia

**Load-Date:** January 24, 2009

***Bin laden calls for jihad as ceasefire pondered in Gaza; Death toll tops 1,000 as Egyptian truce proposal considered***

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

January 15, 2009 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A11

**Length:** 535 words

**Byline:** Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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As Hamas and Israel each gave mixed signals about whether they were willing to accept a ceasefire on Wednesday and a new audio message believed to be from Osama bin Laden called for Muslims to launch a jihad or holy war against the Jewish state, the death toll in Gaza passed 1,000, according to medical workers there.

After a chaotic news conference in Cairo that included much shouting but almost no information, exiled Hamas leaders returned to Syria on Wednesday to discuss reservations that they still had with an Egyptian-backed truce proposal, while their counterparts from Gaza, who were thought to be more flexible, stayed in Egypt to await another round of talks.

A senior Israeli envoy was slated to return to Cairo on Thursday to present its position to Egyptian go-betweens and to get from them as good an idea as possible of what Hamas's position was.

Until now, the Egyptian initiative has been hung up over Hamas demands that Israel withdraw all its troops from Gaza and completely reopen its borders with the territory.

For their part, Egyptian negotiators said some progress had been made toward agreement on a ceasefire. There were few details, but Hamas seemed prepared for the first time to accept a European offer of observers to monitor the tunnels used to smuggle arms from Egypt and a gradual ceasefire that, if it held, would soon be followed by an agreement covering the next year.

With the international clamour for a ceasefire growing louder, there was a growing feeling in Israel that the war, which has so far cost 13 Israeli lives, was now in its final stages. This sentiment has gone hand-in-hand with intense speculation here that Israel wants most or all of its troops out of Gaza before U. S. president-elect Barack Obama is sworn next Tuesday.

"We can and should do all of this by the 20th," Giora Eilan, a retired major-general who was Israel's national security adviser from 2004 to 2006, told a small group of foreign journalists on Wednesday. Eilan, who was a senior operations officer in the army, said that the delay in the talks now was not so much Hamas as it was Egypt, which also had concerns about the border with Israel that it wanted addressed.



Bin laden calls for jihad as ceasefire pondered in Gaza; Death toll tops 1,000 as Egyptian truce proposal considered

Without elaborating, Eilan said: "Some people (in Israel) believe we are in exactly the right spot today and can reach a solution within a few hours or days . . . A simple ceasefire can and should be agreed to by Israel in a short time."

Meanwhile, on the battlefield Wednesday, Hamas and its allies fired at least 14 rockets at Israel. Israel struck back with 60 air strikes and assaults on what its military described as "approximately 20 terrorist sites," including nine areas used by rocket launchers. Several intense firefights were reported.

Three rockets were also fired at Israel from Hezbollah-controlled southern Lebanon. Israel countered those attacks with air strikes on the launch sites.

Of the Palestinians who have died in Gaza, more than 40 per cent of them were women and children, according to medical workers in the enclave. Mark Regev, who is Olmert's spokesman, expressed regret to the BBC over the civilian deaths, but said that Hamas was to blame because it insisted on fighting in heavily populated areas.

## Graphic

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Photo: Suhaib Salem, Reuters; A Palestinian boy, who fled with his family during Israel's offensive, waits to receive food at a UN school in Jabalya in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday. ;

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2009

**Keothavong courts danger Mark Hodgkinson meets the girl who earned a Wimbledon place by winning in the face of adversity**

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

May 13, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** SPORT; TENNIS; Pg. 24

**Length:** 503 words

**Byline:** By Mark Hodgkinson

## **Body**

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FOR Anne Keothavong, there wasn't an open-top bus ride after winning a title at the weekend, but a seat on a minibus taking her across Lebanon to the Syrian border, with an escort of armed police. "They had a lot of guns - so I suppose I felt safe," Keothavong said from the Syrian capital, Damascus, yesterday as she waited for a flight back to London.

Keothavong's tournament victory came at the Lebanese resort of Jounieh, while, 10 miles down the road in Beirut, sectarian violence raged on the city's streets between Hezbollah, a Shiite militia, and the Sunni fighters loyal to the government. More than 40 people were killed in Beirut. But, despite concerns for her safety, Keothavong came through to win, an achievement that yesterday took her up to a career-best ranking of 104 in the world, and also meant that she has become the first British female since Sam Smith in 1999 to gain direct acceptance into Wimbledon.

The All England Club styles itself as tennis played in an English summer garden party, but making it to the famous wrought-iron gates without the need for a wild card certainly wasn't a cup of Earl Grey for Keothavong.

She wanted to quit the Jounieh tournament before her quarter-final on Friday but the Syrian border had been closed off. "There was a concern that the violence would spread out of Beirut, and I panicked before my quarter-final, and wanted to get the hell out. I heard that the tournament had organised a bus to take the players to the Syrian border, and I wanted to be on that bus," Keothavong, 24, said.

"But then a few minutes before I was due on court, I heard that the border to Syria had been closed so, I thought, 'What the hell, I can't go anywhere, so I might as well play'. I knew that I had to win the title if I was going to make the cut-off for Wimbledon direct acceptance. I had not prepared for the match at all, but I decided to play and won.

"Then my semi-final and final were both played on the Saturday, the final was meant to be on Sunday, as the organisers saw that all the players wanted to get out of there as soon as possible."

With Beirut airport shut down, a minibus arranged by the Spanish Embassy took the players to the Syrian border, which had since been reopened.

Keothavong, is back as the British No 1, overtaking Katie O'Brien.

Keothavong courts danger Mark Hodgkinson meets the girl who earned a Wimbledon place by winning in the face of adversity

Her life is more budget hotels and Easyjet flights than red carpets and sodium-white photographers' flashes. She doesn't have a sponsor or a coach. "Playing tennis isn't glamour. It's probably only glamour for the top 10 in the world. But this is what I have chosen to do, and it's a privileged life travelling most weeks and playing tennis," Keothavong said.

"I do get annoyed when people knock the British women, as we're out there doing our best and working hard. The girls are improving. I say 'hi' to Andy Murray when I see him, and he's down-to-earth, but people should know that Andy isn't the only Briton out there working hard. If you take Andy out of the picture, it's looking very bleak for the British men."

**Load-Date:** May 13, 2008

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## *Hamas failure to fight may be a trap*

The Australian

January 15, 2009 Thursday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 7

**Length:** 590 words

**Byline:** ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

### **Body**

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#### ANALYSIS

IF Hamas has a plan to lure Israeli troops into the dense warrens of Gaza's streets by demonstrating passivity, it might explain the performance of the group's military wing in the fighting.

In an article headlined "Where is Hamas?", the military commentator of the newspaper Yediot Achronot, Ofer Shelach, says that in the first 10 days of Israel's ground offensive, which has brought it to the edges of Gaza City and several refugee camps, the army has not met resistance from any force as large as a squad -- that is, about 10 men.

Army spokesmen report dozens of clashes every day and speak of fierce fighting but the absence of detailed accounts of such battles suggests they may involve only individuals or small groups emerging from tunnels or houses.

"It's not clear Hamas isn't offering opposition because it can't," says Shelach, a paratroop officer, "or whether it's waiting for the IDF (Israel Defence Force) to reach a place where Hamas prefers to do battle."

Many officers believe the former is the case. They cannot discern any clear command structure in the forces opposing them or a well-organised resistance.

Before the war, Hamas's military wing was reported to consist of 15,000 to 20,000 men organised in several brigades under a divisional command.

This was greater than the number of Israeli troops that entered the Gaza Strip less than two weeks ago -- four infantry brigades backed by heavy tanks.

Hundreds of Hamas fighters were believed to have trained in Iran or with Hezbollah in Lebanon. The force was said to be armed with Russian-made anti-tank missiles and other weapons, including anti-aircraft weapons.

Hamas was said to have sophisticated roadside bombs like those used in Iraq, prepared under Iranian guidance. In previous Israeli incursions, Hamas mines destroyed Israeli tanks.

On Monday, an Israeli tank force entering Gaza at its 9.6km-wide waist cut across the strip and reached the sea in a few hours without reports of a single missile being fired at it.

## Hamas failure to fight may be a trap

And the only anti-aircraft fire encountered by Israeli warplanes and helicopters over the strip have been from machineguns.

Israeli spokesmen claim that between 300 and 450 Hamas fighters have been killed since Israeli troops invaded Gaza, but in view of the absence of major battles it is unclear how that happened unless those killed in the Israeli airstrikes are included.

The army did not permit Israeli journalists to accompany the troops in the first days of fighting and even now it allows only pool reporters confined to specific units. No clear picture has emerged in Israel of what has taken place on the ground.

Ten Israeli soldiers have died in Gaza, a small number for an offensive of this size, and half of these were killed by Israeli troops.

One soldier looking for booby traps was killed by a suicide bomber who grabbed him before detonating himself. Other suicide bombers, including women, are said to have been killed before causing Israeli casualties.

Hamas fighters are reported to have emerged from tunnels in Israeli army uniforms and attacked from close quarters several times without causing fatalities, before being killed.

It is possible the "shock and awe" of Israel's week-long preliminary air assault and the artillery barrage that accompanied the entry of ground troops sapped Hamas's will to fight.

The targeting of Hamas commanders in Israeli airstrikes may also be a factor. However, it cannot be ruled out that a coherent defence will emerge if Israeli troops attempt to penetrate deep into Gaza's built-up areas.

**Load-Date:** January 14, 2009

## *Secular Israelis reclaim their heritage*

The Jerusalem Post

May 15, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 15

**Length:** 1049 words

**Byline:** EVELYN GORDON

**Highlight:** For any society, nurturing cultural roots begins with studying its canonical texts. CIVIL FIGHTS

### **Body**

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Current events provided plenty of unwelcome gifts for Israel's 60th birthday, from the prime minister's investigation to Hizbullah's virtual takeover of Lebanon. Yet amid all the bad news, one item boded well for the country's long-term health: According to the Education Ministry, the number of ordinary secular schools offering extra hours of elective Jewish studies has doubled over the last two years, while the number of students choosing to take these classes has soared by 92 percent, from 18,000 to 34,500.

These figures reflect a growing trend of secular interest in Israel's Jewish heritage, which has also sparked numerous programs for adults in recent years. These include the establishment of several secular mechinot, where students spend a year between high school and army engaged in Jewish studies; a secular yeshiva; secular batei midrash (study groups); and numerous institutions that offer adult education programs in Jewish studies for the secular public. The TALI school system - secular schools with a mandatory enhanced Jewish studies curriculum - has also boomed, growing 30 percent in the last three years alone, to 165 schools with some 35,000 students.

While none of the above programs approach Jewish texts from an Orthodox perspective, the texts themselves - Bible, Talmud, medieval Jewish philosophers - are the same as would be found in any Orthodox high school or yeshiva. And the goals are similar as well: to engage with the texts on their own terms in order to plumb the richness of Judaism's cultural heritage.

"We want to build a generation of male and female scholars who know the texts, to make them desire Torah study for its own sake," declared Eran Baruch, head of the Bina Center for Jewish Studies, which runs the secular yeshiva, in a newspaper interview last year. That is a sentiment any Orthodox yeshiva head could endorse. So is the explanation offered by Dr. Eilon Shamir for the new program on "social Judaism" that he helped to launch at Beit Berl, whose courses cover topics such as attitudes toward "the other" in the Talmud: "We want to present Judaism as something that represents holiness and refinement of our natures, in contrast to the cynicism and egoism of capitalist culture."

THIS BURGEONING secular interest in Jewish studies is good news for Israel for two reasons. First, it could ease the religious-secular rift that increasingly threatens the country's future. While this rift has many causes, it has been exacerbated by the fact that many secular Jews are largely unacquainted with basic Jewish texts. This ignorance facilitates both the religious dismissal of secular culture as "non-Jewish" and the secular dismissal of religious culture as "benighted."

## Secular Israelis reclaim their heritage

But secular Israelis' growing realization that these texts are their heritage as well creates the basis of a common language that could help to bridge these differences. It is easy for religious Jews to sniff at secular counterparts who quote UN conventions as the source of their values, but harder to dismiss secular Jews who quote the Talmud as the source of these same values. Similarly, it is easy for secular Jews to sneer at religious Jews who find their life's meaning in ancient texts, but harder to do so when they themselves see these texts as sources of inspiration and meaning.

Moreover, this development provides a potential basis for joint social action. Such action is already a focus of many of the new secular programs: Shamir, for instance, started his program because he believes Judaism can serve as the basis for a struggle to improve society; at the secular yeshiva, students must devote part of their time to working with students from nearby slums. And a similar trend is burgeoning in the religious community, from "urban settlements" - groups of young religious Jews who "settle" in distressed neighborhoods and run programs for the residents - to organizations like Bemaaglei Tzedek, which issues "social kashrut certificates" to eateries that pay their workers fair wages and benefits. Thus one can easily imagine fruitful cooperation between religious and secular Jews who both seek to improve the world through social action based on Jewish values. And nothing could do more to promote religious-secular rapprochement.

But there is also a more fundamental reason why this growing secular interest in Jewish sources bodes well for Israel's future: Without nurturing its cultural Jewish roots, Israel is liable to indeed become a nation of "Hebrew-speaking goyim," as some religious Jews contemptuously deem it, lacking any distinct Jewish identity. And if the Jewish state is culturally indistinguishable from any other Western state, its citizens are liable to question whether the sacrifices necessary to maintain it are worthwhile.

For any society, nurturing cultural roots begins with studying that society's canonical texts. Thus students in all Western countries study foundational texts of both Western civilization in general and their own countries in particular. For a Jewish state, these texts are the Bible, the Talmud and the medieval commentators and Jewish philosophers. One need not agree with these texts, any more than one must agree with Shakespeare. Indeed, classical Jewish commentators frequently disagree with each other. But to be an educated Jew, or an educated resident of the Jewish state, familiarity with them is essential.

For too long, secular Israelis have dismissed these classical texts as outdated and irrelevant. But today - as Shuki Yaniv, principal of a Beersheba high school that recently introduced a course on Jewish liturgical poetry as an elective, explained in a newspaper interview two weeks ago - "there is much greater awareness [among the secular]... that engaging with Judaism is not only for the religious, and that it also appropriate for our students to study Judaism."

Indeed, Judaism is the cultural heritage of every Jew, religious and secular alike. And today, more and more secular Israelis are seeking to reclaim this heritage. It is easy to underestimate the significance of this trend, because its impact on Israeli society will be felt only years down the road. Yet few developments could do more to ensure that we will still be celebrating the Jewish state's birthday in another 60 years.

## Graphic

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Photo: THE SECULAR TALi school system, which boasts enhanced Jewish studies, has grown 30 percent in the past three years. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolinski)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011