

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 3:54:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223444318

Documents (100)

1. Gaza Strip clashes leave 23 injured 5 confrontations between militants and police occur

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

2. Fighting and death toll escalate in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

3. Putting Iraqi pictures into context

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

4. <u>Israelis reject captors' deadline for a swap Palestinian extremists vowed "consequences" if demands were not</u> met. Israel said it would not give in to "extortion."

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

5. 8 civilians in Gaza die in Israeli airstrike Car carrying rockets was destroyed

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

6. World

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

7. As Parents Go Unpaid, Gaza Children Go Hungry

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

8. Middle East crisis: Boiling point: Escalating conflict

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

9. Focus: The Big Brother fall-out will end Galloway's purrs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

10. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

11. International Briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

12. My cousin's kidnappers are not 'militants' ...they're terrorists, just like the 7/7 bombers

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

13. World Digest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

14. Opinion - 'Zeal' should be for shared future;

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

15. Babies die as artillery barrage hits families on picnic beach

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

16. Gilad's curse leaves a bitter aftertaste

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

17. <u>Israeli troops open new Gaza front: Incursion broadened; At least 2 people injured by missiles in new</u> attempt to force soldier's release

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

18. Letters - Let Israel start honouring international law;

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

19. Kidnapped soldier stable: Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

20. Israel Vows to Fight Until Soldier's Release, and Palestinians Mourn Their Dead

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006



21. Reply Letters and emails: Lebanon ceasefire is just the start

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

22. Israel steps up offensive At least 21 Palestinians and 1 Israeli soldier are killed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

23. Jewish Canadians, Loyal Liberals, Lose Insider Status Community

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

24. Abbas decries 'crime against humanity'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

25. *DIGEST*

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

26. <u>As democracy advances, Islamic parties gain ground President Bush's call for free elections in the Mideast</u> has produced surprises.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

27. IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

28. Reply: Letters and emails: Rocket attacks and responsibility

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

29. A Haifa Life

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

30. Public cash under threat

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

31. Israel widens bombing campaign as Lebanese militia groups retaliate



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

32. No Time To Skimp on Men and Materials

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

33. One man's ideas on dealing with Muslim world

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

34. No room for restraint

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

35. No Time To Skimp on Men and Materials

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

36. <u>Israeli prime minister rejects any talks over captured soldier Olmert vows 'broad and ongoing' military action</u> in Gaza, but offensive looks unlikely.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

37. Tip leads to capture of sex offender

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

38._*World*

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

39. 'It's a great day for us . . . we hope for big changes'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

40. Gaza on brink of humanitarian disaster as aid agencies pressure Israel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

41. LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

42. Israel hunts for abducted soldier after dawn raid by Militants

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

43. In Focus

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

44. 'Pro- Israel ' Blair not welcome in Beirut, Shia cleric warns

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

45. Children die in Israeli raid

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

46. The Nuclear Threat Of Iran Addressed At Holocaust Event

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

47. The prisoners that Hezbollah is fighting for

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

News

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

48. In Focus

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

49. 'We must remain strong'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

50. Family discounts, day passes eyed as cheaper options to passport

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

51. A brutal siege the world must ignore no longer LEADING ARTICLE GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006



52. Leading Article: A brutal siege the world must ignore no longer GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

53. 'Pro- Israel ' Blair not welcome in Beirut, Shia cleric warns

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

54. 'Deliberate' Neglect Laid to Bush In Policy on Katrina's Aftermath

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

55. Israel hunts for abducted soldier after dawn raid by militants

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

56. Palestinian families pay high price as Israel warns of 'a long war'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

57. Brief

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

58. Israel hunts for abducted soldier after dawn raid by Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

59. Israel reoccupies Gaza settlements

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

60. Trapped in Gaza's bloodiest day

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

61. *DIGEST*

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

62. Israeli envoy rebukes Canada's Arbour

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

63. For better or worse, it's natural selection both behind the camera and in front

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

64. Israeli envoy rebukes UN official

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

65. Israeli ambassador slams UN rights chief for 'equating' its military with terrorists: Former Canadian judge calls for end to killings by Israelis, Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

66. CAIR Settles A Libel Suit Against Critic

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

67. LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

68. Israel widens bombing campaign as Lebanese militia groups retaliate MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

69. Israel offers prisoners if kidnapped soldier is freed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

70. Israel 'will not hold back' in military move to free soldier World at a glance

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

71. Sounding off on all sides

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

72. West can't relate as tribes fight in the name of God Letters to the

Editor>letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

73. Terrorist's death cheered, mourned: Baghdad streets filled with celebratory gunfire

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

74. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

75. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

76. <u>Strip-searched. Interrogated. Threatened. Just another week on the wild West Bank Lauren Booth wanted to discover whether last week's historic Palestinian elections will really change anything on the West Bank.</u>

After humiliation, sinister phone calls and a rare insight into the day-today drudgery of life under occupation, this is her compelling and highly personal report

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

77. WHAT IS HEZBOLLAH?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

78. Chile elects its first female president; opponent concedes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

79. Morocco sees the rise of 'acceptable' Islamist party Unlike Hamas or the Muslim Brotherhood, the US views the PJD as an organisation it can engage with, writes Roula Khalaf

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

80. Israeli shells kill seven on beach picnic

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

81. Mexico to legalize small drug amounts

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

82. Rider in the storm

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

83. JI Convention on March 24

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

84. World has 'enough' oil Al-Faisal blames geopolitical instability, not resources, for driving prices higher; sees hope for Iraq while warning against the use of force over Iran 's nuclear ambitions

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

85. A moral and strategic mistake

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

86. Israeli missiles pound Gaza into new Dark Age in collective punishment

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

87. The unintended consequences of exporting democracy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

88. Hizbullah pressure on Israel to exchange prisoners

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

89. Another type of deterrence

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

90. Armed Men, Lacking Jobs, Fuel Gaza's 'Violent Energy'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

91. International Briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

92. Freeing Prisoners Key Goal in Fight Against Israel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

93. InShort

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

94. Olmert promises 'broad' offensive Israeli leader rules out bargaining with those who kidnap Israeli soldier

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

95. Realities, absurdities of Israel - U.S. policies

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

96. ISRAEL MISSILES KILL 10 IN GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

97. <u>DIGEST</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

98. Israelis kill Islamic Jihad leader in West Bank: Hani Awijan's group blamed for attacks that have killed 71

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

99._Captured Israeli 'in Egypt for swap'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006

100. No more of behind-closed-doors dealings with Hicks Letters to the

Editor>letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2006



Gaza Strip clashes leave 23 injured; 5 confrontations between militants and police occur

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

March 21, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: NATIONAL/WORLD; Pg. a5

Length: 400 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

A short burst of gunfire from outside smashed through the windows of the Palestinian foreign ministry building. Then another burst, and another. Employees jumped to the floor. Some crawled under desks. **Women** screamed in terror.

Thirty Fatah gunmen, most of them wearing masks, broke into the government compound in Gaza City on Monday, fired their rifles in the air and demanded jobs.

Minutes later, scores of police charged into the compound to root out the invaders, setting off a 25-minute gunbattle that sent workers diving under their desks, shattered windows and air conditioners. Stray bullets wounded two unarmed security guards.

The battle, witnessed by an Associated Press reporter, was one of five confrontations between militants and police on Monday that left 23 people injured. The clashes highlighted the Gaza Strip's raging chaos, which will present a daunting challenge to the incoming *Hamas* government.

Before the Jan. 25 parliamentary elections, the Fatah Party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas promised security jobs to a host of militants linked to the organization.

Since Fatah's electoral defeat, the militants have repeatedly raided government buildings demanding those jobs. Other Fatah activists who already have government positions - including nearly 60,000 members of the security forces - fear they will be fired when *Hamas* forms its Cabinet in the coming weeks.

<u>Hamas</u> has said it hopes to trim the bloated Palestinian bureaucracy - especially the security forces - and might be forced to lay off tens of thousands of workers if the international community follows through with its threats to cut off aid to the government once the militant group assumes power.

Incoming Finance Minister Omar Abdel Razek said reforming the security forces will be difficult but necessary. "They have to be targeted. Most of the corruption is within the security forces," he said.

Early Monday, militants blocking a road leading to the main Israel-Gaza crossing point - because Abbas was going to use the road to travel from Gaza to the West Bank through Israel - got into a gunfight with police who tried to remove them.

Gaza Strip clashes leave 23 injured 5 confrontations between militants and police occur

Two dozen gunmen also briefly infiltrated Gaza's power plant, exchanging fire with police, officials said. Gunmen also briefly entered a military hospital near the central Gaza city of Khan Younis, and militants and police engaged in a gunbattle outside a police compound.

Load-Date: March 21, 2006

End of Document



Fighting and death toll escalate in Gaza

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 7, 2006 Friday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 976 words

Byline: By Sarah el Deeb THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: BEIT LAHIYA, GAZA STRIP

Body

Palestinian militants with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades battled Israeli helicopters and tanks Thursday in the bloodiest day since Israel invaded Gaza over a soldier's capture.

The fighting killed at least 21 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier.

Israeli soldiers retook three empty Jewish settlements nearly a year after abandoning them. The soldiers were seeking to carve out a temporary buffer zone in the northern Gaza Strip to prevent militants from firing more rockets into Israel.

After touring Gaza's main hospital, Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> called for international intervention to stop the Israeli offensive. Haniyeh called the push "a crime against humanity" and "a desperate effort to undermine the Palestinian government under the pretext of a search for the missing soldier."

Throughout the day, Israeli aircraft fired missiles at militants, while Israeli tanks took up positions among tightly packed Palestinian homes. Apache helicopters hovered overhead, firing flares and machine guns.

Interior Minister Said Siyyam issued the <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian administration's first call to arms since Israel invaded last week. He urged Gaza security forces to fulfill their "religious and moral duty to stand up to this aggression and cowardly Zionist invasion."

But Siyyam carries little weight with Palestinian security forces. Most members are loyal to the rival Fatah party, led by the moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas.

Earlier this week, <u>Hamas</u> militants fired two rockets into the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon. Although nobody was hurt, the rockets were the first to reach a major Israeli population center, indicating that militants had obtained longer-range weapons.

In response, Israeli soldiers moved into the densely populated towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, where militants often launch rockets. The army said all attacks were aimed at militants.

Fighting and death toll escalate in Gaza

"We are doing the utmost" to avoid civilian casualties, said another military official, Brig. Gen. Ido Nehushtan. "Really, there is no other way of operating against terrorists who are operating inside their own civilian populations."

Israel began its ground invasion June 28. That was three days after militants linked to <u>Hamas</u> captured Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, in a cross-border raid. Israeli officials said they would do whatever was necessary to get the soldier back.

On Thursday, the fighting swelled -- and so did the death toll.

In Beit Lahiya, Israeli infantrymen took over one family's house, locking the inhabitants on the bottom floor of the home and posting snipers on the upper floors. Outside, armored bulldozers pushed up sand embankments to shelter tanks.

Palestinian militants crept down narrow alleys to get close to Israeli forces and open fire.

Militants were seen carrying bombs with electric cables to be buried in alleys or near roads and set off as tanks passed by.

During lulls in the fighting, some Palestinian women and children fled from their homes and left the area on foot.

Among the 21 Palestinians reported killed during the day were nine who died from airstrikes in the Beit Lahiya area.

A spokesman for the Palestinian Health Ministry, Khaled Radi, said he didn't know how many civilians were among the dead. He said 67 people had been wounded, 20 of them children.

Hamas said six of the dead were its members.

An Israeli soldier died in one skirmish -- the first Israeli casualty of the offensive, which has seen a total of 28 Palestinian deaths.

Israel Radio and Army Radio said the army was checking the possibility that the Israeli soldier had been killed by errant Israeli gunfire. The army spokesman's office denied that, saying the soldier had been killed by a Palestinian gunman.

Lt. Col. Yaniv, a battalion commander, reported stiff resistance. "The Palestinians have been firing rocket-propelled grenades, automatic weapons, and setting off explosive devices," said Yaniv, who gave only his first name under military regulations.

Palestinian militants launched eight homemade rockets at southern Israel on Thursday. Five were fired in a one-hour period, and one landed off the coast of Ashkelon. No damage or injuries were reported.

A buffer zone could be the only way to keep Israeli population centers out of rocket range. But such a zone brings back bitter memories of the security zone Israel carved out in southern Lebanon for 18 years in an attempt to prevent Hezbollah guerrillas from firing rockets at Israel.

Hezbollah still fired rockets, and southern Lebanon became a deadly battlefield. Pressure from concerned parents and Israelis opposed to the occupation forced Israel to withdraw in May 2000.

On Thursday, acting on behalf of Arab nations, Qatar circulated a draft resolution to put before the U.N. Security Council. It demands that Israel end its offensive and release Palestinian officials detained in the operation.

The draft drew opposition from the United States and France, which called it unbalanced in its criticism of Israel. France's ambassador said he would offer changes. But U.S. Ambassador John Bolton suggested that the United States opposed the resolution entirely -- raising the possibility that the United States would exercise its veto on the council to block the resolution.

Fighting and death toll escalate in Gaza

In Rome, Italy's foreign minister called the scale of Israel's offensive out of proportion, Italian news agencies reported.

"It's unthinkable that to save one hostage we would embark in an operation that would cause the deaths of dozens of people," the reports quoted Massimo D'Alema as saying.

Shalit's captors have demanded that Israel release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for information about the soldier. Israel has publicly refused to negotiate but could be indirectly communicating with <u>Hamas</u> through mediators from Egypt and Turkey.

Graphic

PHOTO

Palestinians carry a man in Abasan, a village in the southern Gaza Strip, after an Israeli strike Thursday. Overall, fighting killed at least 21 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier Thursday. The Associated Press Photo

Load-Date: July 8, 2006

End of Document



Yorkshire Post February 15, 2006

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Length: 2241 words

Body

From: Peter Lee, Thornthwaite, Harrogate.

THE beating up of Iraqi stone throwers by British soldiers needs putting into context.

In the video footage shown by the BBC, the soldiers are seen clearly roughing up the prisoners.

Having been stoned and petrol bombed and under threat

from snipers, they had charged the rioting squad to make arrests and disperse the

crowd - classic British Army tactics.

The soldiers arrive back into the compound with four suspects. Still burning from the heat of the moment, they proceed to soften up the detainees and make them lie down, where they will then become less of a threat. Yorkshire Post

The hard aggression lasts for no more than 30 seconds.

In the comfort of your sitting room, it looks out of order and aggressive. Well, it is aggressive. War is aggressive.

Yes, you see a kick in the groin and a head butt, but this isn't Boy Scouts or your local **Women**'s Institute. This is soldiering on the front line.

No shots were fired - no beheadings - no parading them in front of televisions.

Those Iraqis were playing big boys' games: they should expect big boys' rules.

From: E Gardener, Warlbeck, Ilkley.

LIKE everybody else, I was appalled to read of the treatment handed out to those Iraqis by a handful of British soldiers, assuming that this time the allegations are correct.

However, are we not getting things out of proportion?

Without excusing those soldiers in any way, all the Iraqis got was a good hiding, leaving them with cuts and bruises which were gone in a few days.

A couple of years ago, a British NCO was killed when

he was required to give up his body armour to another soldier, and it was left to his grieving widow to try to rouse the conscience of the British

public, and much good did it

do her.

From: John Ainley, Station Road, Cranswick, Driffield.

WHAT possible purpose can be served in publishing two-year-old pictures of some young

men in the British Army

using violence against Iraqi youths?

No right thinking person condones such violence, whether in Basra, or on the streets of London, Birmingham or Leeds. But it happens.

These pictures were apparently taken in circumstances where youths were attacking soldiers. Yes, it was wrong to retaliate in the way depicted, but all publication of these pictures has done is to is give leverage to those elements in Iraq, and elsewhere, who wish to stir up hatred against the British.

From: Ken Fraser, Dacre Banks, Harrogate.

THE newspaper report showing British troops in Iraq beating the daylights out of youths

in that ravaged country

does our armed forces no favours.

No doubt the media should enjoy the freedom to publish true, though worrying information. However, in matters so sensitive as this, more discretion would be expected.

Dentists being driven into private sector

From: Richard Graye BDS, Wakefield Road, Huddersfield.

I HAVE greatly admired John Renshaw (Yorkshire Post, February 13) for a number of years for his insightful and always accurate views on the workings behind the scenes of those controlling the spending on NHS dental services.

Having attended quite a few meetings with my colleagues over the last few months in the countdown to the huge turmoil about to be brought down on my profession and the public, I

feel that what John says is the truth.

There is a conspiracy at the highest levels within the Department of Health to drive all conscientious and caring dentists who want to strive to provide quality care in a pleasant environment out into the private sector.

Those of my colleagues left behind will preside over a cheap and cheerful partial service where access is all and clinical outcomes and comprehensive patient care count for nought.

Those that withdraw from providing NHS care will be vilified by the powers-that-be

for making a decision that in most cases is in the best interests of the patients they serve.

Meanwhile, we will continue to poach dentists from the third world and Eastern Europe who, I am sure, will be committed to the NHS for about five minutes before either returning home or moving to the private sector when they realise the grass is not greener over here.

It really is something when

the chief dental officer for England thinks that the best reason for dentists to stay within the NHS is the pension at the end of it.

He, too, is deluded because for my younger colleagues it looks like those benefits are being eroded and are unlikely to remain in their present state for very much longer.

From Brian Sheridan, Redmires Road, Sheffield.

I HAVE just read dentist John Renshaw's egocentric rant about why he has decided to leave the NHS (Yorkshire Post, February 13).

Wading through what looks like a copy of his CV, I am unable to sympathise with him. Despite chairing this and that committee, sitting in on an "interminable number of meetings" as well as advising other practitioners, he has managed to earn a living from his own practice.

He complains that none of the monies accrued from the proposed increased NHS charges will be passed on to the dentists. Well, he would, wouldn't he?

I would put it to him that dentists will no longer be tempted to look for work in patients' mouths in the same way that a dodgy garage might carry out unnecessary repairs to his car.

The NHS has been exploited by dentists and patients alike. Asked by a receptionist if a dental problem is urgent, some patients will be economical with the truth.

Mr Renshaw uses alarmist tactics by warning that only if we can prove we are "at death's door" will we be able to obtain emergency care out of hours. I'll take my chances with that; very few dental problems are really life-threatening.

I have no doubt that Mr Renshaw maintains the highest ethical standards, but he knows that there are dentists out there who see their patients too often and that unnecessary dental work can be as harmful as neglect.

Of course it is difficult not to take a cynical view of anything this Government does, but surely any reform which discourages over-use of the NHS can't be all bad.

Simple answer

From: Jim Beck,

Lindrick Grove, Tickhill, Doncaster.

THE Government repeatedly states, quite rightly, that the future prosperity of this country depends upon the performance of the most talented of our young people.

It refuses, however, to recognise that this means identifying them, grouping them with their fellows,

and nurturing them. This

is what the grammar schools used to do, with conspicuous success.

Instead of branding those who were not selected at 11-plus as failures, which used to be the case and which is manifest nonsense (vide John Prescott), the Government should ensure that they, too, receive what they deserve:

the best possible education to fit their particular talents, rather than being dumped in the latter-day equivalents of secondary modern schools.

This solution is, however, far too simple for Tony Blair and Ruth Kelly to be able to understand.

If selection is such a dirty word, how would Mr Blair justify being "selected" as Prime Minister?

Badger cull

From: Hazel Park, secretary, Kirklees Badger Protection Group, School Lane, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield.

BOVINE TB (bTB) spread rapidly after the foot-and-mouth outbreak, but there is no scientific research to indicate that killing badgers will reduce the incidence of it. The only scientific evidence available suggests the reverse: that killing badgers causes disturbance

of their social groups and thereby spreads infection to neighbouring farms.

The chairman of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB has warned that "culling could do more harm than good".

Culling badgers will not be cost-effective. It is unlikely that people will tolerate the eradication of badgers over three counties in the South-West or that they accept a method of killing described as "restraint" or "trapping".

Defra uses these words to describe the cruelty of snaring a strong animal such as a badger with a wire noose.

Sacrifice of Sir Freddie's comrades

From: Gerald Myers, Moorway, Tranmere Park, Guiseley, Leeds.

WITH reference to the obituary of Sir Freddie Laker (Yorkshire Post, February 11), I should like to point out that he did not serve during the Second World War with "the RAF Transport Auxiliary" (no such body existed), but as a flight-engineer with the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA): a civilian organisation set up under the aegis of British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC), with headquarters at White Waltham, near Reading, Berkshire.

Ultimately, through the nationwide establishment of 16 ferry pilots' pools, its 1,515 aircrew, which included <u>women</u> among its ranks, and 2,786 ground personnel were responsible for the collection and delivery of more than 300,000 aircraft of all types. These ranged from the smallest single-engined to the largest four-engined bombers and flying-boats: a vital, though largely unsung, contribution to Britain's war effort.

This remarkable record was not, however, accomplished without cost, 137 male and 16 <u>female</u> members of staff losing their lives in the fulfilment of their duties - Yorkshire's Amy Johnson being one of them.

World waits to see if *Hamas* can renounce its terrorist past

From: N Solden, Leeds.

THE first Palestinian Authority election in 10 years has resulted in the election of the terror group <u>Hamas</u>. History will decide how much it was a positive vote for <u>Hamas</u> or a negative vote against the endemic corruption of Fatah, the previous leadership.

The <u>Hamas</u> founding charter seeks the destruction of Israel and others they consider to be Zionist conspirators, such as

the Rotarians, the Lions and

the Freemasons.

The internationally-backed road map to peace is rejected

as a crime against Islam as

it involves negotiation with Israel.

Even the <u>Hamas</u> concept of a truce is based on its particular interpretation of the Koran. Truces are only regarded as temporary measures, allowing the regrouping of forces, before going on to victory. Such thinking means that any agreements with <u>Hamas</u> must be strictly based on actions and not words.

In practice, in the last five years, <u>Hamas</u> and its allies have killed and injured more than 7,000 Israelis in suicide bombings and other terror attacks.

Despite the *Hamas* victory, Western countries consider themselves perfectly entitled

to not to deal with those

whose aim is to destroy another state.

While the European Union, the principal financier of the Palestinians, may have countenanced corruption in the past, it has said it will not bankroll a terrorist organisation.

There is always the possibility that power will moderate <u>Hamas</u>. If it will renounce its charter of destruction, forswear terror and act to prevent terror, then Israel's expressed support for the road map could lead to a Palestinian state in a very short space of time.

Another test for <u>Hamas</u> is ending the incitement against Jews in the media and in schools, which is so prevalent in the Arab world.

Grotesque television dramas such as Al Shatat portray Jews killing young children and drinking their blood.

<u>Hamas</u> has mooted imposing sharia law in the Palestinian Authority. This would mean Arab Christians paying a special tax for protection without enjoying equal rights with Arab Muslims. Christians have already been leaving areas under Palestinian control for some time.

There are now fears that the process will accelerate.

The world is waiting to see if <u>Hamas</u> can renounce its past and put the needs of its people before its long-held aim to destroy Israel.

Only a changed approach can put the road map to peace back on track.

Points

Hard work paying fare

From: Alan Greenwood, Scholes, Cleckheaton.

BARELY mentioned in the front-page story (Yorkshire Post, February 10) about the person who ran into problems with travel from Headingley to Leeds by train was the difficulty a passenger - sorry customer - has in actually paying the fare.

Not only can you not buy a ticket, there is no-one on the train to take your money. You then have to stand in line (usually for longer than the journey takes) to pay to the one cashier on duty.

Only then can you continue your journey.

Surely this makes no sense or am I missing something?

From: Graham Reid,

Thorn Drive, Gipton,

Leeds.

I SEE that the solicitor for Northern Rail is complaining that fare cheats take over £2m by stating they get on at different unmanned stations.

Surely this could be corrected by employing someone at every station to sell tickets, as was the case in the old days. There are a lot of unemployed out there who would do the job for a house and enough cash to pay for food and taxes.

Extra layers save on gas bill

From: C Thornton, Acre Street, Lindley, Huddersfield.

IT is reported that British Gas may be putting up their prices yet again.

Yes, I am concerned, but my last quarterly gas bill was £4.50.

"How does he do it?"

Easy peasy, I just wear extra socks and jumpers in cold weather, thus saving both money and gas.

If more people did this, think what a saving it would be nationally.

I do the same with my electric supply as well. One £5 token lasts me over a month.

Memento of

a murderer

From: Michael A Horrox, Troutsdale, Snainton, Scarborough.

I WAS interested to read your report on the forthcoming auction of a second memento of the 19th century murderer, Charles Peace ("Ghoulish Peace of history to face long drop of the hammer", Yorkshire Post, February 6)

As a child I recall being told that my grandfather, Albert Horrox, had auctioned the murderer's violin - presumably in his Albion Street saleroom.

Straw's secret

From: Michael Noon, Crag Lane, Bradley, Skipton.

Load-Date: February 16, 2006

End of Document



<u>Israelis reject captors' deadline for a swap; Palestinian extremists vowed</u> <u>"consequences" if demands were not met. Israel said it would not give in to</u> <u>"extortion."</u>

The Philadelphia Inquirer
July 4, 2006 Tuesday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 793 words

Byline: Ken Ellingwood, Los Angeles Times

Body

Palestinian extremists who abducted an Israeli soldier set a deadline of this morning for Israel to meet their demands for a prisoner exchange or face "future consequences."

The statement yesterday by three groups, including <u>Hamas</u>, did not specify what those consequences would be if Israel did not agree to what was demanded by 6 a.m. (11 p.m. Philadelphia time). But the wording was interpreted as a possible threat to the safety of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, who was captured and taken to the Gaza Strip during a raid inside Israel on June 25.

Israel rejected the ultimatum. The deadline passed with no word from either side.

"Israel will not give in to extortion by the Palestinian Authority and the <u>Hamas</u> government, which are led by murderous terrorist organizations," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said. "We will not conduct any negotiations on the release of prisoners. The Palestinian Authority bears full responsibility for the welfare of Gilad Shalit and for returning him home safe and sound to Israel."

The verbal exchange marked the latest step in an escalating game of brinkmanship.

Amid Israeli threats of a broader offensive, troops and tanks entered the northern Gaza Strip near the village of Beit Hanoun in what the army described as a limited operation to find tunnels and land mines.

On the Palestinian side, lawmakers endorsed a call for Israel to release Palestinian prisoners, including 26 *Hamas* lawmakers and several cabinet members rounded up last week, in return for Shalit.

The groups believed to be holding Shalit first demanded that Israel free <u>women</u> and minors, who account for several hundred of the 8,500 Palestinians in Israeli jails. They later amended their demand, calling on Israel to release 1,000 prisoners in exchange for Shalit.

Israelis reject captors' deadline for a swap Palestinian extremists vowed "consequences" if demands were not met. Israel said it would not give in to "extortion....

Israeli leaders have insisted they will not negotiate Shalit's release as part of a swap for jailed Palestinians. But cracks in that position were beginning to appear. Israeli newspapers reported that army officials had indicated they were open to a swap that did not involve jailed Palestinians implicated in violence against Israel. Some army officials reportedly have concluded that talks are inevitable.

"The [army] is convinced that at a certain stage 'somebody will have to talk to somebody,' " journalist Ben Caspit wrote in the Maariv newspaper. "Moreover, the security establishment does not entirely rule out release of prisoners in return for the release of the soldier, in the framework of a broader and more comprehensive agreement."

The army is highly regarded in Israel, and its endorsement of a swap could make it easier for political leaders to sell the idea later.

But Israeli officials and analysts said the military incursion, which began last week when soldiers and tanks moved into the southern Gaza Strip, could stretch on for weeks, with pressure being gradually ratcheted up. The offensive has consisted mostly of air strikes on Palestinian installations, including bridges, roads, a power plant, and the offices of Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, a *Hamas* member.

Yesterday, the army operated with tanks and bulldozers on the outskirts of Beit Hanoun, but military officials said the activity was of limited scope and not a full-scale offensive. An Israeli missile strike against extremists armed with an antitank missile killed one of the men.

Ghazi Hamad, a spokesman for the *Hamas*-led Palestinian government, said the release of Palestinian prisoners was as important as the return of Shalit.

"The whole world is calling here and asking for the soldier to be released," he told Israel Radio, "but no one is speaking about the thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israel."

'The Quiet One, Always Smiling'

Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit, the soldier abducted by Palestinian extremists June 25, comes from a family that lives in Mitzpe Hila, a village in western Galilee near the Lebanese border.

Shalit, 19,grew up playing basketball and soccer in the neighborhood. In high school, he was known as a whiz in physics and math who would tutor his friends before tests.

A dedicatedbasketball fan, he would wake up in the middle

of the night to watch NBA games broadcast live from the United States.

"He's the quiet one, always smiling," said Matan Zrihen, 16, who grew up next door. "He was never one of those kids who were loud or made trouble. He's very gentle."

Roey Amitai, a soldier in Shalit's unit who was wounded in the raid in

which the corporal was captured, spoke last week from the hospital about his close friend.

"Gilad and I served together for the past year almost, since basic training," he told the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth. "He is a quiet type. He's modest. A smile never leaves his face. I am sending all the hope there

is in the world to his parents."

- N.Y. Times News Service

Load-Date: July 4, 2006

Israelis reject captors' deadline for a swap Palestinian extremists vowed "consequences" if demands were not met. Israel said it would not give in to "extortion....

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8 civilians in Gaza die in Israeli airstrike; Car carrying rockets was destroyed

The International Herald Tribune
June 14, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 782 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Eight civilians died on Tuesday and more than 40 were wounded in an Israeli missile strike against a car carrying sophisticated rockets belonging to Islamic Jihad.

One missile struck the car and killed two members of Islamic Jihad and apparently wounded a third. But a second missile hit the curb just in front of a house whose occupants had emerged to see what had happened, and the Mughrabi family and their neighbors were devastated.

Two children and three medical workers died in the second explosion, after the first devastated the yellow Volkswagen van of a noted Islamic Jihad rocket maker, Hamoud Wadiya, who was killed. Israel said that Wadiya was transporting Katyusha rockets to launch at Israel, and rockets could be seen in the wreckage of the van.

The Katyushas are a factory-manufactured weapon of longer range and much higher accuracy than the crude Qassam rockets that Palestinian militants build in machine shops with explosives mixed in cooking pots. The Katyushas, Israel says, have been smuggled into the Gaza Strip from Egypt and represent a significant danger to Israeli cities like Ashkelon.

A weeping Hekmat Mughrabi said that her 30-year-old son, Ashraf, died in her arms. Ashraf ran to the door after the first explosion, trying to calm children playing on the roof. "He was shouting to the kids, 'Don't be afraid, don't be afraid," and had not even finished his sentence when the second missile hit, she told The Associated Press.

An angry Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, called the Israeli missile attack "state terrorism" and accused Israel of trying to "wipe out the Palestinian people."

Abbas, whose aides contend his support for negotiations is being undermined by the civilian death toll, said: "Everyday there are martyrs, there are wounded people, all of them innocents, all of them bystanders," he said. "They want to eliminate the Palestinian people, but we are going to sit tight. We are sitting tight on our land. We want to establish our state and live in peace. What Israel is committing is state terrorism."

The deaths are bound to make it harder for Abbas and the United States to persuade <u>Hamas</u> to recognize the right of Israel to exist, to forswear violence and to accept previous Palestinian-Israeli agreements, which are based on a permanent two-state solution.

8 civilians in Gaza die in Israeli airstrike Car carrying rockets was destroyed

Abbas will also find it more difficult to get <u>Hamas</u> to accept a referendum proposal that would at least implicitly recognize Israel.

The carnage on Tuesday followed the deaths last Friday of eight Palestinian civilians, seven of them from the same family, on a beach in northern Gaza.

Israel insisted Tuesday that that explosion could not have been from any of the six shells it fired toward a target 400 yards, or a third of a kilometer, away, but Palestinians said that Israel was to blame. At the time, Abbas accused Israel of targeting the civilians on the beach.

There was pandemonium on Tuesday at Al Shifa Hospital, where the dead and wounded were brought.

Gunmen surged through the courtyard, firing weapons into the air, and banging on the door of the morgue to retrieve the bodies of their colleagues or family members. They grabbed stretchers and paraded the corpses in impromptu marches around the hospital yards and into the streets, bearing the black banners of Islamic Jihad and the yellow ones of Fatah and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, to which Ashraf Mughrabi belonged.

In a gruesome scene, one Islamic Jihad militant smeared the blood of his dead colleague onto his rifle and lifted it high into the air.

Amid the acrid smoke of burning tires, women shouted, "Death to Israel, death to the occupation."

The Palestinian prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh of <u>Hamas</u>, called for an international inquiry "to investigate the brutal crimes and the bloody Israeli massacres of our people."

After the Friday explosion, <u>Hamas</u> said that it had abandoned its 16-month truce with Israel, although Israeli officials contended that <u>Hamas</u> had started firing its own Qassams toward Israel a week before.

Khader Abib, a spokesman for Islamic Jihad, vowed revenge on Israel. "When we talk of war we mean it," he said. "We have the right to respond inside 1967 borders or '49 or wherever we want," he said. "It is one geographic space."

Defense Minister Amir Peretz of Israel said Tuesday that Israel would no longer exhibit restraint toward Palestinians involved in attacks against Israel.

"We will act with all our might and use all our means against any group that acts against us," said Peretz, whose hometown, Sederot, which practically borders Gaza, comes under frequent rocket attack.

The Israeli military said more than 100 rockets had been fired at Israel since Friday.

Load-Date: June 15, 2006

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World

The Toronto Star May 13, 2006 Saturday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A11

Length: 615 words

Body

West Bank

Hamas supporters donate jewels, paycheques to cash-strapped government

Thousands of <u>Hamas</u> followers gathered yesterday in Nablus to donate money and jewellery to their cash-strapped government.

A group of gunmen from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, affiliated with the Fatah Party, fired rifles in the air before donating \$22 (U.S). The contributions were touted over megaphones, and some people said they were donating their entire paycheques.

A telethon, with <u>Hamas</u> officials fielding calls, received pledges from as far as Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Officials did not say how much they raised.

The <u>Hamas</u>-led government has been under increasing economic pressure since taking office in March, with Israel halting \$55 million in monthly tax transfers to the Palestinians, and the United States and European Union freezing hundreds of millions of dollars in aid. Without the money, the Palestinian Authority has been unable to pay its 165,000 workers for the past two months and is having trouble buying medicines and other vital supplies.

Russia

Senior bureaucrats sacked in fight against corruption

Authorities fired a string of high-ranking security and law enforcement officials in a shake-up described yesterday as part of a Kremlin push to fight graft and cement control of key government agencies.

The firing of senior officials in the Federal Customs Service, Federal Security Service, Interior Ministry and the Prosecutor General's Office - among the most powerful agencies in Russia - was reported by local media yesterday, two days after President Vladimir Putin called for a stronger anti-corruption effort in his state of the nation speech.

South Korea

Disgraced cloning scientist indicted, faces life in prison

World

Prosecutors indicted disgraced cloning scientist Hwang Woo-suk yesterday on charges of fraud, embezzlement and bioethics violations in a scandal over faked stem cell research that shook the scientific community. Five members of Hwang's research team were indicted on lesser charges, prosecution official Lee In-kyu said.

Hwang, 52, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted. The first hearing is expected in mid-June, said prosecutor Hong Man-pyo.

Senegal

Aid slow as 300,000 children face starvation

The United Nations has received just 15 per cent of the \$92 million (U.S.) it needs this year to help save some 300,000 children threatened with starvation in Africa's arid Sahel belt, a UN official said yesterday in Dakar.

The world body launched an appeal earlier this year to help feed more than 5 million people - many of them <u>women</u> and children - at risk of malnutrition in four countries bordering the Sahara desert: Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Mauritania.

Indonesia

Corruption charges against ailing Suharto dropped

The Indonesian government dropped corruption charges against ailing former strongman Suharto yesterday.

Suharto, 84, was ousted after 32 years amid student protests and nationwide riots in 1998. In 2000, prosecutors charged him with embezzling \$600 million (U.S.), but he never saw the inside of court after his lawyers argued that a series of strokes had left him with irreparable brain damage.

Volcano alert raised

to highest level

Indonesia raised the alert at the Merapi volcano today to the highest level, meaning an eruption may be imminent, an official said.

The warning means thousands of residents on the slopes of the mountain in Indonesia's densely populated Central Java province will immediately be evacuated, the official said. The 3,000-metre peak has been rumbling ominously in recent weeks and spewing clouds of black ash and lava. Many people living closest to the crater have already been evacuated.

From the Star's wire services

Load-Date: May 13, 2006



As Parents Go Unpaid, Gaza Children Go Hungry

The New York Times
September 14, 2006 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 2; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 1335 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER

Dateline: KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip, Sept. 12

Body

For the last week, Zidan Abu Reziq has been sleeping outside, next to his plantings on a small square of sand he expropriated.

The Abu Reziqs, like many of the large, destitute refugee families in this shrapneled, tumbledown slum, need to plant to eat. They took the land and planted it with vegetables, an investment of about \$50, most of the money that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency gave them to buy school uniforms for the children.

Zidan's wife, Tamam, admits her 51-year-old husband sleeps with his plants because he needs to protect their investment in the lawless chaos of Gaza, where his own small theft of land, 20 square yards that belongs to the government, is dwarfed by the huge expropriations by gangs and families and militia groups that have taken over much of the best land left behind when the Israelis pulled out their settlers a year ago.

It is difficult to exaggerate the economic collapse of Gaza, with the Palestinian Authority cut off from funds by Israel, the United States and the European Union after *Hamas* won the legislative elections on Jan. 25.

Since then, the authority has paid most of its 73,000 employees here, nearly 40 percent of Gaza's work force, only 1.5 months' salary, resulting in a severe economic depression and growing signs of malnutrition, especially among the poorest children.

Few here are using the United Nations grants for school. The Abu Reziqs are carefully investing the rest of their relief money. More than \$20 went straight to the local grocer, Tamam said, as a down payment on the credit extended to the family, which still owes more than \$200. About \$11 went to buy the ingredients, including two chickens, for the couscous dish that Tamam and her daughter, Fatma, 29, are making early this morning, kneading relief agency flour in big aluminum bowls, pouring in relief agency oil, rubbing the flour over a screen to get the right consistency.

The result will serve 15 people, Tamam said. "We want to feed the people who helped us with the land," she said, and some of their neighbors, even worse off than they.

As Parents Go Unpaid, Gaza Children Go Hungry

Gaza's situation has worsened since Palestinian gunmen, including those from <u>Hamas</u>, killed two Israeli soldiers and captured a third on June 25. Israel reinvaded Gaza, and has since killed more than 240 Palestinians, many of them in gun battles.

An Israeli airstrike on Gaza's only electrical power plant means that most Gazans now get only 7 to 12 hours a day of electricity, at unpredictable hours, with running water largely dependent on electric pumps.

Fishermen, now prevented from going more than a few hundred yards from shore by the Israeli Navy, are using hand-thrown nets from the beach to catch a few sprats and sardines.

Jan Egeland, the United Nations under secretary for humanitarian affairs, said that Gaza was "a ticking time bomb." The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development warned Tuesday that the economy could shrink next year to the level of 15 years ago, and unemployment could rise to over 50 percent. The World Bank expects gross domestic product to decline by 27 percent this year.

These pressures have forced <u>Hamas</u> to agree to a proposal by the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah, for a national unity government, led by the <u>Hamas</u> prime minister, Ismail Haniya, which could allow Israel and the West to resume transferring funds and aid.

The Abu Reziqs are hopeful, like many Palestinians, that a new government will be better, but they are reluctant to blame *Hamas*, which, Zidan said, "was never given a chance to succeed." Still, it is unclear whether the new government, when there is one, will be seen to meet Western demands that it recognize Israel, forswear violence and accept previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

<u>Hamas</u> promised security in its victorious election campaign. But it has failed at that, said Hamdi Shaqqura of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. "There is security chaos and no respect for law," he said, and a prime reason is the involvement of the police and security forces, many of them from Fatah, in the lawlessness, and the constant clashes with militia and gunmen affiliated with <u>Hamas</u>.

"People who are supposed to protect the law are the people who break it," he said, "and no one is brought to justice." For this chaos, he said, "I must blame the Palestinian Authority," not Israel.

Tamam, 49, recalls a near riot here when cooking gas was in short supply and there was a delivery of canisters. The police were called, she said. "They took canisters for themselves and then left," she said, shrugging.

Zidan used to work in the nearby Israeli settlement of Neve Dekalim. But after the outbreak of the second intifada in 2000, he was not allowed to enter the settlement. Now, Zidan is lucky to get three days a month of casual construction work.

His son Muhammad is a Palestinian Authority policeman who is supposed to make \$340 a month, but who has been paid only \$500 since Feb. 1. Now, Fatma says, "he spends little time at home, because he hasn't a shekel in his pocket, and he's ashamed."

The small welfare check Fatma, a divorced mother, used to get has stopped coming, and the <u>women</u>'s group for which she used to do embroidery has collapsed with the death of its leader.

Tamam's son Suleiman, 20, watches television, until the electricity suddenly dies. "I'd like to have any job," he said simply. "Any job at all."

The United Nations is now helping to feed 830,000 people in Gaza, an increase of 100,000 since March, but to receive the relief agency's aid they have to be classified as refugees, who make up 70 percent of Gaza's 1.4 million people. The increase is largely refugees who work for the government and did not need assistance before.

The World Food Program helps to feed the poorest of the nonrefugees and now has 220,000 beneficiaries, an increase of 25 percent since March, which includes 136,000 people considered to be the "chronic poor," who are not getting previous welfare benefits from the Authority.

As Parents Go Unpaid, Gaza Children Go Hungry

"We have a complete deterioration of the economic situation in Gaza," said Kirstie Campbell of the agency. "People can't afford the basic things." Seventy percent of Gazans now depend on the United Nations for food aid.

In northern Gaza, in Beit Lahiya, where Israeli troops fought Palestinian gunmen during July, Atemad Abu Leilah, 33, lives in a hovel with her 11 children and her handicapped husband. He used to get \$68 a month from the welfare ministry, but has received nothing for four months, she said.

She is a not a refugee, so is ineligible for refugee aid and like many here, gets by on casual work and the charity of neighbors.

She taps into wires in the street to take electricity illegally, and she has not bought her children school uniforms for the new school year. "I can't afford to buy them notebooks," she said.

She feeds her children greens, herbs, lentils and eggplant, and sometimes gets flour given by the World Food Program. "Forget about meat," she said. "The last time we had chicken was a month ago."

Her relative, Ghalia Abu Leilah, 60, came by with a pot of yogurt she bought for her husband, who is dying of cancer, with money from a neighbor, she said.

A year ago, when the Israelis left, "We were very happy," Atemad Abu Leilah said. "I voted for <u>Hamas</u>, for reform and change and improvement. But now I look at my kids and I regret my vote."

Nearby, stalls sell flour and sunflower oil given as aid by the refugee agency and the World Food Program, most of it earmarked as gifts of the European Union and the United States, and labeled "not for sale." Iyad Baaker, who works at one stall, said that people needed cash, so sold the aid.

In Khan Yunis, Fatma Abu Reziq seemed distracted and sad, and brushed away a question about her daughter, Aya, 9. Later, she explained.

A week ago, her former husband took Aya away. He said it was easier to feed Aya himself than find the cash for child support.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: Zidan Abu Reziq preparing dinner by candlelight and flashlight for his family in the Gaza Strip because of a lack of electricity, a recurrent problem. (Photo by Shawn Baldwin for The New York Times)(pg. A1)

Zidan Abu Reziq, with his grandchildren, walking amid the remains of a factory he helped build in the former Israeli settlement of Neve Dekalim. (Photo by Shawn Baldwin for The New York Times)(pg. A17)Map of the Gaza Strip highlighting Kan Yunis: Khan Yunis is home to large and destitute refugee families. (pg. A17)

Load-Date: September 14, 2006



Middle East crisis: Boiling point: Escalating conflict

The Guardian - Final Edition
July 13, 2006 Thursday

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Section: GUARDIAN HOME PAGES; Pg. 5

Length: 219 words

Body

June 25 Palestinian militants tunnel under Gaza border, attacking a border post and a tank. Two Israeli soldiers are killed and a third is taken hostage.

June 26 Israeli forces mobilised to strike Gaza's Palestinian settlements. Ehud Olmert, the Israeli PM rejects negotiations, insisting that the release of Corporal Gilad Shilat be unconditional.

June 28 Israeli tanks roll into Gaza. Bridges destroyed and Gaza's power station is knocked out by missiles.

June 29 Israel rounds up 64 <u>Hamas</u> officials in the West Bank, including one third of the Palestinian cabinet. Israel fires rocket into deserted office of Palestinian PM Ismail Haniyeh.

July 3 Palestinian militant groups holding Cpl Shalit demand release of all <u>women</u> and child prisoners and a further 1,000 inmates. Israeli forces move into northern Gaza.

July 6 17 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier killed as Israeli army consolidates its grip.

July 8 Mr Haniyeh calls for ceasefire, but Israel says militants must first free captured soldier and halt rocket attacks. Death toll rises to over 50.

July 9 UN warns of humanitarian crisis in wake of Israeli incursions into Gaza.

July 12 Israel launches air raid on house of a <u>Hamas</u> militant killing nine members of one family. Hizbullah militants capture two Israeli soldiers and kill seven others on Lebanese border.

Load-Date: July 13, 2006



Focus: The Big Brother fall-out will end Galloway's purrs

The Scotsman

January 16, 2006, Monday

1 Edition

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Section: Pg. 24

Length: 972 words

Byline: George Kerevan

Body

One might think that contemporary politics - dominated by spin and the triumph of personality over policy - had nothing much left to surprise us with. And then along came George Galloway MP on Celebrity Big Brother, licking imaginary cream from the hands of a C-list actress and purring contentedly as he did so. Was this post-modern irony or had George just taken leave of his senses?

In only five days, since entering the Big Brother house, the reputation of George Galloway as the scourge of capitalism and foremost opponent of the war in Iraq has evaporated in gales of laughter.

Erstwhile allies have been left spluttering. According to Socialist Worker, the newspaper of Galloway's major supporter inside Respect, his personal political movement: "We didn't know that George Galloway was going to go on the programme until 24 hours before it happened. We didn't agree with the idea, but by that stage the die was cast and the contract signed. But what matters is the stand George has taken against war and neo-liberalism."

Galloway's mistake has also allowed his enemies a rare chance to wrong-foot him. Labour immediately launched a campaign claiming that he was neglecting his constituents. Galloway won his Bethnal Green seat in London in May by only 823 votes, when he displaced the sitting Labour (and Jewish) member Oona King. Since then, his record at Westminster has been decidedly patchy. He has spoken in only four debates since the general election - 564th out of 645 MPs and attended only 15 per cent of the votes in parliament - 634th.

So why did he agree to go on Big Brother? "I'm doing it for the audience," was his justification. "The biggest audience I will ever have." Call that a political calculation or just plain ego. Wednesday night's first show had an audience of 7.2 million. By day three, 2.7 million of them had switched off. When Galloway appears on BBC Question Time, he regularly pulls in 2.4 million viewers.

Galloway's biggest surprise was to find that his fellow celebrities on Big Brother did not want to talk about the evils of capitalism, which is making them all very rich, thank you. His longtime Scottish confidant, Ron McKay goes further: "He wasn't prepared for the full horror, but this is a lot worse than anyone could have imagined. It's like watching a bastardisation of humanity. Surely, most people aren't like this? It can't go any lower, can it?"

At least this is an honest view. More predictably, John Rees, Respect's leading apparatchik and a senior member of the Socialist Workers Party, blamed Channel 4 for censoring Galloway. However, that does not quite explain why his leader wore a Dracula outfit. By deciding to tough it out, Galloway is looking more and more foolish, especially to his strictly religious Muslim constituents in Bethnal Green.

Focus: The Big Brother fall-out will end Galloway's purrs

But Mr Galloway thinks he has an ace to play. Before entering the Big Brother house he noted: "If I'm wrong at least many will eat in the Gaza Strip." This refers to the fact that Galloway intends to donate to a Palestinian charity his appearance fee plus his cut of the money raised when viewers text the programme to vote on who they want expelled from the Big Brother house. That could add up to GBP 150,000.

Yet this looks set to promote an even bigger row. Galloway has earmarked the money for an organisation called Interpal, one of the largest funders of Palestinian causes in the UK. According to Galloway: "They don't get many opportunities to raise really serious amounts of money. My appearance on Big Brother will give them the chance to move up the Premier League."

Interpal is a Muslim-run charity which funds hospitals, schools, and refugee aid in Gaza and the West Bank. But there is a catch. The Israelis and the United States government have accused Interpal of being a front organisation for <u>Hamas</u>, a radical fundamentalist group which is opposed to the existence of the Jewish state and whose armed wing has carried out repeated suicide bombings in Israel itself.

The terrorist wing of <u>Hamas</u> also has links in the UK. <u>Hamas</u> recruited two British citizens of Pakistani origin, Asif Hanif and Omar Khan Sharif, who carried out a suicide attack on a seaside bar in Tel Aviv in April 2003, killing three people and wounding 40.

On two occasions, in 1996 and 2003, Interpal has been investigated by the Charity Commissioners for alleged links with terrorism, but given a clean bill of health on both occasions. Only last month, the Jewish Board of Deputies in Britain was forced to pay an out-of-court settlement to Interpal, having earlier accused it of being a front for *Hamas* terror.

However, <u>Hamas</u> works in a manner similar to Sinn Fein in Ireland, keeping its terrorist apparatus separate from its legal political wing. As well as terrorism directed at Israeli civilians, <u>Hamas</u> tries to win over Palestinian public opinion by funding a huge network of free hospitals and schools. In a not-too-subtle fashion, this serves to expose the endemic corruption and inefficiency of the elected Palestine Authority. The money for this propaganda operation is collected abroad.

Can George Galloway recover from Big Brother? He has been in embarrassing scrapes before and lived to tell the tale. In 1987, he was under fire for his behaviour at a charity conference in Greece where he was forced to admit to having "carnal knowledge" of several of the *female* delegates.

However, this time is more serious. Big Brother has damaged Galloway's credibility with his friends while giving his enemies a stick to beat him with. True, he has offered to use some of his television earnings to repay that part of his MP's salary earned during his incarceration in the Big Brother house - some GBP 3,500. But that looks surprisingly like an admission of error. If so, it is the first time George Galloway has blinked in front of his critics.

Load-Date: January 16, 2006



The New York Times

January 27, 2006 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1033 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-11

Hamas a Surprise Winner In Palestinian Elections

The radical Islamic party <u>Hamas</u> scored an overwhelming and unexpected victory in Palestinian legislative elections, taking 76 out of the 132 seats, deposing the former ruling Fatah party, which won only 43 seats. The results give **Hamas** the right to form the next government, ending more than 40 years of domination by Fatah. A1

<u>Hamas</u>'s victory threw President Bush and his aides on the defensive, complicating the administration's policy of trying to promote democracy as an antidote to the spread of terrorism in the Arab world.

Mr. Bush said the results spoke to the failures of the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, to root out corruption, not to any flaws in the Bush administration's policy. A11

The elections were met with a mixture of jubilation and consternation in much of the Arab world, and for some it raised the concern that, in winning, *Hamas* would almost certainly have to change. A11

European leaders, whose countries are major financial donors to the Palestinian Authority, registered disquiet verging on hostility toward *Hamas*'s triumph. A11

Strife at World Economic Forum

A magazine article calling on nations to boycott Israel because of its treatment of Palestinians has provoked a tempest at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting, prompting the organizers to pull the magazine from its shelves and issue an apology. A11

U.S. and China Back Plan for Iran

President Bush and the Chinese government both declared their full support for a Russian proposal to allow Iran to run civilian nuclear facilities as long as Russia and international nuclear inspectors are in full control of the fuel. A3

Unmet Pledges to Rebuild Iraq

Because of unforeseen security costs, haphazard planning and shifting priorities, the American-financed reconstruction program in Iraq will not complete scores of projects that were promised to help rebuild the country, a federal oversight agency reported. A8

The American military said it had released five Iraqi <u>women</u>, half those held in its prisons, but said the release had been previously scheduled and was unrelated to demands made by the kidnappers of the American journalist Jill Carroll. A8

More Energy Woes for Georgia

Energy shortages struck Georgia anew as a wind storm toppled a major power transmission line and Russia's gas monopoly failed to restore the flow of natural gas to the country after pipelines were sabotaged last weekend, energy officials said. A4

Groups Protest U.N. Proposal

Human rights organizations and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus protested a decision by the United States to back a measure introduced by Iran denying two international gay rights groups a voice at the United Nations. A4

NATIONAL A14-21

Poll Finds Mixed Support For Domestic Spy Program

Americans are willing to tolerate eavesdropping without warrants to fight terrorism, but are concerned that the aggressive antiterrorism programs championed by the Bush administration are encroaching on civil liberties, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll. A1

President Bush declared again that his administration's program for eavesdropping without warrants was well within existing law, and said efforts in Congress to write legislation expressly giving him authority for such a program were unnecessary and dangerous. A20

Lobbyist Inquiry Takes a Turn

The investigation into Jack Abramoff, the disgraced Republican lobbyist, took a new turn when the Justice Department said the chief prosecutor in the inquiry would step down next week because he had been nominated to a federal judgeship by President Bush. A21

Kerry Calls for Filibuster

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts, left, called for a filibuster of the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Samuel A. Alito Jr. More than 60 senators have already vowed to support him, and the leaders of both parties said they expected to hold the full vote on Tuesday. A14

Officials Discover Drug Tunnel

Drug smugglers have dug one of the longest, most sophisticated tunnels discovered in recent years along the Mexican border, and the American and Mexican authorities have hauled nearly two tons of marijuana out of it since it was found. officials said. A14

NEW YORK/REGION B1-8

Bloomberg Wants to Speed Rebuilding at Ground Zero

Mayor Bloomberg used his State of the City speech to call for a drastic change in the World Trade Center development plan so the project can finally move forward. A1

Children Displaced

Hundreds of New York City children who had been in contact with child welfare workers have been placed in foster care or under court supervision since the death of 7-year-old Nixzmary Brown. B1

Neediest Cases B6

ESCAPES F1-12

SPORTSFRIDAY D1-6

OBITUARIES B7

WEEKEND E1-30; E31-40

Disputed Author Confronted

In an extraordinary reversal of her defense of the author whose memoir she catapulted to the top of the best-seller list, Oprah Winfrey rebuked James Frey, the author of "A Million Little Pieces," on her television show for lying about his past and portraying the book as a truthful account of his life. A1

BUSINESS DAY C1-14

Banks and Health Care

Banks, credit unions and money management firms are positioning themselves to become central players in the business of health care in anticipation of health savings accounts, which are the centerpiece of President George W. Bush's plans on health care. A1

Boston Scientific Warned

A day after winning a \$27 billion takeover battle for the medical device maker Guidant, Boston Scientific received a broad warning from federal health regulators that is likely to temporarily prevent the company from introducing new products and could result in a fine. C1

Profits Rise at Microsoft

Microsoft said its quarterly profit rose 5 percent, roughly matching Wall Street's forecasts, as the high cost of launching the Xbox 360 game console was offset by strong sales of servers and software tools. C7

Business Digest C2

EDITORIAL A22-23

Editorials: In the Mideast, a giant step back; the state of the mayor; on Oprah's couch; justice and junkets.

Columns: Paul Krugman, Thomas L. Friedman.

Crossword E38
TV Listings E28
Weather D8

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: January 26, 2006



International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA) February 2, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. a7

Length: 606 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: VIENNA, Austria

Body

Iran still defiant on nuclear program

After months of fruitless negotiations, European nations set the stage Wednesday for reporting Iran to the powerful U.N. Security Council by the end of the week because of concerns the Islamic country's nuclear program is not "exclusively for peaceful purposes."

Iran remained defiant, warning such action will provoke it into doing exactly what the world wants it to renounce - starting full-scale uranium enrichment, a possible pathway to nuclear weapons.

Positions appeared to be hardening on the eve of an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting after European nations formally submitted a U.S.-backed motion for the IAEA's 35-nation board to refer Iran to the Security Council.

Nations pledge money for Afghanistan

LONDON - Nearly 70 nations and international bodies pledged \$10.5 billion to help Afghanistan fight poverty, improve security and crack down on the drug trade, officials said Wednesday at the end of a two-day conference on the nation's future.

The pledges were intended to fund the goals set out in a five-year plan delegates signed Tuesday for redevelopment in Afghanistan, which has been torn by decades of war.

Judge pushes ahead with Saddam's trial

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A *female* witness, testifying Wednesday at Saddam Hussein's trial, said she was stripped naked in prison, hung by her feet and kicked in the chest by the former Iraqi leader's half brother.

The woman provided some of the most gripping testimony so far in the trial, which went ahead despite a boycott by Saddam and four other defendants, who demanded the removal of the chief judge.

Weeping several times during her testimony, the woman described being stripped naked, hung by her hands, beaten and given electric shocks.

Then, she told the court, Barzan Ibrahim - Saddam's half brother and the top co-defendant in the trial - told guards to instead hang her from her feet, then he kicked her three times in the chest.

International Briefs

Egyptian officials call for reforms in *Hamas*

CAIRO, Egypt - Two top Egyptian officials called on <u>Hamas</u> to recognize Israel, disarm and honor past peace deals Wednesday, the latest sign Arab governments are pushing the militant group to moderate after its surprise election victory.

Separately, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official said that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has told Egyptian officials he would hold off on asking <u>Hamas</u> to form the next Palestinian government until <u>Hamas</u> renounces violence.

The Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly, cited Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman as saying that Abbas had made the decision after a meeting with Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak.

Riot police clash with Jewish settlers

AMONA, West Bank - Israeli riot police wielding clubs and water cannons cleared out part of this illegal Jewish settlement outpost Wednesday, as resisters fought back with sticks, stones, bricks and paint. More than 200 were injured, one-quarter of them officers.

In anguished scenes reminiscent of last summer's Gaza withdrawal, the security forces dragged hundreds of protesters from rooftops barricaded in barbed wire and flattened empty homes with bulldozers and heavy machinery.

The military said 32 people were arrested at the scene along with "dozens of other rioters" in the area.

The fierce battle was a likely harbinger of what lies ahead if Israel decides to leave other parts of the West Bank. Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, the front-runner in the March 28 Israeli elections, is widely expected to withdraw from more areas of the territory and dismantle additional Jewish settlements if he wins.

Load-Date: February 2, 2006



My cousin's kidnappers are not 'militants' ...they're terrorists, just like the 7/7 bombers

Mail on Sunday (London)
July 9, 2006 Sunday

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Section: FB 04; Pg. 27

Length: 1059 words

Byline: JONATHAN SHALIT

Body

A withering attack on the West's double standards in the Middle East IT IS now a fortnight since Palestinian terrorists tunnelled under the Gaza border and crossed into sovereign Israeli territory, bringing fear and bloodshed to an ordinary Sunday tea time. They killed two soldiers who were guarding an army post and, infamously, kidnapped a 19-yearold boy, Corporal Gilad Shalit.

He has not been seen since. The only news of him for his grieving parents and an anxious Israeli nation comes in the form of repeated ransom demands from the <u>Hamas</u> terrorists believed to be holding him hostage on the direct orders of their Syrianbased leader, Khaled Meshaal.

I have a personal connection to these terrible events: Cpl Shalit is a relative of mine.

I do not want to claim that Gilad is more than a distant cousin. He is not.

He is less than half my age and, although I am told we have met, I cannot recall it. But he represents the sort of direct connection to the land of Israel shared by many, if not most, British Jews. To me, and to them, this abduction is not just another episode in this long-running conflict, happening in a place far away. This is not just another anonymous Israeli. It is personal.

By way of background, my grandfather Leon Shalit served with distinction in the British Army during the Second World War. He then moved to Palestine to serve as a lieutenant-colonel in the Israeli Army. This was in 1947, in preparation for what became the 1948 Israeli War of Independence, when five Arab armies (Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon and Iraq) invaded Israel in the hope of wiping out the fledgling country.

Against all odds, 650,000 Jews won with minimal help from the West and the state of Israel became a reality. The country has survived five major wars since then, and that is without even mentioning the ongoing conflict with the Palestinians.

LAST summer, in an attempt to reach lasting peace, Israel voluntarily withdrew more than 8,500 citizens and its troops from Gaza, turning the area over to the Palestinian Authority-By doing so, it made painful sacrifices.

Israelis gave up their homes, places of work and worship as well as their schools and farms.

My cousin's kidnappers are not 'militants' ...they're terrorists, just like the 7/7 bombers

Since then, Palestinian terror groups have used Gaza as a launch pad for countless attacks against Israel, including the raid which led to the kidnap of Gilad Shalit. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority, the government of Gaza and the West Bank, has fallen into the hands of *Hamas*, a movement which supports and sponsors this terrorism.

Yet coverage by Western TV news and the BBC is as much to blame as anyone is consistently distorted. It took the BBC some days to acknowledge that rocket attacks on Israel was a news story and, rarely, for example, has it been mentioned on TV that Gilad is no more than a teenager.

He is normally referred to as a 'man' or a 'soldier' while the very same bulletins routinely refer to Palestinians as 'youths', even though they are in fact the same age as Gilad. It has been reported that <u>Hamas</u> wants the release of <u>women</u> prisoners in Israeli jails; yet almost nobody mentions the terrible crimes, including murder, that they have committed.

Until the past few days, you would barely have heard about the daily rocket attacks on Israeli citizens. More than 1,000 rockets have landed in Israel since the Gaza withdrawal and many Israelis have been killed. This is a crucial factor behind the widely reported Israeli military build-up.

As we in this country remember the bloodshed of the London bombings one year ago, it is sobering to think that Israel a country smaller than Wales suffers this scale of bombing on a weekly basis.

Of course there is suffering on both sides. There are many innocent Palestinians, including <u>women</u> and children, who have been killed or badly wounded in the continuing violence.

The question I ask myself is whether Israel has reacted with a proportionate response? If anyone had their son or daughter kidnapped, how would they have behaved? I would argue that Israel in recent months has, in fact, been very restrained in the face of continual provocation.

For me there is a double standard at work. Why do 'terrorists' bomb innocent civilians in London but 'militants' bomb innocent civilians in Tel Aviv? In 2003 the Associated Press, one of the most influential news services in the world, published a list of 15 terrorist incidents during a five-year period between August 1998 and August 2003. In that same time, more than 800 Israelis were murdered in terrorist attacks, but not one of the incidents in Israel made the list. Why?

THE double standards even affect the politics of football. FIFA condemned an Israeli strike on an empty Palestinian football pitch (a pitch that had been used for terror training exercises, by the way).

But it refused to condemn a Palestinian missile attack on an Israeli soccer pitch just moments before the daily training session was set to begin.

Everyone has an opinion of Israel often ill-informed due to the constant criticism in the British Press. Of course Israel would prefer a negotiated peace rather than having to prepare for another military action to aid the safe return of one of her soldiers.

But the new Palestinian government refuses even to recognise the right of Israel to exist.

I accept that <u>Hamas</u> has achieved power through democratic elections. I am also well aware that those directly responsible for these latest, terrible actions are likely to belong to a fringe element of <u>Hamas</u> controlled from Syria, rather than to the Palestinian Authority itself.

But through their unyielding doctrine of violence, <u>Hamas</u> and the authority have condoned the kidnap of Gilad Shalit. And if the authority wishes to be treated with the full respect normally afforded a sovereign government, it must accept its responsibility not just to condemn the terrorism, but to bring about an immediate halt.

The constant vilification of Israel in the Press is worrying to me. I try to distinguish between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, but this differentiation is becoming more blurred.

My cousin's kidnappers are not 'militants' ...they're terrorists, just like the 7/7 bombers

Israel is by no means perfect and I often disagree with its government's policy. But the double standards and criticism dealt out to Israel is unfair.

My dual hope is for a speedy return of Gilad Shalit to Israel alive and well and for Jewish and Palestinian people to live happily and safely side by side.

Graphic

STILL MISSING: TEENAGE ISRAELI SOLDIER GILAD SHALIT

Load-Date: July 9, 2006



World Digest

The Toronto Star April 10, 2006 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 441 words

Body

Israel

Security officials seek

to sever all ties with *Hamas*-led government

Israeli security officials yesterday recommended cutting all ties with the <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian government and ruled out peace talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as long as the Islamic militant group refuses to renounce violence.

The call, which essentially approved what has been Israeli policy since <u>Hamas</u> won elections in January, raised the likelihood that Israel will push forward with acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's plan to impose a border in the West Bank by 2010.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces pounded suspected launching sites in the northern Gaza Strip with artillery fire yesterday, killing a Palestinian police officer and wounding 16 people. The Palestinian government called an emergency meeting to discuss the growing tensions.

Pakistan

29 women, children killed in stampede in Karachi

A stampede at the end of a religious gathering yesterday to mark the birth of Islam's Prophet Muhammad left at least 29 **women** and children dead.

The stampede occurred as thousands of <u>women</u> left a Sunni Muslim centre in the port city of Karachi after listening to clerics deliver sermons. Witnesses said the fatal crush happened inside the centre's compound, when a woman bent down to pick up a young girl who had fallen, causing other people behind her to trip.

United States

Fence-jumper arrested

on White House lawn

A screaming intruder made it onto the front lawn of the White House yesterday before being apprehended by Secret Service officers. President George W. Bush was at home.

World Digest

The bearded man, wearing a white T-shirt that said "God Bless America," jumped the fence outside the White House and ran across the north lawn while repeatedly yelling, "I am a victim of terrorism!" Members of the Secret Service emergency response team, including one holding a barking dog, chased the man with their guns drawn.

Retired general calls on Rumsfeld to step down

A Marine Corps general who was the military's top operations officer before the invasion of Iraq expressed regret yesterday that he did not more energetically question those who had ordered the nation to war. Lt.-Gen. Gregory Newbold, who retired in late 2002, also called for replacing U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and "many others unwilling to fundamentally change their approach." He is the third retired senior officer in recent weeks to demand that Rumsfeld step down.

In an essay in this week's issue of Time magazine, Newbold wrote he regretted not challenging those "who were determined to invade a country whose actions were peripheral to the real threat - Al Qaeda."

FROM THE STAR'S WIRE SERVICES

Load-Date: April 10, 2006



Opinion - 'Zeal' should be for shared future;

Irish News January 28, 2006

Copyright 2006 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 10

Length: 449 words

Body

The word '<u>hamas</u>', in Arabic, means zeal and in the elections to the Palestinian parliament zeal was certainly the winner.

Today's world is a fast-changing place, in which old traditions are collapsing.

For many, that means an unknown freedom but for many more, particularly when two peoples live uneasily cheek by jowl, it means an uncertain future.

For the most fearful, the retreat into fundamentalism has a powerful appeal - even though the security it offers them is entirely illusory.

And so we have an Israeli society cowering behind an ever-lengthening wall which divides it from its Palestinian neighbour.

The Oslo accords of 1993 were a high point for the Israeli 'peace camp'.

Yet, after the second intifada (uprising), the right-wing claim that there is no Palestinian partner who can be trusted and that the way ahead is unilateral decisions is widely endorsed.

Even more so after this week's elections, in which the secular leadership of the Fatah Palestinian faction was swept away by the Islamists.

The landslide for <u>Hamas</u> was in large measure a revolt against the corruption of the old Fatah elite which had returned from exile to run the Palestinian Authority set up following the Oslo agreement.

Much international aid has been frittered away but to no visible benefit for the impoverished in the refugee camps.

Meanwhile, Israeli checkpoints and blockades have squeezed the already fragile Palestinian economy

The result? A vast army of the desperate and disaffected <u>Hamas</u> has helped through its welfare work on the ground.

Yet the Islamists are not just supporters of the Palestinian underdog.

They have Stone Age views on women in public life.

Opinion - 'Zeal' should be for shared future;

And, though their rhetoric has been toned down, they do not yet accept the existence of Israel.

Here the wider trend is deeply worrying.

Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmad inejad, has called for Israel to be wiped off the face of the map.

And the nightmare scenario is that Iran, despite its disavowals, could develop a nuclear weapon - as, it is widely suspected, has Israel.

The world is a much more sober place than when the 'peace processes' in the middle east, Bosnia-Hercegovina and Northern Ireland could be hyped by international statesman basking in the media spotlight.

It is now clear that tackling the roots of violent conflict is a much more demanding task than securing ceasefires.

It is about removing the enemy images that blind us all to the humanity of the other.

Those stereotyped views are deeply entrenched in Israel-Palestine, Bosnia and here at home.

Living together is not just about a suspicious coexistence where society remains riven into two antagonistic camps.

The only really secure future is a shared one.

Load-Date: January 30, 2006



Babies die as artillery barrage hits families on picnic beach

The Times (London)
June 10, 2006, Saturday

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Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 35

Length: 911 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Jerusalem

Body

Israeli artillery fire killed a Palestinian family who were picnicking on the beach in Gaza yesterday, as the shoreline was packed with people on a Muslim holiday.

Body parts, bloodstained baby carriages and shredded holiday tents were left strewn on the sand near Beit Lahiya, in northern Gaza, after the late afternoon strike that killed at least seven people, thought to include the parents and children of one family.

The Israeli military immediately expressed regret for the civilian deaths and ordered a halt to all artillery, naval and other shellfire into the sealed-off Strip.

The armed wing of the Islamist group <u>Hamas</u> responded by threatening to renew attacks on Israel, a move that would end the truce it declared last year. "The earthquake in the Zionist towns will start again and the aggressors will have no choice but to prepare their coffins or their luggage," the **Hamas** militants declared.

However, visiting the hospital where the injured were taken from Soudania beach, Ismail Haniya, the Palestinian Prime Minister and senior *Hamas* leader, made no such threat, though he denounced the incident as a war crime.

The Israeli military confirmed that its gunboats stationed off the 45km (28 mile) coastal strip had fired "towards" sites where Palestinian militants launch Qassam rockets into Israel, but they insisted that naval and aerial fire was not responsible and that its inquiry was instead focusing on land-based artillery batteries that fire daily from north and east of Gaza.

"We regret any harm caused to innocent civilians," an Israeli Defence Forces spokesman said. "We are offering the Palestinians any help that we can, including providing assistance to reach Israeli hospitals."

Palestinian television carried reports showing children with wounds to their heads, necks and torsos as body parts lay scattered around the beach.

In harrowing scenes one distraught Palestinian girl was filmed among the bloodstained debris, screaming: "Father, father." One man wept as he held the limp body of what appeared to be a girl or young woman, shouting: "Muslims, look at this."

Palestinian medical officials said that the dead included three children, aged 1, 2 and 4, two teenagers, aged 15 and 17, and an adult man and woman, most thought to be members of the Ghalia family.

Babies die as artillery barrage hits families on picnic beach

Ali Ghalia had taken his two wives and nine children on the trip. "This was his first day at the beach this summer. He was taking his kids to play," the man's sister-in-law, Nasreen Ghalia, said.

Ali Ghalia, 45, was killed. One of his two wives and three of his children were among the dead. Bassem Naim, the Palestinian Health Minister, said that 30 other people were wounded.

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, reacted angrily, calling the killings in- excusable and declaring three days of mourning.

"Men, <u>women</u>, children and elderly people are being massacred in front of the world's eyes," he said. "We call upon the world to intervene immediately to stop all these aggressions."

It is believed that the Israelis were targeting militants who launched rockets into the Jewish state in revenge for Israel's killing of Jamal Abu Samadhana, a senior militant figure, in an airstrike the night before.

Abu Samadhana was the head of the Popular Resistance Committee and a prominent ally of the ruling <u>Hamas</u> Government. Tens of thousands of Palestinians, some firing weapons into the air and calling for revenge, packed a Gaza stadium to bury the most senior militant commander that Israel has killed in recent years.

The beach shelling was the deadliest of Israeli strikes yesterday. Two aerial attacks killed five suspected militants. More than 3,920 Palestinians have been killed by Israel since the intifada began in September 2000; 1,113 Israelis have been killed in the same period.

Israel pulled its soldiers and settlers out of Gaza last autumn but retained control of most of the commercial and passenger gateways to the outside world.

Since September Palestinian militants have fired dozens of the inaccurate but potentially deadly Qassam rockets each month into Israeli border towns, peaking at 94 launches in March.

In five years six Israelis have been killed by the missiles, and recently one smashed through a school classroom roof while the children were assembled elsewhere for morning prayers.

Israel has hit back with artillery batteries that have pounded Gaza with more than 5,000 shells in recent months, killing about a dozen Palestinians before yesterday. Officials say that the main purpose of the shelling is to disrupt the militants' activity.

Ehud Olmert, the Israeli Prime Minister, will be in London next week to discuss the Middle East peace process.

GAZA STRIP

- * 365sq km of Mediterannean coastal strip, approximately 45km by 8km
- * 1.4 million Palestinians live there. Two thirds of them UN-registered refugees who fled their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 war
- * A stronghold of the Islamist group *Hamas*, which defeated hitherto-dominant Fatah in government elections in January 2006
- * Held under military occupation by Israel from 1967 until 2005, when it withdrew its 8,000 Jewish settlers and military bases
- * It is still sealed off from the outside world by an Israeli fence and patrols.

Israel controls the air space, coastal waters and all borders -except one Egyptian/ Palestinian Authority crossing at Rafah. Israeli officials monitor traffic through video cameras

* The Gaza airport has been closed since 2001, when Israel bulldozed the runway

Load-Date: June 10, 2006



Gilad's curse leaves a bitter aftertaste

The Australian (Australia)
July 11, 2006 Tuesday
All-round Country Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 676 words

Byline: ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Body

MATP

ANALYSIS

ISRAEL has reconciled itself to freeing Palestinian prisoners to retrieve the Israeli soldier in <u>Hamas</u>'s hands and end the rocketing of Israeli cities. But it hopes that the massive pressure it is placing on the Gaza Strip will make the Palestinian victory one they will not lightly repeat.

General Yoav Gallant, commanding Israeli forces in the area, made it plain this week that Israel's strikes were primarily aimed at deterrence.

"If there are dozens or hundreds of militants killed and infrastructure destroyed and government ministries collapsed," General Gallant said, "maybe they will think again before making another kidnapping or resuming the rocketing."

He said that Israel would keep the pressure up "for weeks or months" until the captured soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, was released and the rocketing of Israeli cities from Gaza ceased.

Foreign critics have termed the Israeli reaction to the capture of Shalit disproportionate. Forty-two Palestinians and an Israeli soldier have been killed since Israel launched its operation last Wednesday, pouring tanks and troops into the Gaza Strip and moving into land evacuated in September after a 38-year occupation. The infrastructure of the Gaza Strip, particularly electricity and roads, has been badly damaged and the population has been subject to the constant boom of artillery and war planes breaking the sound barrier.

Israeli officials believe this pressure will lower the price demanded by the Palestinians for Shalit's release -something that has already happened -- but place greater emphasis on "changing the rules of the game" by making it clear Israel will exact a similarly high price in the future if provoked.

Militants have fired at least 30 makeshift rockets towards Israel since the army began Wednesday's operation in the northern Gaza Strip, lightly wounding one man in the southern desert town of Sderot. The ongoing pressure has already led some Palestinians to question the militants' tactics.

Gilad's curse leaves a bitter aftertaste

In an article at the weekend, a leading Palestinian journalist, Nasser al-Lahem, editor-in-chief of Palestinian news agency Maan, listed the damage caused since the abduction of Shalit two weeks ago, including the casualties, siege conditions and arrest of *Hamas* ministers and politicians on the West Bank.

In the article, headlined "Who will save the people from the curse of Gilad?", he challenged in particular the firing of rockets at Israeli cities. "Everywhere else in the world, politicians determine policy," he wrote. "Here they have given up and stepped aside."

<u>Hamas</u> Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh did attempt to assert authority at the weekend by issuing a call for a ceasefire.

"In order to extricate ourselves from the current crisis," Haniyeh said, "all sides must restore calm and mutually end all military operations."

His call was rejected by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who said the release of the captured soldier had to precede any ceasefire. However, Public Security Minister Avi Dichter, a former head of the Shin Bet Security Services, indicated that prisoners would not be released in the form of a direct exchange with <u>Hamas</u> but as a "gesture" after the release of Shalit.

"Israel will need to release prisoners after some time as a reciprocal gesture," Dichter said. "Israel knows how to do this. Israel has done this more than once in the past."

The militants holding Shalit, who initially called for the release of 1000 or more prisoners of their choosing, are now apparently willing to settle for the release of <u>female</u> prisoners, prisoners under the age of 18, sick prisoners and those who have been held for more than 20 years.

These are categories that Israel will probably consider reasonable.

Without Israel reconquering the Gaza Strip -- a grim prospect that would involve thousands of casualties -- there is nothing to prevent the militants from resuming their rocketing and their attempts to tunnel into Israel after a prisoner exchange is concluded. Nothing except for the bitter aftertaste of this Israeli offensive.

Load-Date: July 10, 2006



<u>Israeli troops open new Gaza front: Incursion broadened; At least 2 people</u> injured by missiles in new attempt to force soldier's release

The Gazette (Montreal)
July 8, 2006 Saturday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A16

Length: 662 words

Byline: SARAH EL DEEB, AP

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli tanks and troops clashed with militants in eastern Gaza early this morning, Palestinian security officials said, as Israel broadened an incursion to force the release of a captured soldier.

The Israeli forces, including about 15 tanks, entered Gaza near the Karni commercial crossing, moving along the border half a kilometre from the densely populated Shajaiyeh neighbourhood and 3.2 kilometres from Gaza city. The army had no immediate comment.

The air force fired missiles at a group of militants gathered at the outskirts of Shajaiyeh, injuring at least two people, Palestinian security and hospital officials said.

Israel launched its offensive almost two weeks ago, after Palestinian militants carried out a brazen cross-border attack on a military outpost, capturing a 19-year-old Israeli soldier. The military campaign is meant to get Cpl. Gilad Shalit released, and carve out a temporary buffer zone to halt Palestinian rocket fire.

Israeli troops killed 32 Palestinians in two days of air strikes and artillery barrages, Palestinian officials said.

Israel sent conflicting signals yesterday on whether it would be willing to swap Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Shalit's release. Public Security Minister Avi Dichter suggested Israel could be ready to cut a deal that would include Israel freeing some Palestinian prisoners as a goodwill gesture.

If there is calm, "Israel will need to, after some time, release prisoners as a reciprocal gesture," he said.

"Israel knows how to do this. Israel has done this more than once in the past."

Dichter was referring to previous prisoner swaps - usually in deals that free far more Palestinians than Israelis. Privately, Israeli officials have said they did not rule out talks in Shalit's case, either.

Moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he has won Israeli assurances that it would reciprocate for Shalit's release by freeing some prisoners, as well as *Hamas* politicians it has rounded up in recent days.

Israeli troops open new Gaza front: Incursion broadened; At least 2 people injured by missiles in new attempt to force soldier's release

Officials close to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert later said Dichter's statement did not reflect the views of the government and that Israel insists on the soldier's unconditional release. However, the government did not issue a formal statement distancing itself from the minister.

Israel does not want to be seen as cutting a deal with <u>Hamas</u> militants, but also does not seem to have a way to free the soldier by force.

<u>Hamas</u> said yesterday Shalit, seized June 25, is alive and being treated well. It also urged Israel to negotiate. The Islamic militant group initially demanded the release of hundreds of prisoners, but then scaled back its demands, seeking freedom for about 150 <u>female</u> inmates and several dozen men serving long sentences.

The internal Israeli debate came as ground troops backed by tanks pursued militants in the streets of crowded Gaza towns, and aircraft struck northern Gaza.

Shalit is believed to be held in southern Gaza and, days after he was seized, Israel launched its biggest military campaign in the coastal strip since ending its 38-year occupation there nine months ago.

The incursion began in southern Gaza, then expanded Thursday to the north as troops seized control of a ribbon of land. Yesterday, Israeli aircraft struck Palestinian gunmen in northern Gaza.

Palestinian health officials said a total of 32 Palestinians were killed over two days, including 24 on Thursday, in the bloodiest day of clashes since the renewed fighting began last week. An 11-year-old boy shot in the chest during fighting on Wednesday died of his wounds late yesterday, Palestinian hospital officials said.

Egyptian mediators have proposed a two-stage deal in which <u>Hamas</u> would free Shalit and halt rocket attacks. In exchange, Israel would halt its offensive and promise to free some Palestinian prisoners in the future.

- - -

ONLINE EXTRA: The shift is subtle but unmistakable. European governments - accused of being pro-Arab - have toned down their criticism of Israel.

montrealgazette.com

Load-Date: July 8, 2006



Letters - Let Israel start honouring international law;

Irish News February 02, 2006

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Section: Pg. 24

Length: 467 words

Body

Considering the brutality Palestinians endure on a daily basis at the hands of the Israeli military, it's outrageous that the 'Quartet' - the US, the EU, Russia and the UN - should threaten to withdraw aid from the Palestinian people unless *Hamas* "renounces violence".

Condoleeza Rice says that the US won't talk to 'terrorist organisations' and yet the US talks to Israeli ministers all the time.

Israel is in breach of over 70 UN resolutions plus the Fourth Geneva Convention.

It subjects Palestinian men, <u>women</u> and children to daily terror and humiliation - according to African National Congress observers - worse than that endured by black people in apartheid South Africa.

Throughout the entire period of 'peace negotiations' Israel never ceased building illegal settlements on Palestinian land.

It refuses to comply with the judgment of the International Court at the Hague which requires it to remove its 'apartheid wall' which is cutting the West Bank to bits.

Despite these criminal activities through which Israel makes a mockery of international law, the United States consults with, defers to and follows the 'security' advice of Israeli leaders.

Moreover, the USA bankrolls the state of Israel to the tune of approximately \$16 million a day.

For its part, Israel has declared that it will not send on tax and customs revenues due to the Palestinian Authority.

The reason given is that the money may fund a Palestinian army.

However, past statements by Israeli politicians and generals suggest that there are other motives for these sanctions.

If aid and revenue are withheld from the Palestinians, this may provoke a political crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories and bring about what Israel secretly dreams of - a Palestinian civil war.

With the region in turmoil, the Israelis could say this proves their racist claim that Palestinians aren't fit to govern themselves.

Letters - Let Israel start honouring international law;

This would then provide a justification for Israel to maintain its illegal occupation of Palestinian land.

The European Union, which seems unable to develop its own independent policy on Palestine, calls on <u>Hamas</u> to get involved in 'peace talks'.

Despite the fact that the Oslo Accords and the 'Road Map' delivered nothing for Palestinians, they want <u>Hamas</u> to follow the path of Al Fatah into endless diplomatic discussions which buy time for Israel to keep creating 'facts on the ground' - more illegal settlements.

The only 'peace talks' that the new Palestinian administration should now get involved in are those which require Israel to end its illegal occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories, to dismantle its illegal wall and to vacate its illegal settlements.

In other words, let Israel - at last - honour international law.

CAITLIN Ni CHONAILL, Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Belfast.

Load-Date: February 2, 2006



Kidnapped soldier stable: Palestinians

The Gazette (Montreal)
July 2, 2006 Sunday
EARLY Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 652 words

Byline: RAVI NESSMAN, AP

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

The soldier whose abduction sparked Israel's invasion of Gaza is alive and in stable condition, a Palestinian official said yesterday, as President Mahmoud Abbas warned that the coming hours were "critical, sensitive and serious" to resolving the crisis.

Israeli soldiers and Palestinian militants exchanged fire for several hours yesterday afternoon when Israeli tanks and bulldozers crossed the border with Gaza and began razing farmland east of the town of Khan Younis.

Militants shot an anti-tank rocket at one of the vehicles. The army responded with gunfire and a missile launched from an unmanned plane. No major injuries were reported.

The fighting took place north of the position Israeli troops have occupied since they entered Gaza on Wednesday. There has been no sign of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, since he was abducted a week ago during a raid on an Israeli army post just outside Gaza that killed two soldiers and two attackers.

The <u>Hamas</u>-affiliated militants holding Shalit initially said they would trade information about him for all Palestinian <u>women</u> and underage prisoners being held in Israeli jails. The militants raised their demands yesterday, calling for an end to the Israeli offensive and the release of 1,000 additional prisoners held by Israel.

Israel has ruled out any compromise with the kidnappers, saying it would encourage more abductions.

Ziad Abu Aen, a Palestinian deputy minister and a <u>Hamas</u> official, said yesterday that "mediators" told him Shalit had received medical treatment for the wounds he sustained and was in stable condition. "He has three wounds," Abu Aen told a news conference in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "I guess shrapnel wounds."

Egypt and other foreign mediators have been working to try to resolve the crisis, but Abbas said those efforts had yet to bear fruit mainly because it was unclear who in <u>Hamas</u> - the militants or the group's leadership abroad - was authorized to make decisions about Shalit. Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, also a <u>Hamas</u> leader, apparently has no say in the matter, according to a statement from Abbas's office.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, a predominantly Muslim country that has close ties with Israel, called U.S. President George W. Bush yesterday and talked about the crisis.

Kidnapped soldier stable: Palestinians

"The president said that the initial goal should be freeing the Israeli soldier - that is the key to ending the crisis," said Frederick Jones, spokesperson for the National Security Council at the White House.

The fuel supply in Gaza began dwindling yesterday, days after Israel cut off the pipeline flow. Gas stations ran dry, and human-rights groups worried that if fuel flow was not restored in the coming days, Gaza could face a crisis as generators used to pump water and power hospitals stopped working.

"We have enough to last between three to seven days. If we don't get a new supply, it will be an environmental disaster," said Eissa Daher, acting mayor of the town of Jebaliya.

Authorities have been relying on generators since an Israeli air strike Tuesday destroyed Gaza's only power plant, knocking out 43 per cent of the territory's electricity supply, the United Nations said. The remaining electricity comes from Israel.

In a statement yesterday, the Israeli army said Israel had increased the supply of electricity to Gaza to make up for the power shortage and would work to allow food and fuel to enter in the coming days.

In addition to the fighting near Khan Younis, Israel kept up the military pressure yesterday with aircraft and gunboats pounding open ground in Gaza.

One air strike hit a greenhouse left behind when Israel pulled out of Gaza last summer after 38 years of occupation, damaging what had been a symbol of hope for Gaza's economic rebirth.

Although troops remained massed on the border, Israel on Thursday postponed a planned invasion of northern Gaza as international mediators sought a way out of the crisis.

Load-Date: July 4, 2006



<u>Israel Vows to Fight Until Soldier's Release, and Palestinians Mourn Their</u> Dead

The New York Times
July 10, 2006 Monday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 10

Length: 1236 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER; Greg Myre contributed reporting from Jerusalem for this article.

Dateline: GAZA, July 9

Body

Israel will continue its military offensive in the Gaza Strip at its own pace until Palestinian militants release a captured Israeli soldier and halt their rocket attacks, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told his cabinet on Sunday.

The operation in Gaza is a "war for which it is impossible to set a timetable," Mr. Olmert said, according to briefings provided by an Israeli official. "We will continue this battle with level-headedness and patience, while making use of the proper means," he is reported to have said. "We cannot sit and not respond to the Qassam rocket fire."

Mr. Olmert ruled out negotiations with <u>Hamas</u>, which leads the Palestinian government and whose military branch is holding Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who was abducted during a raid into Israel on June 25.

He said he had been prepared to release prisoners to Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, before the two men met for a formal meeting, and Mr. Abbas confirmed that on Friday. But Mr. Olmert said Sunday, "We intended to release them to moderate elements, not terrorist elements." Releasing prisoners to <u>Hamas</u> in response to a kidnapping would further damage Palestinian moderates and reward extremism, Mr. Olmert said.

He repeated to the cabinet that Israel would not reoccupy Gaza but would act militarily there as it saw fit. "We will operate, enter and pull out as needed," the official quoted Mr. Olmert as saying.

Maj. Gen. Yoav Galant, commander of Israel's southern region, said late Saturday that Israel was ready for a long campaign, planning to shift the focus of operations from place to place. "We are prepared to continue the operation a month, two months and, if need be, even more," he told Channel 2 television. "The Palestinians will do their reckoning. They will count hundreds of dead terrorists, they will count the damaged infrastructure, the destroyed offices, the damaged factories."

On Sunday, the Palestinians counted more dead, even as they mourned and buried four people, including three from the same family, killed Saturday night in the Shijaia neighborhood, near the Karni commercial crossing, in an explosion at a house. The Palestinians blamed Israel.

But Israel said that its investigation showed that the explosion did not come from an airstrike, and that intelligence reports later showed that the deaths had been caused by a Palestinian anti-tank rocket.

Capt. Jacob Dallal, a spokesman for the military, said the Israeli Air Force, which tracks its missiles carefully, reported that its missile "hit the intended target," which was a nearby street where armed militants were walking with weapons. He said the army did not know what happened to those men, but "we hit the area we targeted, not the house."

An Israeli military official said intelligence information developed later, presumably from a source within Gaza, "clearly says that it was a Palestinian anti-tank missile." The military official insisted on not being identified and said he could not be more specific.

On Sunday, a Palestinian civilian was killed by an Israeli missile fired at a car carrying <u>Hamas</u> militants in the southern town of Rafah. The militants apparently escaped from the car, and a second missile hit nearby, wounding bystanders. The dead man was identified as Bilal Sliman Rabah, an 18-year-old supermarket clerk. Seven other Palestinians were wounded, with one in very serious condition, hospital authorities said.

Earlier Sunday, just after midnight, the air force struck a group of armed militants near the Karni commercial crossing, wounding three, members of the Palestinian security forces said.

Airstrikes also destroyed a major bridge in Beit Hanun, in northern Gaza, and an electricity transformer there, making it difficult to travel easily to the city and cutting electricity and some water supplies.

Palestinians continued to fire Qassam rockets into Israel despite the military operation. One resident of the nearby Israeli town of Sderot was moderately wounded Sunday morning from shrapnel wounds to the chest when a Qassam hit. A second rocket hit a house, and three people were treated for shock.

Three of the four Palestinians killed Saturday in the house explosion were members of the Hajaj family -- Um Ayman Hajaj, 48; her son Muhammad, 21; and her daughter Rawan, 6. Four other family members were wounded.

The house is on the very edge of the Palestinian area closest to the Karni crossing into Israel.

Iman Hajaj, 23, one of Mrs. Hajaj's 14 children, said she was in the house's living room during the explosion, where some were watching an Egyptian soap opera. Those people were wounded, she said; those who died were in the garden drinking tea or cooking corn over a fire. "We had been nervous for two days with the movement of tanks and the shells," Ms. Hajaj said, sitting in a room of mourning <u>women</u>, all covered in black head scarves and long black robes, in a relative's house nearby.

"My brother Muhammad, who died, had just arrived a minute before to visit my married sister," Ms. Hajaj said, beginning to cry, then held out her hand, holding a curved piece of shrapnel. "More than 20 pieces like this we took from the body of my mother," she said.

As she spoke, young <u>women</u> who lined the banister of the stairway all began to chant in unison, "With our souls, with our blood, we sacrifice ourselves for our martyr!"

Um Hassan Hajaj, the aunt of the dead mother, spoke angrily about what she said was the responsibility of Israel and the United States for the deaths in her family. "Look at what your weapons are doing to us!" she yelled. As the television cameras came closer, she turned to them and shouted: "One day the Muslim countries will change everything, and there will be hard days for America! Injustice never lasts."

As the bodies of the dead were brought, wrapped in the flags of Islamic Jihad and Fatah, there was screaming and ululating and the cascading sounds of gunfire from the militants surging around the courtyard. The militants were various forms of mufti, waving weapons and flags, including the green of <u>Hamas</u>. As the small body of Rawan was carried, tiny in the stretcher, her face exposed, the wailing swelled, and Um Fathi Hajaj, the girl's grandmother, collapsed in tears.

Page 3 of 3

Israel Vows to Fight Until Soldier's Release, and Palestinians Mourn Their Dead

As he walked along the route of the funeral march, Abu Ahmed, the spokesman for the Islamic Jihad's military wing, quietly promised retribution. "We have 70 suicide bombers in a new brigade awaiting orders to strike Israel," he said.

Asked whether Islamic Jihad would respect a negotiated political document calling for Palestinian military activity to concentrate on Israel proper, he smiled wearily. "All of historic Palestine is ours, and we don't distinguish between 1948 or 1967," he said.

Mr. Abbas, back in Ramallah, ordered two representatives to discuss the crisis with Syria and with the exiled leader of *Hamas*'s political bureau, Khaled Meshal.

On Friday, in a news conference, Mr. Abbas said he did not know of any splits in <u>Hamas</u> and dealt only with the elected <u>Hamas</u> prime minister, Ismail Haniya, who called in vain for a mutual cease-fire on Saturday, quickly rejected by Israel without Corporal Shalit's release.

The Israeli Army also announced after an investigation that the only Israeli soldier who has died in this nearly twoweek Gaza operation was accidentally killed by Israeli fire.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: In Sderot, Israel, left, a Qassam rocket hit the home of Jackline Ohayon yesterday. In Gaza, right, Palestinians held a funeral for three members of the Hajaj family, who were killed Saturday in an explosion at their house. (Photo by Shawn Baldwin for The New York Times)

(Photo by Rina Castlenuovo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: July 10, 2006



Reply Letters and emails: Lebanon ceasefire is just the start

The Guardian - Final Edition
August 15, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: GUARDIAN LEADER PAGES; Pg. 29

Length: 265 words

Byline: Angiolina Arru, Rainer Baubock Peter Becker, Jane Caplan and 257 others

Body

The ceasefire in Lebanon (Fragile ceasefire in danger amid ferocious fighting, August 14) can be only the beginning of efforts to resolve the war in the Middle East. The European Union and the governments of its member states must redouble their efforts to secure a lasting peace. We believe an expert advisory group should be established by the UN, comprising experts in international law and in Middle East politics, as well as representatives of human rights and <u>women</u>'s rights organisations. The group should be authorised to negotiate with members of the Israeli, Palestinian, and Lebanese governments - thus continuing the negotiations started in Geneva.

Contacts should be established with those Israeli, Lebanese, and Palestinian intellectuals who have consistently sought just and balanced political solutions to the political crisis in the Middle East.

There should now be a complete cessation of Israeli aerial attacks on Lebanon and Palestine; complete cessation of the Hizbollah and <u>Hamas</u> armed attacks on Israel; withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon; disarmament of the Hizbollah militia; integration of the <u>Hamas</u> militia into the Palestinian security forces; recognition of the 1967 borders; mutual recognition of Israel and Palestine within a two-state solution; recognition of the state of Israel by the Arab countries; and the end of the humanitarian boycott of Palestine.

Angiolina Arru (Universita l'Orientale, Napoli), Rainer Baubock (Osterreichische Adademie der Wissenschaften, Wien), Peter Becker (Universitat Linz), Jane Caplan (University of Oxford)

And 257 others

Load-Date: August 15, 2006



<u>Israel steps up offensive; At least 21 Palestinians and 1 Israeli soldier are</u> killed

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

July 7, 2006 Friday

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Section: NATIONAL/WORLD; Pg. a10

Length: 498 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: BEIT LAHIYA, Gaza Strip

Body

Palestinian militants armed with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades battled Israeli helicopters and tanks Thursday in the bloodiest day since Israel invaded Gaza over a soldier's capture. At least 21 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier died.

Israeli troops retook three empty Jewish settlements nearly a year after abandoning them, seeking to carve out a temporary buffer zone in the northern Gaza Strip to prevent militants from firing more rockets into Israel.

After touring Gaza main hospital, Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of the Islamic militant group *Hamas* called for international intervention to stop a "crime against humanity."

Haniyeh said the offensive was "a desperate effort to undermine the Palestinian government under the pretext of a search for the missing soldier."

Throughout the day, Israeli aircraft fired missiles at militants while Israeli tanks took up positions among tightly packed Palestinian homes. Apache helicopters hovered overhead, firing flares and machine guns to support ground troops fighting masked Palestinian gunmen.

Earlier this week, <u>Hamas</u> militants fired two rockets into the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon. No one was hurt, but the rockets were the first to reach a major Israeli population center.

In response, Israeli troops moved into the densely populated towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, where militants often launch rockets. The army said all attacks were aimed at militants.

Israel began its ground invasion June 28, three days after militants linked to <u>Hamas</u> captured Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19.

On Thursday, the fighting swelled. Israeli helicopter gunships circled over Beit Lahiya, providing support fire as Israeli tanks maneuvered among tightly packed Palestinian homes.

Infantrymen took over one family's house, locking the inhabitants on the bottom floor of the home and posting snipers on the upper floors. Outside, armored bulldozers pushed up sand embankments to shelter tanks.

Israel steps up offensive At least 21 Palestinians and 1 Israeli soldier are killed

Palestinian militants, many wearing black masks, crept down narrow alleys to get close to Israeli forces and open fire with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades.

During lulls in the fighting, some Palestinian women and children fled their homes and left the area on foot.

Meanwhile, acting on behalf of Arab nations, Qatar circulated a draft resolution to put before the U.N. Security Council demanding that Israel end its offensive and release Palestinian officials detained during the operation.

The draft drew opposition from the United States and France, which called it unbalanced in its criticism of Israel. France's ambassador said he would offer changes, but U.S. Ambassador John Bolton suggested Washington opposed the resolution entirely.

In Rome, Italy's foreign minister, Massimo D'Alema, called the scale of Israel's offensive out of proportion, Italian news agencies reported.

"It's unthinkable that to save one hostage we would embark in an operation that would cause the deaths of dozens of people," he said.

Graphic

AP Photo

Load-Date: July 7, 2006



Jewish Canadians, Loyal Liberals, Lose Insider Status; Community

The Forward February 10, 2006

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Section: News; Pg. 4 **Length:** 910 words

Byline: Sheldon Gordon

Dateline: TORONTO

Body

In Canada's recent federal election, Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper campaigned for Jewish votes as a staunch supporter of Israel, but the 300,000-strong Jewish community stayed loyal to the ruling Liberal Party. Harper won the election anyway, and he is forming a minority government without having a single Jewish Parliament member on his team. It's the first time since 1979 that the community won't be represented by one of its own at the center of power.

Despite this lack of insider status, however, many Jews, especially those on the right, are hopeful that Harper's conservative agenda will prove more responsive to Jewish concerns - especially on Israel - than did the policies of the defeated Liberal government. But others think that the weak Jewish electoral support for Harper will make it difficult for him to override the Foreign Affairs department's longstanding pro-Palestinian tilt.

The election results saw four Jewish members - including former justice minister Irwin Cotler - returned to Parliament, but to the opposition Liberal benches, while two Jewish Members of Parliament from Quebec lost their races. Former Liberal Government House leader Jacques Saada lost in a Quebec district in which Muslim opponents made an issue of his Zionist background, including his youthful service in the Israeli military. Meanwhile, the few Jewish candidates who ran on the Conservative ticket were all soundly defeated.

Although the Conservatives denounced the Liberals as fickle friends of Israel, most Jews apparently cast their ballots on the basis of domestic concerns. Harper, whose base is in Calgary, Alberta, failed to score any victories in Canada's three largest cities - Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver - as urban Jews joined other city slickers in rejecting the Conservative Party's perceived "hidden agenda" of social conservatism, including its opposition to abortion.

(Henry Morgentaler, the Jewish physician who overturned Canada's anti-abortion laws in the 1980s by operating abortion clinics and winning jury acquittals in two criminal trials, warned the week before the vote that a Conservative government would try to take away <u>women</u>'s reproductive rights. Harper denied such intentions, but he did indicate that he would seek to roll back the Liberal government's approval of same-sex marriage.)

Harper's first item of business as prime minister-elect was to respond to the <u>Hamas</u> victory, which came two days after his win. The Jewish community was heartened that he lined up with America and Europe in vowing not to deal with a <u>Hamas</u>-led government unless it renounces violence and recognizes Israel's right to exist.

The Conservatives, he said at a press conference, had "led the charge in the past couple of years to have <u>Hamas</u> listed as a terrorist organization, and we experienced some significant and unexpected resistance from the [Liberals] in that, so we have taken a very hard line on <u>Hamas</u>."

Harper did not say whether Canadian development aid to the Palestinian Authority would be discontinued if <u>Hamas</u> maintains its hard-line positions. Defeated Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin had pledged \$19.6 million in additional Canadian aid to the P.A. following Israel's pullout from Gaza last August, bringing the total Canadian aid to the Palestinians to \$248 million since the P.A. was formed in 1993.

But the Liberals, under Martin, had tried to make Canada's voting record at the United Nations more balanced on General Assembly resolutions critical of Israel. The Liberal government recently opposed, or at least abstained on, a few resolutions that they had supported in previous years. The Canada-Israel Committee, the country's major pro-Israel lobby, welcomed the change.

But Neil Drabkin, the losing Conservative candidate in Cotler's constituency, was unimpressed: "There was a complete abdication of responsibility by successive [Liberal] foreign ministers to the civil service, who have traditionally not been very supportive of Israel. The new Conservative government will make sure the interests of the Jewish community are protected and, indeed, reflected in our policies. But it would have been nice for the Jewish community to have elected members in the government."

The Conservative victory may shift the relative influence of Jewish advocacy groups. Significantly, the morning after the election, the right-leaning B'nai Brith Canada issued a news release that heartily congratulated the Harper team; the centrist Canadian Jewish Congress did not (although Congress President Ed Morgan said his group had sent a letter of congratulations to Harper).

Nonetheless, said Rochelle Wilner, past president of B'nai Brith Canada, "Congress, for a long time, bashed people like Stephen Harper." She recalls that when B'nai Brith invited Stockwell Day, Harper's ardently pro-Israel foreign affairs lieutenant, to attend a community roundtable, "the slamming that I got personally from my friends at Congress was unbelievable: 'How can you meet with those right-wing redneck people?'"

Morgan was the lawyer for a group of Reform rabbis who last year supported Cotler's legislation recognizing samesex marriage - a hot-button issue for the Conservatives. But he said he is "not worried" that he, or Congress, faces a "loss of influence" with the new regime. "This government will be highly intelligent in the way that it reads the community, and will want to tap into as wide a constituency as possible," Morgan said.

Graphic

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006



Abbas decries 'crime against humanity'

The Irish Times

June 29, 2006 Thursday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

Length: 504 words

Byline: Michael Jansen

Body

MIDDLE EAST: Reaction/analysis President Mahmoud Abbas condemned Israel's military incursion into Gaza as a "crime against humanity", while Wasfi Kubba, minister of prisoners' affairs, said the Israeli attacks have created a "humanitarian crisis".

Dr Mustafa Barghouti, member of parliament and head of the Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, argued that Israel's air strikes against power installations that cut both electricity and water constitute "collective punishment" of more than half the 1.3 million residents of the Strip.

Lebanese foreign minister Fawzi Salloukh castigated the "suspicious silence" of the world and demanded that the UN Security Council "take a firm stand that ends the agression against the Palestinian people".

The al-Akhbar daily of Abu Dhabi said Israel had used the capture of its soldier "to launch an all-out criminal operation against the Palestinian people".

Battered by 39 years of adversity under Israeli occupation, many Palestinian citizens of Gaza steeled themselves for further hardships while insisting those holding the Israeli soldier Cpl Gilad Shalit should exact a price for his release.

Militants from the armed wing of <u>Hamas</u>, the Izzedin al-Qassam Brigades, and the Popular Resistance Committees, have demanded the release of all 95 <u>women</u> and 313 children held by Israel in exchange for information on Cpl Shalit.

Palestinians are highly sensitive on the prisoner issue because Israel failed to free hundreds of prisoners detained before the signing of the Oslo Accord in 1993. The Palestinian information ministry said it was "natural logic" to carry out a prisoner exchange.

"Previous Israeli governments have done so . . . and this is what other countries do in conflict situations." Palestinians regard Israeli troops as legitimate targets because Israel assassinates Palestinian leaders and conducts covert and overt raids to seize wanted Palestinians.

Many Palestinians took pride in Sunday's well-planned and well-executed operation which involved the construction of an 800m tunnel beneath the border, a frontal assault on an Israeli tank, and the capture of a soldier. Since such dramatic and successful operations are rare, this has boosted Palestinian morale.

Abbas decries 'crime against humanity'

Palestinian analysts suspect that <u>Hamas</u> militants, who may be operating under orders from the head of the movement's Damascus-based politburo, Khaled Mishaal, timed the strike and snatch to scupper Tuesday's agreement between <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah on the prisoners' document.

This proposes Palestinian statehood in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem (implying recognition of Israel in the rest of geographic Palestine) and calls for a national unity government.

Mr Mishaal rejects the pragmatic policies adopted by prime minister Ismail Haniyeh and his government. But hardline positions have more often than not backfired.

Pollster Nader Said warned that while Cpl Shalit's capture has temporarily strengthened Palestinian "self-esteem", Israel's response could "transform [this] small victory into a big defeat".

Load-Date: June 29, 2006



DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 6, 2006 Saturday

THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2006 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A27

Length: 436 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Israeli strike on camp kills five militants

An Israeli aircraft struck a training camp used by Palestinian militants Friday, killing five members of a group that has close ties to the ruling *Hamas* movement.

The Israelis hit a base used by the Popular Resistance Committees, an umbrella group responsible for numerous rocket attacks against Israel. During five years of fighting, the Israeli army has killed dozens of militants in so-called targeted killings.

The attack scattered body parts and left pools of blood in a field just yards away from the home of Moumtaz Dourghmush, the top militant commander in the resistance committees. Dourghmush was not at the scene, but a brother and three cousins were among the dead, hospital officials said.

Dourghmush is known to have close ties with <u>Hamas'</u> military wing and has received training and funding from the group in the past.

Israeli security officials say he was involved in an attack last month on the main Israel-Gaza commercial crossing, which they said was planned in coordination with *Hamas*.

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Two Italian soldiers killed by roadside bomb

A roadside bomb killed two Italian soldiers and wounded four Friday as they were traveling to help Afghan police hurt in another attack near the capital, officials said.

Two Italian military vehicles were traveling together when one of them was hit about 10 miles south of Kabul, said Maj. Luke Knittig, a Kabul-based spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

Three Afghan police injured by a separate roadside bomb had called for the international force's assistance, said Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Mohammed Yousuf Stanezai. The Italian forces were only about three miles from the Afghans when they were hit, he said.

DIGEST

LONDON

Foreign secretary is replaced by Blair

Stung by an election defeat, Tony Blair shuffled his Cabinet on Friday and replaced Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to try to save his own political future and shore up support to tackle crises in Iran and Iraq.

Straw had privately expressed doubts about the Iraq war to his boss and publicly took a different stance on Iran. He described military action against Iran as "inconceivable," something neither Blair nor President George W. Bush would say, and called reports that the Bush administration has contingency plans for a tactical nuclear strike "nuts."

Margaret Beckett, a Blair loyalist who has been serving as environment secretary, takes over the Foreign Office, becoming Britain's first <u>female</u> foreign secretary. Blair's official spokesman said the change did not mean a shift in foreign policy.

Graphic

PHOTO - A tribute to plane crash victims A mourner tosses flowers into the Black Sea on Friday in memory of a relative killed in Wednesday's crash of an Armenian airliner. The disaster killed 113 people. Hundreds sailed to the crash site, off the Russian resort of Sochi. AFP / Getty Images

Load-Date: May 6, 2006



As democracy advances, Islamic parties gain ground; President Bush's call for free elections in the Mideast has produced surprises.

The Philadelphia Inquirer January 16, 2006 Monday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 877 words

Byline: Warren P. Strobel, Inquirer Washington Bureau

Body

Call it a case of why you should be careful what you wish for.

President Bush's efforts to spread democracy to the Middle East have had one unintended effect: strengthening Islamists across the region, posing fresh challenges for the United States, according to U.S. officials, foreign diplomats and democracy experts.

Islamist parties trounced secular opponents in recent elections in Iraq and Egypt.

<u>Hamas</u>, the armed Islamic Palestinian group, appears set to fare well in Palestinian parliamentary elections Jan. 25, posing a quandary for how the United States and Israel pursue peace efforts. <u>Hamas</u> has carried out suicide bombings against Israel and calls for the country's destruction.

In Lebanon, the Shiite Muslim militia Hezbollah is part of the government for the first time.

Washington considers Hezbollah and *Hamas*, both of which have Iranian support, to be terrorist groups.

"In the short run, the big windfall winners... have been the Islamists," said Michael McFaul, a Stanford University expert on democracy and development.

In the long run, democracy probably will lead to a more stable, economically flourishing Middle East, McFaul recently told a Washington conference. But he added: "We're taking a chance."

Islamist groups espouse Islam as the answer to their countries' problems. They appeal to large segments of Arab societies, particularly when the only alternative is the repressive and often corrupt state apparatus. They've proved adept at providing social services that governments often don't, and they're largely corruption-free.

Most strongly oppose U.S. foreign policy in the region and don't acknowledge Israel's right to exist. Their long-term commitment to the give-and-take of the democratic process is largely untested.

As democracy advances, Islamic parties gain ground President Bush's call for free elections in the Mideast has produced surprises.

Bush administration officials and many pro-democracy advocates argue that Islamist politicians inevitably will become more moderate once they're given the responsibilities of power. That hasn't happened, however, in Iran, which is Shiite but not Arab.

"It's entirely possible. But I think it's going to be a bumpy ride," said F. Gregory Gause III, the director of Middle East studies at the University of Vermont.

Bush used his second inaugural address a year ago to make spreading democracy, particularly in the Islamic world, the priority of U.S. foreign policy. The ultimate goal, he declared, is "ending tyranny in our world."

The United States is spending roughly \$1.3 billion in fiscal 2006 to promote democracy worldwide, the President said last May.

He argues that democracy will reduce the threat from terrorism. Some political scientists, including Gause, disagree.

Even Bush's critics give him credit for convincing Arab regimes that Washington is serious about democracy and for encouraging a tide of relative openness from North Africa to the Persian Gulf. Pushing democracy is slowly becoming entrenched as a priority at the State Department under Condoleezza Rice and at other agencies, officials said.

But the successes are far more modest than the White House has claimed, some said.

Bush and Rice rarely discuss in public the prospect that Islamists could be the prime beneficiaries of their policies.

Last spring there were elections in Iraq and the Palestinian Authority; Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak allowed multiparty presidential elections for the first time; and Syria withdrew its troops from Lebanon under international and local pressure, leading to new polls there.

But a more sober mood has set in.

"People were overly optimistic," said former State Department official Jon Alterman, the director of the Middle East Program at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, a national-security research center. "And now people are overly pessimistic."

Repression and one-man rule remain the norm.

The Economist magazine's Intelligence Unit in November gave only two countries in the Middle East relatively high marks on a 10-point scale of political freedom: Israel (8.20) and Lebanon (6.55). Morocco, Iraq and the Palestinian areas each scored slightly above 5 points, while 15 countries didn't reach that halfway mark. Libya got the lowest score, 2.05.

Islamists and Mideast Democracy

Iraq. Parties representing secular Shiites fared poorly in December's parliamentary elections compared with an Islamist Shiite slate.

The Palestinian Authority. <u>Hamas</u> appears poised to break the decades-old political monopoly of the secular Fatah movement. With Fatah bitterly divided, <u>Hamas</u> will finish just behind or possibly even ahead of the late Yasir Arafat's party in elections for the Palestinian Parliament.

Egypt. Candidates affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood fared better than expected late last year in parliamentary elections that outside observers described as flawed.

As democracy advances, Islamic parties gain ground President Bush's call for free elections in the Mideast has produced surprises.

Lebanon. Syria withdrew its troops from Lebanon in April, and Lebanon held its first modern elections free of Syrian domination in June. But the excitement of the "Cedar Revolution" has been replaced by political deadlock among Lebanon's contending religious groups.

The Persian Gulf. Saudi Arabia permitted municipal elections last year, while Kuwait's parliament gave <u>women</u> the right to vote. But real representative democracy seems decades way.

Contact reporter Warren Strobel at wstrobel@krwashington.com.

Load-Date: January 16, 2006



IN BRIEF

Canberra Times (Australia)
February 27, 2006 Monday
Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. 11 Length: 455 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

Iraq diplomacy moves Bombs and gunfire killed about 60 people as another daytime curfew failed to halt the violence that has claimed nearly 200 lives since the destruction of a Shi'ite shrine set off a wave of retribution against Sunnis and pushed Iraq towards civil war. In an unusual round of diplomacy, US President George W.Bush spoke on Saturday with seven leaders of Shi'ite, Sunni Arab and Kurdish parties in a bid to defuse the crisis. Political parties agreed to renew efforts to form a national unity government.

<u>Hamas</u> 'ready to talk' The Palestinian prime minister- designate says <u>Hamas</u> is "ready to recognise" Israel if it gives the Palestinian people their full rights and a state in lands occupied since 1967.

"If Israel declares that it will give the Palestinian people a state and give them back all their rights, then we are ready to recognise them," Ismail Haniyeh, a 43-year-old Gazan viewed by many Palestinians as a pragmatist, told The Washington Post in an interview posted on its website. Mr Haniyeh also said <u>Hamas</u> was ready to consider talks with Israel if it withdrew from the West Bank and East Jerusalem and recognised the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees who fled in the 1948 war.

Kabul prison unrest Hundreds of inmates clashed with guards in a failed attempt to break out of a high-security prison in Kabul and then took control of parts of the facility. The chief of prisons in Afghanistan said yesterday guards had been forced on Saturday night out of a block at Policharki Prison housing 1300 inmates including al-Qaeda and Taliban convicts. About 100 inmates had taken control of a **women**'s wing.

Public support call A marine colonel sacked over an alleged coup plot against Philippine President Gloria Arroyo holed up inside a military camp in Manila yesterday with several dozen other marines and urged the public to rally round him.

Colonel Ariel Querubin said he was taking the action in protest at the unexplained resignation earlier in the day of marines chief Major-General Renato Miranda. The Government had no immediate reaction to Colonel Querubin's action.

Da Vinci Code in court The blockbuster novel The Da Vinci Code will be the subject of a High Court battle in London today when two authors claim that their ideas were stolen and used in the book. Conspiracy theories involving the Catholic Church and the Holy Grail will be investigated in the court case in which one of the world's highest-paid authors, Dan Brown, is facing two men who claim he stole their ideas. Michael Baigent and Richard

IN BRIEF

Leigh are suing their own publishers, Random House, claiming the international successful novel lifts from their 1982 book, The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail, itself a best-seller.

Load-Date: February 26, 2006



Reply: Letters and emails: Rocket attacks and responsibility

The Guardian - Final Edition
July 17, 2006 Monday

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Section: GUARDIAN LEADER PAGES; Pg. 29

Length: 269 words

Byline: Chris Doyle, Glyn Hale

Body

Douglas Hogg (Letters, July 16) outlines <u>Hamas</u>'s responsibilities in ending rocket attacks. But, frankly, no Palestinian authority, elected or unelected, Islamist or secular, would be able to stop actions against Israel, especially its army, while Gaza remains under siege and occupied. Israel withdrew from the inside of Gaza last year but remained prison wardens by air, land and sea, permitting restricted access for goods and people on its terms. The Palestinians still have no state, no passports and no liberty.

Moreover, in the West Bank, while <u>Hamas</u> may not have recognised Israel, the latter has not given up its huge territorial appetite for Palestinian land. In short, Israel has been allowed by the US and a compliant British government to act as a rogue state above the law. For years Palestinians invested hope in international law, security council resolutions, conventions against torture and the like, but now these have lost any meaning for them. Is it any wonder that, having lost patience waiting for the end of occupation, the return of their stolen land, and the release of thousands of illegally abducted family members including <u>women</u> and children, Palestinian groups started operating outside the law? The only way forward is to start by insisting that all parties adhere scrupulously to international law, as a foundation for negotiations.

Chris Doyle

Director, Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding

* If Britain had launched an all-out attack on the civilian population of Ireland in its pursuit of the IRA, would there be peace in Ireland now?

Glyn Hale

Stroud, Gloucestershire

Load-Date: July 17, 2006



A Haifa Life

The New York Times
July 30, 2006 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 6; Column 3; Magazine; Pg. 13; THE WAY WE LIVE NOW: 7-30-06: QUESTIONS FOR A. B.

YEHOSHUA

Length: 662 words

Byline: By Deborah Solomon

Body

Q: As one of Israel's most acclaimed novelists and public intellectuals, you happen to live in Haifa, which is close to the Lebanese border and among the towns in northern Israel struck this month by Hezbollah's rockets. What has it been like there? It's a bizarre combination. It's like Yom Kippur on the one hand, because the streets are empty and there are no cars. On the other hand, you can eat if you like.

Are you constantly heading into bomb shelters? Every modern house in Israel has its own safe room. The other day, a patient was insistent to come see my wife, a psychoanalyst. In the middle of the session, the sirens went off. The three of us rushed into the safe room. This was a really special session in which the psychoanalyst's husband is sitting with the patient. This is not done in New York.

As a so-called Israeli dove who has publicly expressed sympathy for the Palestinians, what do you think when the sirens go off and the rockets fall? This is so sad. How many fighters are in Hezbollah? A very tiny group. A few thousand? They are now putting disaster on millions of Lebanese who did not want this war and who now have to suffer.

As terrorist groups go, do you think Hezbollah is worse than <u>Hamas</u>? Hezbollah is far more extreme than <u>Hamas</u>. Hezbollah is an organization that denies the legitimacy of Israel.

But so does <u>Hamas</u>, whose charter calls for the destruction of Israel. Their official ideology is very anti-Israel, but <u>Hamas</u> is more reasonable because they have to live with the reality and provide food to the Palestinian people. Hezbollah is living in a vacuum. They're in Lebanon, but they're not responsible for the safety and welfare of Lebanon, having been founded as the messenger of Iran in a fanatic way.

Let's talk about your latest novel, "A Woman in Jerusalem," which comes out in this country in a few weeks. This is the most important thing! Meaning, I would like to speak not about the Hezbollah but my novel.

Isn't politics more important than your own career? Of course, but about my novel I can speak something more accurate, more intimate and more true than I can about Hezbollah.

The novel is surprisingly entertaining for a book about a bureaucrat employed by a bakery and an unclaimed <u>female</u> corpse at a morgue, the victim of a suicide bombing in Jerusalem. He is an alienated bureaucrat. From this

A Haifa Life

alienation, from this indifference, little by little, he takes moral responsibility for the neglect of this woman and falls in love with her even though he never met her.

Or rather falls in love with the process of mourning her, as if to atone for his unfeeling past. I wrote the book during the second intifada, when the question was what to do with these constant deaths. Israeli society, I saw, was repressing these deaths. When a bus or restaurant was blown up, the bus was taken away, the streets were cleaned and normal life returned. This was a kind of a formula -- we have to keep normal life. We don't have to be affected by this, as we don't know how to mourn. The heart was becoming hard, very hard. And this was the place which I wanted as a writer to open.

Along with other Israeli novelists, you've been active in trying to broker a peace with the Palestinians, flying to Geneva in 2003 for the signing of the Geneva Accord. Who else was there? A great part of the Israeli intelligentsia, including Amos Oz and David Grossman. We are very close friends.

Is there competition among you? We are competitive, but in order not to suffer from competition, we sublimate our competition in friendship.

How would you compare your fiction with theirs? I was considered one of the most optimistic of the novelists. But now, I have to say, I have lost a great quantity of my optimism.

Which makes you a pessimist about the future of Israel? No. I have children and grandchildren. I can be a pessimist for myself, but I have to be optimistic for them. I have to keep the spirit. Deborah Solomon

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo (Photograph by Gillian Laub)

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



Public cash under threat

EVENING CHRONICLE (Newcastle, UK)

June 6, 2006 Tuesday

Edition 1

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 298 words

Byline: By The Evening Chronicle

Body

Prime Minister Tony Blair will today acknowledge that trust in investment in public services is at risk if performance does not improve after recent fiascos.

He will tell a conference organised by the Cabinet Office that taxpayers' consent for the billions pumped into Whitehall, including the cash spent on civil servants' protected pensions, is at risk unless it shows a return.

Call for votes

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said he would call a referendum on a programme that implicitly recognises Israel after talks with the militant Islamic <u>Hamas</u> broke down just before a midnight deadline. <u>Hamas</u>, at the head of the Palestinian government, hotly opposes a referendum.

Tackle prisons

The chairman of an influential MPs committee called on the Home Office today to deport more foreign prisoners as part of a drive to tackle jail overcrowding. Edward Leigh, chairman of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, said it was "astonishing" that the Home Office had allowed 1,019 foreign offenders to leave jail at the end of their sentences without considering them for deportation.

Risk to women

The US is lecturing Germany over legalised prostitution that the Americans say could endanger <u>women</u> lured or forced to the host country for this month's football World Cup. Worldwide, the State Department reported few successes in efforts to slow what Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called a "sordid trade in human beings".

Talks on Iran

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana today began talks with top Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani on a package of incentives designed to coax Iran to stop uranium enrichment. Solana went into closed door talks with Larijani in the Supreme National Security Council building in central Tehran. Journalists were barred from the building.

Load-Date: June 6, 2006



Israel widens bombing campaign as Lebanese militia groups retaliate

Belfast Telegraph
July 14, 2006 Friday

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Length: 791 words

Byline: By Donald Macintyre and Eric Silver

Body

Israeli forces blockaded Lebanese ports and bombed runways at Beirut airport yesterday in a series of fierce reprisal attacks that Lebanese officials say have killed 55 civilians.

Tthe biggest military operation since Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon six years ago came in response to a raid by Hizbollah on Wednesday in which two soldiers were seized while on patrol on the Israeli side of the border. The most serious casualties were caused by a series of air raids on south Lebanon that Lebanese security officials say killed 55 people and wounded 110. Sources said 10 members of a single family were killed in Dweir village and seven from another family were killed in Baflay.

The Israeli military said Hizbollah guerrillas fired more than 100 Katyusha rockets in retaliation at towns and villages across the north of Israel, killing two <u>women</u> in what was the most serious barrage since the mid-1990s. One woman was killed in Nahariya and another woman died from her wounds in Safed.

The guerrilla group appeared last night to have dramatically exceeded the rocket's previous range by launching two at the coastal city of Haifa. Another landed in the suburbs. Danny Ayalon, Israeli ambassador to the US, said the attack was a "major, major, escalation" but Hizbollah's initial reaction was to deny its rockets had been fired at Haifa.

Israeli planes late last night launched a second attack on Beirut's airport, setting fuel tanks ablaze, and leafleted residents in the crowded southern suburbs of Beirut, warning them to stay away from Hizbollah sites in an apparent prelude to further air raids. Israeli jets also bombed the highway linking Beirut with the Syrian capital, Damascus.

The Iranian PresidentMahmoud Ahmadinejad responded by warning Israel against an attack on Syria. "If the Zionist regime commits another stupid move and attacks Syria, this will be considered like attacking the whole Islamic world and this regime will receive a very fierce response," he said.

Earlier, Israeli forces attacked two military bases and hinted at a ground offensive, the Lebanese Information Minister, Ghazi al-Aridi, said that Lebanon wanted a comprehensive ceasefire and an end to "this open-ended aggression" by Israel.

Israeli helicopters also fired on three facilities of the Hizbollah-operated al-Manar television network. One person was reported killed and 10 wounded.

The US vetoed a UN resolution last night that demanded Israel halt its military offensive in Gaza the first UN Security Council veto in almost two years. Ten of the 15 countries voted in favour; while Britain, Denmark, Slovakia and Peru abstained.

Israel widens bombing campaign as Lebanese militia groups retaliate

President George Bush voiced concern about the fate of Lebanon's fragile government, which is no longer dominated by Syria, but said: "Israel has the right to defend herself." Margaret Beckett, the Foreign Secretary, said Israel should respond to the "inexcusable provocation" in a "measured and proportionate" way.

The seized Israeli soldiers were named as Ehud Goldwasser, 31, of Nahariya, and Eldad Regev, 26, of Kiryat Motzkin. The deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, Gideon Meir, said Israel would not negotiate "with any organisation that kidnaps soldiers".

The operation in Lebanon has opened a second front a fortnight after Israeli troops staged their first military operations inside Gaza since withdrawing from the Strip last summer. After 23 Palestinians were killed in attacks on Wednesday, Israel's air force bombed the <u>Hamas</u>-controlled Foreign Ministry overnight. The operation in Gaza was launched with the stated aim of freeing an abducted 19-year-old army corporal, Gilad Shalit, and stopping Qassam rocket attacks from Gaza.

Israel said it was hitting targets that were of assistance to Hizbollah and which had been operating without interference from the Lebanese government.

The main players as Israel fights on two fronts

Ehud Olmert

Four months after his election victory promising a West Bank withdrawal and greater security, Prime Minister Olmert is fighting on two fronts.

Amir Peretz

Leader of Israel's Labour party, he has had his pacifist beliefs sorely tested since becoming defence minister in March. Faces international pressure to minimise civilian casualties.

Bashar Assad

The Syrian President will feel increasing international pressure to rein in his Hizbollah and <u>Hamas</u> allies. The US holds Syria responsible for the crisis.

Sheik Hassan Nasrallah

Hizbollah's leader, believed to be in southern Beirut, threatened further rocket attacks if Israeli air strikes continue, and said the two soldiers will be freed only in an exchange.

Khaled Mashal

The <u>Hamas</u> political leader is in hiding in Damascus. Has said <u>Hamas</u> will only release the Israeli soldier held hostage in Gaza in exchange for prisoners.

Load-Date: July 14, 2006



No Time To Skimp on Men and Materials

New York Sun (Archive)
July 28, 2006 Friday

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Section: ISRAEL AT WAR; Pg. 7

Length: 715 words

Byline: Youssef Ibrahim

Body

When the history of the Iraq and Lebanon wars is written, it may be said they were lost because America and Israel failed to put enough boots on the ground - a petty reason to lose battles of destiny. We are not there yet, but we are pretty close to it.

The issue now is Israel's ongoing war with Hezbollah and its companions, Gaza, <u>Hamas</u>, and Islamic Jihad. Dismissing it as another Arab-Jew skirmish is a serious error. This war is the latest installment in the continuing clash of jihadist Islam and the global Judeo-Christian system.

Similarly, the war in Iraq - regardless of how it began in 2003 - has mutated into another front for jihadists to push their military theocracies and finally drown yet another Muslim country in the growing cesspool of jihadism. Similar outposts have been claimed or are being reclaimed in Somalia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and immigrant Muslim communities in Europe and America, where converts have used suicide bombings to blow up subways and buildings, high on the fumes of the Palestinian Arab struggle and assorted Muslim grievances against the West.

So Gaza and Lebanon are neither the last nor the first, but just the latest spots where people like Sheik Hassan Nasrallah of Hezbollah stage their wars of choice in the name of the prophet. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi did it in Jordan, as have Osama bin Laden and his no. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri, who jumped into the fray yesterday, warning the West of dire consequences over Hezbollah.

Sadly, whenever such conflicts flare, shortsighted Westerners and panicky Arab secularists start talking about negotiations and cease-fires, oblivious to the fact that jihadists are not the least bit interested.

Worse yet, when they do decide to accept the challenge and go to battle, as Israel and America did in Iraq and Lebanon, their leaders refuse to supply the hardware and the armies necessary. Fighting terror on the cheap has been President Bush and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's grievous error in Iraq, where twice as many Americans troops were needed from Day 1. The error is now being repeated by Israel's remarkably inept prime minister, Ehud Olmert, and his catastrophically pacifist defense minister, Amir Peretz. Such errors cost more than lives. They make for a Vietnam rerun, with all the strategic setbacks and emotional baggage that come with defeats.

The battle against suicide-ready Muslim fundamentalists is one where no prisoners will be taken by either side.

Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u>, as well as their patrons, Iran and Syria, are in the vanguard of a relentless Islamist-jihadist march that challenges human values on a global scale, from Indonesia to Iraq, Lebanon to Palestine, and as far

No Time To Skimp on Men and Materials

away as Chechnya and the "Mad Max" land of Somalia. The jihadists' goal is reversing a 200-year history of achievements: Democratic values, freedom of expression, separation of church and state, establishment of civil societies, and the emancipation of <u>women</u> and human beings from theocratic and autocratic rule.

When Israel decided to put an end to what was, in effect, death by a thousand paper cuts - Kassam and Katyusha rockets and Hezbollah-<u>Hamas</u> cross-border raids - it set its sights on bringing down the terrorist proxies of Iran and Syria by dismantling the <u>Hamas</u> government and stripping Hezbollah of political power via a humiliating military defeat.

Yet three weeks into the fighting, Israel has pledged just 10% of its reservists, confining itself to a bombing campaign and a meager ground force in Lebanon. Hezbollah is already broadcasting to the whole jihadi planet that Islam has triumphed. The Web is abuzz with its gloating. There is even talk of negotiations that include Iran and Syria, another recipe for disaster.

Syria's objective is nothing less than to reassert its control of Lebanon and suffocate what is left of the great Cedar Revolution. Iran is the backer, financier, and godfather of Hezbollah and Syria.

Their goals are utterly incompatible with those of the group that just met in Rome, which pressured Secretary of State Rice on Wednesday to urge Israel to accept a cease-fire. For her part, Ms. Rice was talking of a "new Middle East," one following the now defunct greater democratic Middle East of 2004. We would settle for propping up the old Middle East.

Load-Date: July 28, 2006



One man's ideas on dealing with Muslim world

The Toronto Star

June 29, 2006 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. A21

Length: 740 words

Dateline: THE HAGUE

Body

Across the road from the Dutch parliament is a government-funded think-tank, the Scientific Council for Government Policy, whose mandate is to give independent advice to the government on domestic and international issues.

It did so in April with a stunning 230-page report that broke new ground, in more ways than one.

It said Holland was headed in the wrong direction in its dealings with the country's 1 million Muslims and also with the broader Muslim world.

It challenged the dominant Western narrative of a monolithic Islam, which it noted has many strands, from conservative to liberal.

It said Islam is not at odds with democracy. Yes, many Muslim nations are undemocratic but that did not make them much different from "many other developing countries."

It noted the irony that Western anti-Islamists are saying the same thing as Islamic fundamentalists in arguing that Islam is not compatible with democracy and respect for human rights.

It said transnational jihadism won't be defeated by war and military conquest alone or by demonizing Muslims, but rather by mutual engagement.

Finally, the report spoke of "the inter-relatedness" of world events - what happens there has consequences here. That's why the Netherlands and other European nations cannot "permit themselves to stand aloof. An inwardly focused Europe that renounces external ambitions only creates an illusion of security that does not remove the existing vulnerability."

The man who supervised and co-wrote the report is Jan Schoonenboom, a member of the council. I talked to him.

Expanding on his report's recommendation on the Middle East, which stated that the West should talk to <u>Hamas</u> rather than boycott it, he said - in a conversation that preceded the current escalation in Gaza - that we have an "enormous stake" in the dispute. If the conflict continues, "we will feel the impact here, in the radicalization of the consciousness of the Muslims living here."

Hamas is "an organization and a movement that has been legitimized by the Palestinian people ...

One man's ideas on dealing with Muslim world

"When we promote democracy, we should respect the outcome of democracy. When the result is not in our favour, we cannot say, this is not what we meant ...

"The stakes are very high and we should not be dogmatic. Calling an organization a terrorist organization is a political act. It is not a scientific act. The IRA moved away from its terrorist, or at least violent past, and we should recognize the same possibility for *Hamas*.

"If the Israelis are really interested in peace and are honest about land for peace," he said, "then <u>Hamas</u> is a much better negotiating partner than Fatah." But "if Israel is interested in only more concessions, we face a very grim future."

His report recommended that the West should deal with various Islamic movements across the world, rather than relying almost exclusively on secular groups made in our own image but which have little political support among Muslims.

Schoonenboom said that such movements have "been moving toward the political centre, denouncing the use of violence, taking up normal political issues." He cited the opposition Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Turkey's ruling Justice and Development party.

"All emancipation movements have a radical initial phase, exaggerating their own characteristics. Among African Americans, it was 'Black is beautiful.' Among the feminists, it was, 'Female love is better than male love.'

"But then the movement moves on.

"In Malaysia, Sisters in Islam started off like that, '<u>Women</u> must wear the hijab.' But now, the hijab is becoming functional in Malaysia. When going to the mosque or some religious place, yes, but when going to a cinema, no."

Schoonenboom said fears of terrorism and Muslim militancy have created "a crisis of self-confidence" in democracies, which have been overreacting. "Let's have some confidence in ourselves" - and engage the world.

But since each of the four big western powers - the U.S., Germany, Britain and France - has its own baggage, Schoonenboom said countries like Canada, Holland and Norway should be advancing the agenda of dialogue and rapprochement.

He hopes that his own centre's work would help in "creating a safe, open and critical intellectual environment in which Muslims and non-Muslims alike will be confident enough to move away from paralyzing stereotypes and paradigms."

Haroon Siddiqui, the Star's editorial page editor emeritus, appears Thursday and Sunday. hsiddiq @ thestar.ca.

Load-Date: June 29, 2006



No room for restraint

University Wire
July 17, 2006 Monday

Copyright 2006 Daily Texan via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 679 words

Byline: By Frankie Shulkin, Daily Texan; SOURCE: U. Texas

Dateline: AUSTIN, Texas

Body

The world fails to understand that the United States and her allies, including Israel, are in a fight to the death against Islamic Jihadists leaving no room for peace talks.

Likewise, the media fails to label the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as part of the War on Terror, and the time has come to treat it as such. One must not see it as only a conflict of military might and land disputes, but rather one must analyze it as a clash of ideologies.

One ideology calls for peace and security, a policy which has allowed Israel to utterly thrive in fields of art, science and technology. Israel's way of life allows it to exist as a beacon of light in a dark Middle East dominated by despots.

The other is an ideology that our own nation saw on Sept. 11, an ideology we continue to deal with in Iraq, and an ideology that seeks the destruction of those living differently and democratically.

This is all that the current situation is about - a clash of right and wrong.

Israel's yearn for tranquility is right. The waging of Jihad is wrong.

Label the Palestinian government of <u>Hamas</u> what it really is: a radical Jihadist group seeking the annihilation of the Jews. Read it for yourself in its charter. Remember that the Axis of Evil, including Syria and Iran, hope not only for the destruction of Israel but for America's as well. And if this truly is World War III, the civilized, democratic world cannot hold back in taking direct action against these evil regimes.

Israel regrets that they do take civilian casualties, and as a result, the nation continuously bends over backward to be one of the most civilized and humane armies in existence. In Lebanon this past week, about an hour before Israel destroyed Hezbollah's headquarters, Israeli warplanes dropped leaflets stating their plans to destroy the building, instructing civilians to leave.

Blame not Israel for the deaths of the innocent, but blame the radical leaders Israel targets who surround themselves with **women** and children as human shields.

No room for restraint

I have much sympathy for Palestinians who suffer. I only wish that they valued my existence as I value their lives. And perhaps next time, Palestinians should think twice about electing a terrorist regime and sending their children to train as suicide bombers.

The media fails to bring attention to the innocent Jewish lives taken, and I doubt The New York Times would show an Israeli child dying in the arms of his mother. We never hear of a U.N. Resolution condemning the evil tactics used by *Hamas* and Hezbollah. However, each time Israel defends herself, her actions are questioned.

In recent days, many world leaders with the exception of our brave president, have called for Israel to use restraint. But restraint is not an option when the world faces an ideology that seeks the extinction of an entire people.

<u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah, Syria and Iran do not want to end nor even win the conflict. They want an end to the Jewish line of history.

In 1948, surrounding nations and Arabs in the Middle East sought not only to get back the land that Israelis cultivated themselves, but also to finish off what Hitler started.

So is there even a "cycle of violence"? I emphatically declare no.

It was <u>Hamas</u> that entered Israel and took an Israeli hostage. It is Hezbollah, using some of Iran's 12,000 missiles, that fires rockets at Israeli citizens. Year after year, Israel responds in acts of self-defense after Jihadists perpetuate the violence.

Israel simply seeks to eradicate terrorists who make life worse for all.

Israel's battles are key in the world's War on Terror. We must understand the true nature of this conflict. We find ourselves in a fight against genocide, and we must recognize that Israel's battle is the same fight America wages with al-Qaeda.

If world leaders cower now, Western submission to the Jihadist threat is inevitable. If we stand up, as Israel is boldly doing, to address Iran, Syria and other nations seeking both Jewish and Western elimination, we can ensure that a worldwide Holocaust does not occur.

Restraint is not an option.

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Load-Date: July 17, 2006



No Time To Skimp on Men and Materials

New York Sun (Archive)
July 28, 2006 Friday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 715 words

Byline: YOUSSEF IBRAHIM

Body

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The issue now is Israel's ongoing war with Hezbollah and its companions, Gaza, <u>Hamas</u>, and Islamic Jihad. Dismissing it as another Arab-Jew skirmish is a serious error. This war is the latest installment in the continuing clash of jihadist Islam and the global Judeo-Christian system.

Similarly, the war in Iraq - regardless of how it began in 2003 - has mutated into another front for jihadists to push their military theocracies and finally drown yet another Muslim country in the growing cesspool of jihadism. Similar outposts have been claimed or are being reclaimed in Somalia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and immigrant Muslim communities in Europe and America, where converts have used suicide bombings to blow up subways and buildings, high on the fumes of the Palestinian Arab struggle and assorted Muslim grievances against the West.

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Worse yet, when they do decide to accept the challenge and go to battle, as Israel and America did in Iraq and Lebanon, their leaders refuse to supply the hardware and the armies necessary. Fighting terror on the cheap has been President Bush and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's grievous error in Iraq, where twice as many Americans troops were needed from Day 1. The error is now being repeated by Israel's remarkably inept prime minister, Ehud Olmert, and his catastrophically pacifist defense minister, Amir Peretz. Such errors cost more than lives. They make for a Vietnam rerun, with all the strategic setbacks and emotional baggage that come with defeats.

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No Time To Skimp on Men and Materials

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Load-Date: August 10, 2007



<u>Israeli prime minister rejects any talks over captured soldier Olmert vows</u> 'broad and ongoing' military action in Gaza, but offensive looks unlikely.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 27, 2006 Tuesday

THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2006 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 468 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

With troops poised to invade Gaza, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert ruled out on Monday bargaining with the captors of an Israeli soldier and promised a "broad and ongoing" military offensive.

But large-scale army action appeared unlikely. Officials said they were pursuing a diplomatic solution and conceded that a broad attack would threaten the life of the hostage captured Sunday.

After more than 24 hours of silence, the militants claiming to hold Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, issued their first demands Monday. The groups, linked to the <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian government, said Israel should release all imprisoned Palestinian <u>women</u> and children under 18 in return for information about Shalit.

Olmert rejected the demand. Addressing Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, he charged that the Palestinian attack on an army post at a Gaza crossing and the abduction of the soldier were part of a "murderous, hateful, fanatical Islamic extremist desire to destroy the state of Israel."

"This is not a matter of negotiations, this is not a matter of bargaining," he declared. "Release of prisoners is absolutely not on the agenda of the Israeli government."

Shalit was seized at a military post near the Gaza border by militants who infiltrated Israel through a tunnel. The attack was the first successful infiltration by militants since Israel withdrew from Gaza in September and immediately threatened to plunge the region into a major flare-up of violence.

Speaking earlier to a tourism conference in Jerusalem, Olmert said he held the entire Palestinian leadership responsible for Shalit's safety and warned that his own patience was wearing thin.

"I gave the orders to our military commanders to prepare the army for a broad and ongoing military operation to strike the terrorist leaders and all those involved," he said. "There will be immunity for no one."

Military officials said elite brigades and armored forces, backed by tanks, had been sent to the frontier, where thousands of soldiers already are deployed.

The only concrete measure Olmert announced was closing off Gaza.

Israeli prime minister rejects any talks over captured soldier Olmert vows 'broad and ongoing' military action in Gaza, but offensive looks unlikely.

Egyptian security officials said they had posted 2,500 police officers on the border to head off a flood of refugees if Israel invaded Gaza. They called the move precautionary.

With Israeli intelligence showing that Shalit was not seriously wounded, defense officials said there were no immediate plans for a massive ground incursion. However, the officials said a limited operation could begin in the coming days. Such operations could include a rescue attempt or a limited mission meant to pressure <u>Hamas</u> to free the soldier. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

<u>Hamas</u> government spokesman Ghazi Hamad said he had information Shalit was alive and urged the captors to keep him safe.

Graphic

PHOTO

PHOTO - Israeli soldiers near Kibbutz Mefalsim on the Israeli border with the Gaza Strip are on alert Monday waiting for potential orders to invade. AFP / Getty Images PHOTO - Cpl. Gilad Shalit, captured by Palestinian militants, is reported not to be seriously injured.

Load-Date: June 27, 2006



Tip leads to capture of sex offender

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)
May 3, 2006 Wednesday

0 South Pinellas Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 6A

Length: 518 words

Body

A tip prompted by a segment on a national television program led to the arrest Tuesday of a sex offender who escaped from a state facility with three other men who sawed their way to freedom, authorities said. Michael Dale Benson, classified a Level 3 offender for those deemed most likely to re-offend, was caught without incident in Kansas City, Mo., after a tip from someone who had seen a description of him on America's Most Wanted, authorities said. "This tip was absolutely crucial for catching him when we did," said Michael Tabman, special agent in charge of the Minneapolis FBI office. Authorities said Benson, 42, and three others escaped from the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center on April 15 after sawing through a metal bar on a security window. The three other men were quickly arrested.

Benson pleaded guilty in 1989 to first-degree criminal sexual conduct in a rape in Douglas County. He served prison time before being civilly committed to the sex offender program in St. Peter in 1993.

French leader says he won't step down

His popularity nearing record lows, French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin on Tuesday rejected demands that he resign over accusations that he used spy services to smear a top rival. Villepin endured angry debate Tuesday in the National Assembly over allegations that he tried to implicate Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, the center-right government's leading presidential hopeful, in a case in which politicians and executives were falsely accused of holding secret bank accounts. Villepin has denied any wrongdoing, and one of the key investigators backed his version Tuesday. With a year left until presidential elections, doubts increased about the survival of a government already staggered by riots in immigrant housing projects in November and student protests that scuttled a proposed labor reform last month.

UPDATE

Moussaoui trial

Jurors in the trial of Zacarias Moussaoui completed their sixth day of deliberations Tuesday without deciding whether the Sept. 11 conspirator should be executed or sentenced to life in prison. The nine men and three <u>women</u> went home after 6¾ hours of work Tuesday, bringing their total deliberations so far to 35¼ hours. They are to return today. Meanwhile, a transcript unsealed Tuesday revealed that the jurors decided to knock off work early this week - at 1:15 p.m. Thursday - so one juror can attend his parents' 50th wedding anniversary out of state and another juror can attend his daughter's induction into the National Junior Honor Society.

Tip leads to capture of sex offender

Mideast talks

Israeli leader Ehud Olmert plans to meet moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas after visiting Washington, an Israeli official said Tuesday - a nod to Abbas' position that contacts need not be cut off because of the <u>Hamas</u> takeover of the Palestinian government. The official said no date has been set for the summit, the first since <u>Hamas</u> won parliamentary elections in January. Israel insists it won't talk to the militants sworn to its destruction, and it was not clear if using Abbas to bypass <u>Hamas</u> could lead to a resumption of Mideast peace talks.

Load-Date: May 3, 2006



World

The Toronto Star

February 22, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 492 words

Body

United States

Firefighter who spoke

after decade in stupor

dies 10 months later

A brain-injured firefighter who suddenly spoke after nearly a decade in a stupor, giving hope to families of countless other patients, died yesterday in Buffalo. He was 44.

Donald Herbert was injured in December 1995, when the roof of a burning home collapsed on him. Deprived of oxygen for several minutes, he ended up blind, was largely mute and showed little awareness of his surroundings for years.

But on April 30, 2005, he shocked his family with a 14-hour talking jag. Since then, he spoke only sporadically, his progress hampered by a fall out of bed that caused bleeding on his brain, his doctor said. Last weekend, Herbert was in hospital with pneumonia. His breakthrough came three months after his doctor began giving him drugs normally used to treat Parkinson's disease, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and depression.

Harvard president Summers

steps down after rough ride

Harvard University president Lawrence Summers resigned yesterday after a turbulent five years and the most public faculty rebellion against a Harvard president in the school's 370-year history. Summers, 51, will step down at the end of the academic year and stay on as a professor.

The resignation came a week before faculty members, critical of what many called Summers's autocratic style, were prepared to consider a second no-confidence measure against him. Professors passed a no-confidence motion last year after they became angered by remarks Summers made in January 2005 suggesting <u>women</u> lacked an aptitude for science and engineering. He has apologized.

Egypt

Rice warned against

World

cutting Palestinian aid

Egypt's foreign minister said yesterday it would be premature to cut off international aid for a Palestinian government, even if <u>Hamas</u> is at its helm, dashing Bush administration hopes for a unified front as U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stood at his side in Cairo.

"We should give <u>Hamas</u> time," Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said. That was not the message Rice had hoped to hear from its ally. The U.S. has praised Egypt for telling <u>Hamas</u> it must moderate its views now that it has won Jan. 25 elections for control of the Palestinian parliament.

Iraq

Car bomb blast kills Shiite shoppers in Baghdad

A car bomb exploded yesterday on a street packed with shoppers in a Shiite area of Baghdad, killing 22 people and wounding 28, police said. It was the deadliest bomb attack in the Iraqi capital in a month. At least eight other people died in other violence in Baghdad and in attacks on beauty parlours and liquor stores in Bagouba.

South Africa

Aristide says he's willing

to return to Haiti

Ousted Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide said yesterday he was willing to return home after two years in exile. In a television interview, Aristide stopped short of setting a date for leaving South Africa, where he has been a "guest" since 2004.

FROM THE STAR'S WIRE SERVICES

Graphic

Donald Herbert, seen in an undated photo, shocked his family by speaking for 14 hours one day last April.

Load-Date: February 22, 2006



'It's a great day for us . . . we hope for big changes'

The Irish Times

January 26, 2006 Thursday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 14

Length: 463 words

Byline: Michael Jansen in Beit Hanina, Bethlehem

Body

MIDDLE EAST: Polling day began under a grey sky, a cruel chill wind blowing from the north. But everyone was cheerful at the little post office in Beit Hanina, a Jerusalem suburb.

Dyala Husseini received her ballot from the stamp window, laid it on the counter and marked her choices on two lists, national and district, folded the paper, handed it back and dipped her index finger into a pot of blue indelible ink.

A Polish observer from the EU mission watched every move. Yesterday's vote for the Palestinian parliament was one of the most closely observed in history.

Dyala voted for the first time in the holy city where she was born and her family has lived for 1,000 years. In 1996 and 2005 I journeyed with her to the West Bank.

Israel allows only 5 per cent of 120,000 Palestinian electors in Jerusalem to vote in post offices in the holy city under the pretence they are casting absentee ballots. The rest must travel beyond city limits.

In Bethlehem, relegated by Israel to the West Bank, polling stations were in schools where teachers served as election officers.

Children ran riot in the streets, brandishing party banners and handing out cards bearing the names, portraits and numbers of candidates.

Streets, still festooned with Christmas tinsel, were filled with smiling people and walls were plastered with colourful posters.

One building was covered by a vast picture of Marwan Barghouti, who tops the Fatah list, his manacled hands aloft in an Israeli prison.

During this campaign he has become the symbol of struggling people. This does not mean Fatah will win. Islamic *Hamas* is strong even in the town where Jesus was born.

There is only one polling booth in the boy's secondary school, a bleak breeze block building with thick metal grilles over its windows.

'It's a great day for us . . . we hope for big changes'

Observer Monica McWilliams, Northern Ireland's Human Rights Commissioner and former MLA, observed: "This is the worst school I've visited, but the election is very well organised here . . . They've had three elections this year, so they've a lot of practice."

After ballot boxes were delivered to the schools on Tuesday policemen remained on guard until the polls opened yesterday. "They are determined the world should know they have signed up to democratic accountability." she said.

Monitors will remain at West Bank centres until votes are counted and challenges from candidate agents are lodged. "We expect close results," Ms McWilliams added.

Three <u>women</u> in headscarves paused for a chat. "It's a great day for us. We hope this will help the Palestinians to win freedom. We hope for big changes," said Ibtisam Khatib.

"We want *Hamas*. The clever people will vote for *Hamas*. It will make a good deal for us with the Israelis."

She held up her candidate card: "You see, this is my brother. We are voting for him."

Load-Date: January 26, 2006



Gaza on brink of humanitarian disaster as aid agencies pressure Israel

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 11, 2006 Tuesday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 9

Length: 513 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Gaza

Body

HUMANITARIAN agencies working in Gaza say the sealed-off territory's 1.3 million people are "on the brink of a public health disaster" as a result of Israeli attacks and an international aid and financial blockade.

As the crisis over the capture of Corporal Gilad Shalit entered its third week, Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, told his cabinet that operations in Gaza would be "open-ended". He rejected a call from his Palestinian counterpart, Ismail Haniyeh, for a ceasefire.

"This is a war that cannot be on a timetable," Mr Olmert was quoted as telling the Israeli cabinet. "There is no intention to reoccupy Gaza in order to stay there, but if certain operations are needed they will be carried out. We will operate, enter and pull out as needed."

At least one militant and one civilian were killed yesterday as Israeli aircraft fired missiles at suspected militant targets. Israeli newspapers reported that tanks, troops and aircraft were preparing for a renewed attack.

The Palestinian militant groups that captured Corporal Shalit in a dawn raid on June 25, led by the armed wing of the ruling *Hamas* party, say they will free him only in return for *female*, underage and long-term Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Mr Olmert has ruled out any exchange, threatening to escalate attacks in Gaza if the soldier is not freed without conditions and if militants do not stop firing rockets into Israel.

News agency counts put the dead in Gaza at about 50 since Corporal Shalit's capture. <u>Hamas</u> abandoned a 15-month ceasefire just before the soldier was seized, complaining that while its fighters were observing a truce 21 civilians, including several children, had died during Israeli air strikes and bombardments in Gaza the previous month.

One Israeli soldier has died in the current "Operation Summer Rains", shot accidentally by his own comrades. Two members of Corporal Shalit's crew were killed during the attack on their tank.

In recent days the governments of Britain, Switzerland and Italy have voiced concern at what they called the use of collective punishment against civilians in Gaza. The European Union says it is concerned that not enough is being done to safeguard Palestinian lives.

Gaza on brink of humanitarian disaster as aid agencies pressure Israel

The US defended Israel. "Let's remember who started this," said a US undersecretary of state, Nicholas Burns. "It was the outrageous actions of <u>Hamas</u> in violating Israel's sovereignty, in taking the soldier hostage."

A coalition of United Nations agencies led by the UN Relief and Works Agency has warned that Gaza faces economic and human disaster if the de facto Israeli blockade on supplies and trade is not immediately lifted. Although Israel says it will allow essential supplies to cross into Gaza, local exports have in practice been blocked for months and the UN says severe restrictions at border crossings - all in effect under Israeli control - are worsening already grave poverty and creating shortages of fuel, food and medicine.

Yesterday an Israeli gunboat fired shots at small vessels to force them from their fishing grounds close to Gaza City's harbour.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



LETTERS

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

June 20, 2006 Tuesday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NATION/WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 981 words

Body

Confusing The Issue

Regarding "Huda's Grief" by Saleh A. Mubarak (Other Views, June 13):

Mubarak's Ph.D. must be in obfuscation. Underlying his column are the unspoken truths that when <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah kill or maim Israeli civilians, they do so with full intent and celebrate the bloodshed; when Israelis kill or maim Palestinian civilians, they do so by accident and apologize.

GILBERT KUSHNER

Tampa

Apologist For Terrorism

Saleh Mubarak's column is important in that it demonstrates once again that the apologists for terrorism cannot understand the difference between a tragic but accidental death of a child and the intentional murder of children. Those Palestinian murderers who were firing rockets at Israel were intending to cause as many deaths as possible, targeting <u>women</u> and children in preference to the military. The Israeli response, unfortunately, went astray and resulted in the tragic death of Huda's family, leaving her an orphan.

I sympathize with the Israeli gunners who are filled with grief at the results of the act, which was forced on them. I also sympathize with Huda and am sorry that she will be raised to praise the real culprits of this horror - the murderers who fired the first shots.

The Allies killed many innocent French civilians on June 6, 1944, but no rational person would claim that invalidated the fight against the Nazis. Huda's real and tragic grief in no way invalidates the need to oppose Palestinian terrorism.

IAN H. MACFARLANE

St. Petersburg

Many More Hudas

LETTERS

Saleh Mubarak's effort to exonerate the actions of a vicious terrorist organization, <u>Hamas</u>, is astounding. Of course, his native Syria has been the base of every Islamic terrorist group for decades, and its occupation of Lebanon has only recently ended.

The Tribune should present an account of the 1,114 Israelis killed by Palestinian terrorists since September 2000. There are many Israeli Hudas who mourn their families killed by homicide bombers. As for Huda's grief, it is quite possible that her own people are responsible for the tragic deaths of her family. Investigation raises the real possibility that Israel was not responsible. This is a repeat of another Arab propaganda piece in which an Arab child was killed in his father's arms by what turned out to be Palestinian fire.

As the Israeli statesman Abba Eban once observed, "The Palestinians have never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity." By following the terrorists of <u>Hamas</u>, they are once again assuring that there will be many more Hudas.

NORMAN N. GROSS

Palm Harbor

The writer is president of Promoting Responsibility in Middle East Reporting.

Double Standard

Thank you very much for printing Saleh Mubarak's guest opinion. Although I almost lost my lunch when I read it, I think it may go a long way toward educating people about the mentality we are up against as a country.

Mubarak is obviously a well-educated man, as evidenced by his Ph.D, but I must question his conscience and common sense. He is relating <u>Hamas</u>, an organization that has gone on record as being proud of blowing up innocent people on buses (just to name one horrific act) to a legitimate government. War is a horrible thing and innocent lives will be lost. Israel and the Palestinians are at war despite what either side may say publicly. The deaths of those people on the beach were tragic, but they were not specifically targeted by Israel.

Can you imagine the uproar Israel would cause around the world if it boasted about killing those innocents on the beach, as <u>Hamas</u> is only too quick to do when it kills people going about their daily lives? This double standard is, quite frankly, disgusting.

KEVIN TAPIA

Tampa

Attack Was Reactive

Israel knows that as it continues to cage Palestinians in pockets of living hell, it is human nature that sooner or later the Palestinian government or even Palestinian individuals will be forced into reacting by trying to defend its population, never mind that the Palestinians do not have the means to even dent the Israeli military powerhouse. Nevertheless, by the Palestinians striking back and sadly taking Israeli lives in the process, Israel can then kick into action its well-oiled public relations spin machine to turn the tables on the entire Palestinian cause for independence and self-determination and thus further continue the delegitimization and the demise of the Palestinians.

PAUL MARS

St. Petersburg

Grief Clouds Judgment

Regarding "Mourning A Terrorist" (Other Views, June 14):

LETTERS

In 2004 a video posted on an al-Qaida-linked Web site showed the beheading of Michael Berg's son in Iraq. It was his son who screamed as al-Zarqawi held him down and sawed at his throat with a knife. Nick Berg, a fun-loving American fellow who did nothing to wrong others, was beheaded as al-Zarqawi praised his God. In a grisly gesture, al-Zarqawi held up Berg's head for the camera so the world could see.

I can't imagine how a father can mourn the death of his son and mourn the death of al-Zarqawi too. Michael Berg is a Green Party candidate for Congress, and using his son politically might explain much of the paradox.

John Tierney of The New York Times had it right: "Grieving relatives certainly have a right to be heard. But having tragedy strike your family does not make you an expert on public policy. Instead, it warps your perspective."

JERRY LOFSTROM

Plant City

Administration's Fault

This administration shares the responsibility of creating a monster like al-Zarqawi. Leaving our troops in Iraq will continue to rally more terrorists to step forward, making Iraq and the world even more dangerous.

We have removed a tyrant in Iraq, found no WMDs, established a democratic government and had elections. They have their own security forces. I think it's time to bring the troops home.

RICHARD GUITARD

Tampa

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Graphic

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Load-Date: June 26, 2006



Israel hunts for abducted soldier after dawn raid by Militants

Belfast Telegraph

June 26, 2006 Monday

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Length: 591 words **Byline:** By Eric Silver

Body

Israeli tanks, supported by helicopter gunships, were combing the southern Gaza Strip yesterday for Palestinian fighters who killed two tank crew members and kidnapped a third in a pre-dawn attack on an army base on the Israeli side of the border.

Lieutenant-General Dan Halutz, the Israeli chief of staff, said they had reason for thinking the missing soldier, 19-year-old Corporal Gilad Shalit, was alive. A spokesman for the abductors said he had stomach wounds but his condition was stable.

Two Palestinians were killed in exchanges of fire inside Israel before their comrades escaped back across the security fence. One Israeli was seriously wounded and three others lightly. The <u>Hamas</u> military wing claimed responsibility in partnership with the smaller Popular Resistance Committees and a hitherto unknown group, the Army of Islam.

Yesterday s raid, near the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel, Egypt and Gaza, was the first Palestinian ground attack from Gaza since Israel pulled out of the strip 10 months ago. Israel s incursion was the largest during the same period.

In an escalation of rhetoric to match the escalation on the battlefield, political and military officials threatened to strike at Palestinian leaders if the missing soldier was not returned safe and well. Israel s inner security cabinet was meeting last night to decide how to retaliate.

Mahmoud Abbas, the relatively moderate Palestinian President who had been trying to restore a ceasefire after weeks of missile fire and shelling in both directions, condemned the militants for giving Israel a pretext to launch a widespread military operation. It was reported last night that Mr Abbas was in a meeting with Ismail Haniyeh, the <u>Hamas</u> Prime Minister, to discuss the incident.

Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister, said he held Mr Abbas and Mr Haniyeh responsible for the soldier s fate with all that implies . Ra anan Gissin, Mr Olmert s spokesman, accused Mr Haniyeh s Islamist government of encouraging and initiating yesterday s raid.

General Halutz admitted at a press conference in Kerem Shalom that the well-planned and co-ordi-nated attack caught his troops off-guard. Seven or eight gunmen penetrated the border via a 300m-long tunnel dug deep in the sandy soil. Asked by an Israeli reporter whether the army knew of the tunnel, the chief of staff replied curtly: If we d known about it, it wouldn't have existed.

Israel hunts for abducted soldier after dawn raid by Militants

A military spokesman said the raiders struck at about 5.30am. They split into three groups. The first blew up an empty armoured personnel carrier. A second threw grenades at a tank, which also came under a barrage of missiles from the Gaza side. One grenade penetrated the turret, killing the commander and one of his men and severely wounding a third. One of the crew was abducted. Another group opened automatic fire at a 25m-high watchtower.

As well as hunting for the kidnapped soldier, the Israeli invasion force secured the area around the tunnel. Army engineers were preparing to destroy it. Witnesses reported warplanes firing on houses near the border.

Sami Abu Zuhri, a <u>Hamas</u> spokesman, celebrated yesterday s operation as a natural response to the Israeli crimes of killing <u>women</u> and children and the assassination of two military leaders. The Palestinians blame Israel for killing about 20 civilians in retaliation for rocket fire on Sderot and other border communities.

A joint statement by the three jubilant Palestinian militias boasted: This is a landing behind enemy lines. The operation targeted military and intelligence facilities.

Load-Date: June 26, 2006



In Focus

The Gazette (Montreal)
April 11, 2006 Tuesday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 511 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

Hamas works to end rise in Gaza violence

The new <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian government is quietly working to end a surge in violence, urging rival militant groups in the Gaza Strip to refrain from launching rockets at Israel without official permission. Yesterday, an 8-year-old Palestinian girl was killed when an Israeli artillery shell hit her house in northern Gaza.

Thirteen others were wounded, ranging from one to 17 years. Details, Page A18

Iraq unity talks stalled

Shiite politicians failed yesterday to persuade Sunni and Kurdish leaders to soften their opposition to Ibrahim al-Jaafari as the next prime minister, leaving the Shiites with little choice but to replace him if they want to break the deadlock on a new Iraqi government. Details, Page A20

Freed reporter returns

Freelance journalist Frederick Lavoie arrived in Montreal yesterday looking relaxed and unfazed by his 15 days in a Belarus prison. Lavoie said he hopes his time in jail has raised awareness about the restrictions on freedom of expression in that country. Details, Page A7

Farrell ran The Gazette

Mark Farrell, the left-leaning, public-spirited publisher of The Gazette for four years in the early 1970s and of the Windsor Star before then, died of pneumonia at his home in Morrisville, Vt., on Thursday.

He was 93. Details, Page A7

Chief justice backs reform

Canada's chief justice has thrown her substantial support behind a new system of politicians publically vetting Supreme Court contenders, saying recent hearings gave Canadians a chance to learn more about the judges. Details, Page A12

Feds: No Tigers allowed

In Focus

The Conservative government has listed the Tamil Tigers as a banned terrorist organization, bringing Canada in line with its international allies. Details, Page A12

Business

Point Zero streamlines

At a time when Montreal fashion companies are packing it in, downsizing or moving in search of tax breaks, Point Zero is planting deeper roots than ever in the

Cite de la Mode. Details, Page B1

Labour shortage looms

With Canada on the eve of a major retirement boom and facing critical labour shortages, Ottawa should gradually raise the age of eligibility for the Canada/Quebec pension plans to 65 from the current 60, says a major think tank. Details, Page B1

sports

Full circle for Kennedy

Sheldon Kennedy, who rocked the hockey world a decade ago when he charged his former coach Graham James with sexual abuse, has emerged from the shadows of abuse and drug and alcohol addiction. Details, Page C1

McGill taps top athletes

Redmen goalie Mathieu Poitras and Mart-lets soccer defender Shari Fraser have been named McGill's men's and women's athletes of the year. Details, Page C5

Youth Zone

Teens shoot the works

With easy access to digital video cameras and editing software, students are getting into making movies - and they're finding audiences on the Web. Details, Page C8

Arts & Life

Before you bike to work

People looking to leave the car in the driveway and take their bikes to work need to check out the four "spokes" first: framework, foundation, fuelling up and fashion. Details, Page D4

Graphic

Photo: (Hamas works to end rise in Gaza violence)

Load-Date: April 11, 2006



'Pro-Israel' Blair not welcome in Beirut, Shia cleric warns

The Independent (London)
September 11, 2006 Monday
Fourth Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 26

Length: 771 words

Byline: Andy McSmith and Patrick Cockburn in Ramallah

Body

Lebanon's most senior Shia cleric, Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, has told Tony Blair he is not welcome in Beirut, saying the government should have declared him " persona non grata" because of his perceived support for Israel.

The ayatollah, whose home was demolished during Israel's 34-day onslaught on Lebanon, launched after Shia militia captured two Israeli soldiers, said Mr Blair was "a real partner in the Israeli-American war on Lebanon".

"He [Mr Blair] participated in one way or another in the American-Israeli madness spree against Lebanon and acted like a killer of children, <u>women</u> and the elderly and worked to prevent a ceasefire from being reached," the religious leader said in a statement.

Mr Blair, who is to hold talks in Beirut today at the end of a three-day tour of the region, announced yesterday that the Middle East peace process meant so much to him that he would pay at least one more visit before he left Downing Street. His remarks were made in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, soon after he had presented himself as a broker in getting Israel's Prime Minister and the Palestinian President to talk face to face.

Mr Blair also came to Palestine armed with a formula which he hoped would circumvent the problem that Western governments refuse to deal with the <u>Hamas</u> administration until it recognises the state of Israel, renounces violence and recognises existing agreements. But <u>Hamas</u> was quick to reject the idea of a national unity government forced on it by outsiders.

"I hope I'm able to return to this region again," Mr Blair told journalists after his meeting with the Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas. He added: "As far as I'm concerned this issue which I believe passionately in will be as important as any other priority for me in the time that remains for me in office."

Staff travelling with Mr Blair have vehemently denied any suggestion that he has gone to the Middle East to escape the conflict in the Labour Party. When asked whether he believed Gordon Brown's denial of involvement in any "coup" against him back home, Mr Blair replied "of course", but refused to say more, pleading that he wanted to concentrate on Palestine while he was in the region.

'Pro- Israel ' Blair not welcome in Beirut, Shia cleric warns

The previous day, he had met the Israeli head of government, Ehud Olmert, who announced afterwards that he was prepared to meet Mr Abbas unconditionally. Mr Abbas reciprocated yesterday with an unconditional promise to meet Mr Olmert. He also praised Mr Blair's role as a mediator.

Mr Abbas also confirmed that he was going to Gaza to talk to <u>Hamas</u> about forming a government of national unity. Mr Blair has promised him that provided the Palestinian government as a whole recognis-es Israel and renounces violence, Britain and other nations will deal directly with it, even if it includes members of <u>Hamas</u>.

"We're not overstating it, but it is a significant step. The momentum is going in the right way, not the wrong way," his spokesman said.

But others questioned the value of arranging a meeting between a Palestinian President who is virtually powerless, and an Israeli Prime Minister whose political survival is seriously in doubt because of Israel's failure to achieve its military objectives in Lebanon. Mr Abbas is reported to have intended to resign in frustration from his job last week but was dissuaded from doing so by King Abdullah of Jordan.

Mr Blair's staff were also prepared for Arab protests about his visit, after hundreds of Palestinians had said he should not be there because he was too pro-Israeli. But the Palestinian reaction to Mr Blair was largely one of weary indifference. The only protest staged close to Mr Blair was by a British woman living in the West Bank, who gave her name as Kirsty. She stood up at his press conference wearing a handmade T-shirt bearing the slogan: "Tony Blair you make me ashamed to be British." Yesterday Mr Blair met the families of Israeli soldiers kidnapped in Lebanon and Gaza, but had no equivalent meetings with any Arab families.

Palestinians watching Mr Blair's performances at two press conferences were dismissive about their significance. "It is always the same: words, words, words and do nothing," said a Palestinian householder living between Ramallah and Jerusalem. "I watched Blair and we didn't find anything new. In future the West Bank will be more like a prison."

The Palestinian West Bank is being chopped up by Israeli checkpoints and barriers. A high wall seals off Jerusalem from the West Bank. There are 550 permanent roadblocks and 125 makeshift roadblocks. The "two state solution" as advocated by Mr Blair can no longer be implemented.

Load-Date: September 27, 2006



Children die in Israeli raid

Daily Post (North Wales)

June 14, 2006, Wednesday

Mersey Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 19

Length: 315 words

Body

AN ISRAELI air strike against a Palestinian rocket launcher and his accomplice yesterday also killed two children and six other civilians, inflaming Palestinian anger already burning over the deaths of eight Gaza beachgoers in a weekend blast.

The escalating violence coincided with increasingly bloody in-fighting among Palestinian gunmen, and could hurt attempts by moderate President Mahmoud Abbas and the West to pressure the <u>Hamas</u> government to moderate its virulently anti-Israel stance.

Abbas accused Israel of "state terrorism," and the Islamic Jihad militant group vowed to avenge the death of its chief rocket launcher, Hamoud Wadiya, in the attack in Gaza City.

Volleys of homemade Palestinian rockets at southern Israel in recent months have provoked harsh Israeli artillery and air s t r i ke s.

An official Israeli inquiry into last weekend's blast at a Gaza beach has concluded that the explosion almost certainly came from a *Hamas* militant mine and not an Israeli shell, an assertion Palestinian officials dismissed.

Yesterday, Israel sent aircraft after militants it said were on their way to carry out a rocket attack on southern Israel. A first missile missed the militants' yellow van as it travelled along a main road in Gaza City, but sent it crashing into a kerb, Palestinian witnesses said.

Two more missiles fired immediately after killed two militants inside the van, as well as eight civilians who had gathered near the site of the first attack.

Two of the civilians were children, and three were medical workers killed on their way to tend to people wounded by the first missile.

Ambulances carrying the 10 dead and 32 wounded raced toward Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. off by the blast.

Doctors, hard-pressed to handle the large number of casualties, treated some on the bloodied floor.

At the hospital's morgue, angry women shouted, "Death to Israel, Death to the occupation!"

Load-Date: June 14, 2006



The Nuclear Threat Of Iran Addressed At Holocaust Event

New York Sun (Archive) April 24, 2006 Monday

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Section: NEW YORK; Pg. 2

Length: 570 words

Byline: By GABRIELLE BIRKNER, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Body

Addressing a crowd of Holocaust survivors and their families, Israeli and American diplomats and politicians yesterday warned of a 21st century holocaust if Iran's nuclear ambitions are not thwarted.

The American ambassador to the United Nations, John Bolton, Senator Schumer, and the consul general of Israel, Arye Mekel, each pledged a commitment to keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of the president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who denies the Holocaust and has repeatedly expressed his desire for Israel's destruction.

"This is not an Israeli issue," Mr. Mekel told more than 1,000 attendees at a Holocaust Remembrance Day event at Hunter College. "This is a world problem. The world must stop Iran." The event was sponsored by the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, and other American and Israeli groups.

Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom HaShoah, is observed worldwide tomorrow.

Mr. Mekel urged the U.N. to impose economic and political sanctions against Iran. "Let's be clear," he said. "That country cannot, cannot have nuclear weapons."

Stressing the contemporary relevance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Mr. Bolton said the potential for a "nuclear holocaust" looms as Iran pursues its nuclear program, despite international pressure.

"Holocaust remembrance is not simply for the past, but for the present and the future as well," Mr. Bolton said. "I'm honored to be part of that struggle."

With its frequent condemnations of Israel, the U.N. has "disappointed the ideals" of those who established the transnational body after World War II, Mr. Bolton said.

Mr. Schumer also criticized Mr. Ahmadinejad, calling him a "madman," but said problems of Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism go further. "In Europe itself, we see a vehement double standard against Israel and the Jewish people," he said. "We see countries recognizing a government, *Hamas*, dedicated to killing Jewish *women*, children, and men."

Mr. Schumer compared <u>Hamas</u>, the terrorist organization that recently took control of the Palestinian Authority, with the Nazis. He said that although <u>Hamas</u> employs different methods of killing from the Nazis, the group seeks the same result as Hitler.

The Nuclear Threat Of Iran Addressed At Holocaust Event

Norbert Friedman, an 84-year-old Krakow native who survived 11 concentration and death camps, said yesterday that promises to prevent future holocausts are "only empty words unless they're followed up with deeds."

Mr. Friedman referred to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which took the lives of up to a million people, and the mass murders now taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. "The cry of a mother in Darfur is as painful as the cry of my own mother," he said. "We cannot disregard that."

At the event dozens of survivors, including the sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer, along with their children and grandchildren lit memorial candles in honor of those who died during the Holocaust.

"Although all of us have come here to be with each other, in some paradoxical way we each have come here to be alone with our thoughts and prayers and memories," the director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, David Marwell, said.

Another survivor, Samuel Bloch, addressed the crowd in Yiddish, the mother tongue of many of Eastern European Jews, which is no longer widely spoken. During his speech, in which he spoke of recognizing injustice, Mr. Bloch uttered only one word in English: "Remember."

Load-Date: April 24, 2006



The prisoners that Hezbollah is fighting for

The International Herald Tribune
August 5, 2006 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 761 words

Byline: Craig S. Smith

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

When Hezbollah guerrillas sneaked into Israel last month to kill and capture Israeli soldiers, setting off the current crisis, their goal was to trade them for a Lebanese man held by Israel.

The prisoner, Samir Kuntar, was part of a cell that in 1979 raided an apartment building in the northern Israeli town of Nahariya, terrorizing the Haran family. Kuntar shot Danny Haran in the head, killing him, while his daughter, Einat, 4, watched. He then smashed the girl's head in with his rifle butt, killing her as well. Haran's wife, Smadar, hid in the attic with their 2-year-old daughter, so afraid the girl would cry out that she accidentally suffocated the girl to death.

After Hezbollah made off with two Israeli soldiers in the raid last month, Israel vowed that it would not negotiate for their release.

But the question of prisoners held by Israel nearly all of them Palestinians is the subtext of this crisis and likely to figure in its resolution. It is an issue that animates Hezbollah and the Palestinians as much as anything else in their fight with Israel.

Political discourse, billboards, street graffiti and militant songs and manifestoes are all laced with references, sometimes nearly rote, to winning freedom for the prisoners.

The prisoners number about 9,700, about 100 of them <u>women</u>, according to a spokeswoman for the Israeli Prison Authority. About 300 are younger than 18, including two girls and a boy of 14, being held in juvenile detention facilities for acts against Israel.

The Israelis say many of them are terrorists if not quite on the scale of Kuntar, then not far from it and some clearly are. But the Palestinians say that others are wrongfully accused and that many have never committed a violent act.

The <u>Hamas</u> movement's military wing, the Qassam Brigades, say they captured Corporal Gilad Shalit as a bargaining chip to win the release of at least some of those prisoners, particularly the <u>women</u> and children. It is a move that many Palestinians support.

"We have 10,000 prisoners in jail, and the world cares only for this one Israeli prisoner," said Mohsin Jirjawi, speaking at the Shifa hospital in Gaza, where a nephew wounded in the current fighting was recovering.

The prisoners that Hezbollah is fighting for

He said "all Palestinians" supported <u>Hamas</u>'s proposal to trade prisoners with Israel. "And when Israel doesn't respond, our steadfastness grows."

When it followed with its raid last month, Hezbollah said it was acting in solidarity with the Palestinians.

Since 1998, the Palestinian Authority has maintained a Ministry of Prisoners' and Former Prisoners' Affairs, with 300 bureaucrats to keep track of the swelling number of prisoners in Israeli jails and to give allowances and legal aid to the prisoners and their families.

Even its own minister, Wasfi Qabaha, is now in prison, arrested by Israel in the wake of the capture of Shalit.

For the Palestinians, the ripples of distress from every arrest have become an oppressive wave.

Israel has repeatedly said that it will not trade prisoners to free its soldiers. But Israel has traded prisoners many times. In January 2004 it released about 430 prisoners in exchange for Elhanan Tannenbaum, an Israeli businessman kidnapped by Hezbollah four years earlier. The exchange also included the bodies of three Israeli soldiers.

In 1997, Israel freed the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Sheik Ahmed Yassin who was later killed in an Israeli missile strike along with dozens of others in return for two Israeli intelligence agents who had been arrested in Jordan after a failed attempt to kill <u>Hamas</u>'s current leader, Khaled Meshal.

"Israel returned prisoners many times in the past, so why is Israel being so stubborn this time?" asked Ikrama Sabri, the mufti of Jerusalem, the highest-ranking Islamic cleric here, in a recent sermon at Al Aksa Mosque.

That kind of talk has given hope to people like Fathiya Sbieh, who said she believes the fighting will mean that she will see her new grandchild soon.

Two months ago, Sbieh watched on TV as her daughter Samar got off a prison bus, her hands and feet shackled, and hobbled into Meir Hospital in Kafr Saba in Israel. She watched again as Samar hobbled out five days later, this time holding her newborn son.

Sbieh says her daughter's only crime was using someone else's identification card to get permission to travel to the West Bank.

But as is common, there is more than one version of the story. Orit Shteltzer, spokeswoman for the Israeli Prisons Authority, said Samar had been convicted of belonging to the Qassam Brigades and had prepared a suicide belt for a would-be bomber.

Load-Date: August 6, 2006



In Focus

The Gazette (Montreal)
February 10, 2006 Friday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 532 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

Reusable grocery bags a resounding success

Background: Metro and Super C stores began selling \$1 reusable plastic bags three weeks ago to encourage recycling.

New: The program has been so successful, they've run out of the sturdy blue sacks and won't get another shipment for several weeks. Details, Page A7

Suburbs appeal tax grab

Outraged by what they consider a blatant tax grab by the city of Montreal, the mayors of Montreal Island's demerged suburbs are to appeal today to local Liberal MNAs to reduce Montreal's power on the island council. Details, Page A7

Francophonie secretary doesn't speak French

Background: Quebec MP Josee Verner was named minister of La Francophonie this week by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

New: Ted Menzies, a unilingual anglophone Albertan, has been appointed parliamentary secretary for La Francophonie and Official Languages. Details, Page A12

War brides remember their journey of love

Background: After the Second World War, tens of thousands of <u>women</u> followed their husbands, Canadian soldiers, to Canada.

New: Dozens of war brides gathered in Halifax yesterday to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the first dedicated war bride ship, the Mauretania II. Details, Page A9

Kremlin invites *Hamas*

Background: Militant group <u>Hamas</u>, regarded as a terrorist organization by several countries, wins the Palestinian election last month.

In Focus

New: Russian President Vladimir Putin has invited senior *Hamas* officials to the Kremlin for talks. Details, Page A17

Bomb kills 27 at market

Background: In the Shiite Muslim holy day of Ashoura, they mourn the 7th-century death of Imam Hussain, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. The death fuelled the rivalry between Shiites and Sunnis.

New: A suicide bomb tears through a market crowd in a Pakistani town, killing 27 worshippers and sparking a deadly riot. There was also rare Shiite-Sunni violence in Afghanistan. Details, Page A16

Business

Satellite shows damage to Quebec's forests

A satellite-assisted survey of Quebec's northern forests reveals vast stretches of pristine boreal forest and intensively logged, heavily affected areas. Details, Page B1

Molson Coors profits continue their tumble

It has been a year since the controversial Molson Coors merger was completed and yesterday's report of fourthquarter results reveals another earnings shortfall, coming in even lower than what analysts had expected. Details, Page B1

Sports

Pound sticks to his view

Dick Pound, chairperson of the World Anti-Doping Agency, is not backing down from claims that as many as 30 per cent of NHL players are guilty of doping. He insists the major problem in hockey is stimulants and not steroids. Details, Page C3

Six Habs off to Turin

As the NHL's Olympic break approaches, six members of the Canadiens prepare to depart for Italy to represent their countries. Details, Page C8

Arts & Life

Bypass this Firewall

Harrison Ford looks old and tired as he portrays a bank security agent fighting a group of bank robbers to save his family in his new movie, Firewall. Details, Page D1

Curious monkey business

The Curious George film overcomes the limitations of the children's book and manages to entertain the young and charm the old. Details, Page D1

Graphic

Photo: (Reusable grocery bags a resounding success)

Load-Date: February 10, 2006



'We must remain strong'

The Toronto Star July 3, 2006 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 716 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: JABALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip

Body

There may be almost no electricity in Gaza these days, as a sustained Israeli military cordon ramps up pressure for the release of captured soldier Gilad Shalit.

But a wander through the narrow lanes of crowded Jabaliya Refugee Camp shows the voltage has been replaced with something seldom felt by average Palestinians - a sense of real power.

How else to explain the unbending expectations outlined yesterday at Jabaliya's central market, where shopkeepers and customers shrugged off the threat of enemy invasion, instead insisting the price of their lone Israeli prisoner of war should be nothing less than the release of many thousands of Palestinian detainees.

"We sit here with no electricity and little water. All the components of our life are ruined. But still, this time we have something Israel wants. And we cannot surrender it for nothing," said Umm Mohammed, 43, a mother of eight.

"We must remain strong, no matter what suffering comes next. Because there are 10,000 Palestinian men, <u>women</u> and children in Israeli prisons. It is they we must save."

Israeli leaders maintained a comparable hard line yesterday, as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert fine-tuned the pressure points against Gaza, ordering the next wave of military measures that over the weekend included some 40 air strikes, among them a pre-dawn missile strike yesterday on the offices of Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, who heads the *Hamas*-led Palestinian government.

Five Palestinian fighters were reported killed in the clashes, four of them yesterday.

Israeli air strikes continued today in northern Gaza, wounding one person on the outskirts of Beit Hanoun, Associated Press reported. The Israeli military said its aircraft also hit a building in Gaza City this morning used by the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent offshoot of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement.

The strikes were tempered by relief measures, with the opening of the Karni transport terminal for the passage of food and emergency supplies to forestall immediate humanitarian crisis.

"Surrendering today means inviting more extortion," Olmert said during the cabinet's weekly Sunday meeting.

Intense mediation efforts spearheaded by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak suggest the two sides may be nearer to a solution than public comments would indicate.

'We must remain strong'

But sources in Gaza say negotiations have been hampered by confusion over who among the Palestinians has the authority to sign off on the release of 19-year-old Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who was kidnapped during an attack on a southern military post June 25.

A Palestinian official quoted mediators yesterday as saying Shalit was alive after being treated for wounds.

Despite the Israeli targeting of Haniyeh's offices, few here believe the elected <u>Hamas</u> political chief holds ultimate sway over the militant leaders in possession of the Israeli soldier. Israeli sources, meanwhile, indicate the Damascus-based <u>Hamas</u> politiburo chief Khaled Meshaal holds the key to unlocking the crisis.

On the streets of Jabaliya, in fact, none approached yesterday by the Star were willing to invest their trust in either man. Only the ones who brought Palestinians their sudden leverage - the militants themselves - should have the final say in returning Shalit, they say.

"I place my trust in the captors and no one else," said spice seller Mueen Abu Akal, 37.

"What can Ismail Haniyeh do? He did not capture the Israeli. The way our life is today, we only follow the one who is strong. The <u>Hamas</u> government is not strong. Look at how Israel arrests so many of them. But the militants showed us they have power."

For an armed conflict that really has just one standing army, Palestinians are accustomed to finding themselves on the losing end, having suffered three times more casualties than Israel since the start of the Second Intifada in September 2000.

And perhaps it is that, despite the fighting words heard yesterday, they know this is yet another battle they will lose.

But surrender in this instance, said Abu Akal, is worse than what the Israeli military might bring next.

"What we see is the whole world standing by Israel for one soldier, while nothing is ever said of all the Palestinians in their jails. It is a question of dignity. And when it comes to my dignity, I am ready to die before I will let it go."

Graphic

Uriel Sinai getty images An Israeli soldier heads to an armoured personnel carrier yesterday amid preparations for possible incursion against militants in Gaza.ABED OMAR QUSINI reuters An Israeli soldier takes cover during clashes with Palestinian militants in the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday. Israeli air strikes continued in the Gaza Strip today as Israel stepped up operations to free abducted soldier Gilad Shalit, 19.ABED OMAR QUSINI reuters An Israeli soldier takes cover during clashes with Palestinian militants in the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday. Israeli air strikes continued in the Gaza Strip today as Israel stepped up operations to free abducted soldier Gilad Shalit, 19.

Load-Date: July 3, 2006



Family discounts, day passes eyed as cheaper options to passport

The Toronto Star February 14, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A06

Length: 551 words

Dateline: United States

Body

A problematic new passport requirement for all those crossing the border with Canada may be eased with a family discount-card program and a day-pass option, authorities said yesterday.

Such options are welcomed by towns and cities along the border where folks chafe at the notion they will someday need a \$97 (U.S.) passport or \$50 ID card to cross, but the day-pass proposal worries those seeking tighter security along the border.

Lawmakers along the border have been pushing the government for months to come up with a cheaper, quicker alternative to the passport requirement, which is to go into effect in 2008 under a new law called the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

Shark attacks continue decline, report says

Shark attacks dropped in last year because people are fighting back more often when threatened and the ranks of ocean predators are thinning, a University of Florida report says.

Worldwide there were 58 shark attacks in 2005, down from 65 a year earlier, and fatalities fell to four from seven, said George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File housed at the university's Florida Museum of Natural History. Attacks have been on the decline for five years, since reaching a record 78, 11 of them fatal, in 2000, Burgess said in the centre's annual tally of shark attacks reported by scientists around the world.

West Bank

Palestinian assembly boosts Abbas's powers

The Palestinian parliament used its final session yesterday to give President Mahmoud Abbas broad new powers, infuriating <u>Hamas</u> days before the Islamic group takes control of a suddenly weakened legislature.

The measures were designed to preserve Abbas's control over the Palestinian Authority, though it was unlikely to assuage international concerns about dealing with a <u>Hamas</u>-led government. <u>Hamas</u> officials said they would immediately try to overturn the laws after the new parliament is sworn in Saturday.

Kenya

Resignations pave way for corruption probes

Family discounts, day passes eyed as cheaper options to passport

Two cabinet ministers quit yesterday after being linked to corruption scandals that have shaken President Mwai Kibaki's government and angered foreign donors to this east African nation. Kibaki said he had accepted the resignation of Education Minister George Saitoti and Energy Minister Kiraitu Murungi to pave the way for investigations into two separate graft scandals.

Colombia

Forces accused of hiding executions

Security forces have killed civilians and covered it up by dressing the bodies as Marxist rebels, according to testimony presented in an annual United Nations human rights report released yesterday.

UN investigators last year saw an increase in allegations of extrajudicial executions attributed to soldiers and police who often presented such incidents as deaths of guerrillas in combat, said the 2005 report from the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The government greeted the report with "surprise and concern."

Saudi Arabia

Debate on *female* drivers hits roadblock

The nearest thing the kingdom has to a parliament said yesterday it was not entitled to debate the long-standing religious ban on *female* drivers, knocking down a proposal that it consider the issue.

Saleh bin Abdullah Malek, secretary general of the Shura Council, said yesterday <u>women</u> could drive only if the country's clerics authorized it.

From the Star's wire services

Load-Date: February 14, 2006



A brutal siege the world must ignore no longer; LEADING ARTICLE; GAZA

The Independent (London)
September 8, 2006 Friday
Fourth Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 40

Length: 601 words

Body

Gaza is being slowly strangled. This small strip of land on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean has been under siege by the Israeli military for three months. Its 1.5 million inhabitants have been subject to more than 270 air strikes, numerous ground raids, and a severe artillery bombardment. Since Gaza's sole power plant was bombed in June, its people have been forced to survive by candlelight after dark. Hospitals use electric generators to keep essential services running. The strip's water mains have been destroyed, causing serious supply problems and increasing the risk of disease. Bridges have been bombed and checkpoints closed. No Palestinians are allowed in or out of what has in effect become a prison.

This has brought the Palestinian economy to its knees. The majority of Gazan families have been forced to rely on United Nations food aid. Yet even support from the outside world for these people has been severely cut back. When *Hamas* won the Palestinian elections in January, the United States and the European Union decided to stop their funding of the governing institutions of the Palestinian Authority until the militant organisation renounced violence and accepted Israel's right to exist. An adviser to the Israeli Prime Minister referred to this jokingly as "putting the Palestinians on a diet". But the result has been the complete breakdown of Palestinian society. The civil service, which supports one-quarter of the population, has been paid no wages in six months.

According to the United Nations, \$30m-worth of damage has been inflicted on Gaza since this operation began. But the far graver cost has been in human life. In July and August, some 251 Palestinians were killed by Israeli military action, half of them civilians. The dead have included <u>women</u>, children and the elderly. Hundreds more have been wounded.

And yet while all of this has been going on - the bloodshed, the hunger, the social collapse - the world has turned away. The international community has been preoccupied with the worsening situation in Iraq, Afghanistan or Israel's war with Lebanon. Yet while the people of Lebanon were able to flee Israel's bombardment, Gazans have had no such freedom.

The Israeli government claims the purpose of its blockade is to secure the return of Corporal Gilad Shalit, a soldier kidnapped in June after a raid by a faction of *Hamas*. Another objective is, we are told, to prevent militants firing Qassam rockets across the border into Israeli towns and villages by militants. Even if we accept this intention, the methods have been grossly disproportionate. Five Israelis have been killed by Qassams in the past six years. Does

A brutal siege the world must ignore no longer LEADING ARTICLE GAZA

this justify such a lethal response in Gaza? The operation is also deeply questionable from a practical perspective. Does the Israeli government truly expect degrading all Gazans in this fashion to secure the release of Corporal Shalit?

Ultimately we must accept that the return of the Israeli military to Gaza is less about stopping rocket attacks, winning the release of Corporal Shalit, or even removing *Hamas*, than it is about imposing a collective punishment on the Palestinian people, in the belief that it is in the interests of the state of Israel to do so. It is not. The long-term interest of Israel lies, as it always has, in progress towards a two-state solution. The great prize is the normalisation of relations between Palestinians and Israelis. Every day that the people of Gaza are denied their dignity - every time more innocent Palestinians are killed by stray Israeli rockets - such a settlement is pushed further away.

Load-Date: September 27, 2006



Leading Article: A brutal siege the world must ignore no longer; GAZA

The Independent (London)
September 8, 2006 Friday
Final Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 40

Length: 601 words

Body

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Leading Article: A brutal siege the world must ignore no longer GAZA

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Load-Date: September 8, 2006



'Pro-Israel' Blair not welcome in Beirut, Shia cleric warns

The Independent (London)
September 11, 2006 Monday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 27

Length: 784 words

Byline: By Andy McSmith and Patrick Cockburn in Ramalah

Body

Lebanon's most senior Shia cleric, Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, has told Tony Blair he is not welcome in Beirut, saying the government should have declared him "persona non grata" because of his perceived support for Israel.

The ayatollah, whose home was demolished during Israel's 34-day onslaught on Lebanon, launched after Shia militia captured two Israeli soldiers, said Mr Blair was "a real partner in the Israeli-American war on Lebanon".

"He [Mr Blair] participated in one way or another in the American-Israeli madness spree against Lebanon and acted like a killer of children, <u>women</u> and the elderly and worked to prevent a ceasefire from being reached," the religious leader said in a statement.

Mr Blair, who is to hold talks in Beirut today at the end of a three-day tour of the region, announced yesterday that the Middle East peace process meant so much to him that he would pay at least one more visit before he left Downing Street. His remarks were made in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, soon after he had presented himself as a broker in getting Israel's Prime Minister and the Palestinian President to talk face to face.

Mr Blair also came to Palestine armed with a formula which he hoped would circumvent the problem that Western governments refuse to deal with the <u>Hamas</u> administration until it recognises the state of Israel, renounces violence and recognises existing agreements. But <u>Hamas</u> was quick to reject the idea of a national unity government forced on it by outsiders.

"I hope I'm able to return to this region again," Mr Blair told journalists after his meeting with the Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas. He added: "As far as I'm concerned this issue which I believe passionately in will be as important as any other priority for me in the time that remains for me in office."

Staff travelling with Mr Blair have vehemently denied any suggestion that he has gone to the Middle East to escape the conflict in the Labour Party. When asked whether he believed Gordon Brown's denial of involvement in any "coup" against him back home, Mr Blair replied "of course", but refused to say more, pleading that he wanted to concentrate on Palestine while he was in the region.

The previous day, he had met the Israeli head of government, Ehud Olmert, who announced afterwards that he was prepared to meet Mr Abbas unconditionally. Mr Abbas reciprocated yesterday with an unconditional promise to meet Mr Olmert. He also praised Mr Blair's role as a mediator.

Mr Abbas also confirmed that he was going to Gaza to talk to <u>Hamas</u> about forming a government of national unity. Mr Blair has promised him that provided the Palestinian government as a whole recognises Israel and renounces violence, Britain and other nations will deal directly with it, even if it includes members of <u>Hamas</u>.

"We're not overstating it, but it is a significant step. The momentum is going in the right way, not the wrong way," his spokesman said.

But others questioned the value of arranging a meeting between a Palestinian President who is virtually powerless, and an Israeli Prime Minister whose political survival is seriously in doubt because of Israel's failure to achieve its military objectives in Lebanon. Mr Abbas is reported to have intended to resign in frustration from his job last week but was dissuaded from doing so by King Abdullah of Jordan.

Mr Blair's staff were also prepared for Arab protests about his visit, after hundreds of Palestinians had said he should not be there because he was too pro-Israeli. But the Palestinian reaction to Mr Blair was largely one of weary indifference. The only protest staged close to Mr Blair was by a British woman living in the West Bank, who gave her name as Kirsty. She stood up at his press conference wearing a handmade T-shirt bearing the slogan: "Tony Blair you make me ashamed to be British." Yesterday Mr Blair met the families of Israeli soldiers kidnapped in Lebanon and Gaza, but had no equivalent meetings with any Arab families.

Palestinians watching Mr Blair's performances at two press conferences were dismissive about their significance. "It is always the same: words, words, words and do nothing," said a Palestinian householder living between Ramallah and Jerusalem. "I watched Blair and we didn't find anything new. In future the West Bank will be more like a prison."

The Palestinian West Bank is being chopped up by Israeli checkpoints and barriers. A high wall seals off Jerusalem from the West Bank. There are 550 permanent roadblocks and 125 makeshift roadblocks. The "two state solution" as advocated by Mr Blair can no longer be implemented.

'Blair acted like a killer of **women** and children and tried to stop a ceasefire'

Graphic

A British woman who lives in Ramallah stages a protest against Tony Blair at a press conference in the West Bank PA

Load-Date: September 11, 2006



'Deliberate' Neglect Laid to Bush In Policy on Katrina's Aftermath

New York Sun (Archive)
January 30, 2006 Monday

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 1263 words

Byline: By JOSH GERSTEIN, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Dateline: SAN FRANCISCO

Body

Senator Clinton told a largely friendly audience here Saturday night that the slow pace of government-sponsored reconstruction following Hurricane Katrina was the result of a deliberate decision by the Bush administration and may have been motivated by a desire to discourage Democratic voters from returning to the devastated region.

"I think that basically we are now watching a deliberate policy of neglect take root," Mrs. Clinton said during an appearance at a fund-raiser for legal services charities. "It is deeply troubling for any American to believe that your government would abandon such a huge part of our country and such an important part of our history."

Mrs. Clinton said she suspected that the assignment of President Bush's top political adviser, Karl Rove, to oversee the relief effort indicated that political mischief was afoot. "Cynical minds might suggest that the destruction of the Democratic vote in Louisiana was a mixed blessing. If you rebuild New Or leans, all those Democrats might come home," she said during a 90-minute public interview conducted on an auditorium stage by a former television host, Jane Pauley.

A White House spokesman, Trent Duffy, rejected Mrs. Clinton's claims that the administration was intentionally footdragging on disaster recovery in the Gulf. "It's patently untrue and it's unfortunate she would suggest such a thing," he told The New York Sun yesterday.

Mr. Duffy said Mr. Bush has already directed \$85 billion to recovery efforts in the Gulf. "He stands by that commitment just as he did in the rebuilding of New York City after 9/11. I think it might be best if we return to the spirit that brought New York back from the ashes," the spokesman said.

Ms. Pauley's questioning of Mrs. Clinton was not particularly pointed, but ranged across a variety of subjects, from the new Medicare drug benefit to political developments in the Middle East. The senator warned that the recent victory of a terrorist group, *Hamas*, in elections held by Palestinian Arabs was bad news not only for Israel, but also for nearby Arab countries such as Jordan and Egypt.

"It sows instability and gives a foothold in their neighborhood of an extremist Islamist regime," she said. "It is not at all a positive development."

At the outset of her comments on the subject, Mrs. Clinton said flatly that America could not deal with <u>Hamas</u> under current conditions. "We cannot negotiate with <u>Hamas</u> unless they renounce violence and renounce their commitment to destroy Israel. They will have to make a decision," she said.

'Deliberate' Neglect Laid to Bush In Policy on Katrina's Aftermath

However, the senator went on to indicate talks with <u>Hamas</u> might be possible even before such a renunciation took place. "For the Israelis, it poses a public challenge but a private opportunity," she said.

Mrs. Clinton noted that in the early 1990s Israel secretly negotiated the so-called Oslo Accords with the Palestinian Liberation Organization before that group formally withdrew its call for the destruction of Israel. Britain also talked with the Irish Revolutionary Army and its political wing, Sinn Fein, before they agreed to renounce violence.

"So, there are precedents," Mrs. Clinton said. "If you could get the right signals from the <u>Hamas</u> leadership, the Israelis might sort of give us a little bit of a go ahead to do some kind of discussing on issues with them. But, absent any reassurance about how they would deal with you, the Israelis cannot go forward and the United States cannot support any kind of aid for the <u>Hamas</u> government until they take some steps to demonstrate that they've changed their attitude."

A question about Mrs. Clinton's 2002 vote on the Iraq war, prompted the senator to launch into a nine-minute-long response. Mrs. Clinton never conceded that the pivotal vote was about going to war in Iraq, although the resolution in question was titled, "To authorize the use of United States armed forces against Iraq."

Mrs. Clinton insisted that the vote was, in essence, about getting U.N. weapons inspectors readmitted to Iraq. She said she never expected Mr. Bush to go to war before the inspections were complete.

"I did vote to give the president authority based on what the president said he was going to use the authority for," the senator said. "I thought we did need to get inspectors back into Iraq.... I don't regret my vote. I regret the way he used the authority."

Mrs. Clinton said she does not agree that the Bush administration should have authority to keep American troops in Iraq indefinitely. However, she said she also disagrees those who are calling for an immediate withdrawal.

"I believe it's a much more complicated calculation," she said. "We cannot root for failure. We cannot take actions now that would further undermine whatever chance for stability the new Iraqi government might have," Mrs. Clinton said.

Organizers said nearly 1,800 tickets were sold for the public colloquy with Mrs. Clinton. The actual attendance appearance to be somewhat lower, perhaps because the event was rescheduled twice due to conflicts with Senate schedules. The interview was part of a three-day West Coast swing that included a fund-raiser in Seattle for Senator Cantwell, a Democrat of Washington, and a \$100,000 fund-raiser in Portland, Ore., for Mrs. Clinton's reelection bid in New York. A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, Philippe Reines, declined to say if Mrs. Clinton also raised funds during her stay in San Francisco, a Democratic stronghold.

Ms. Pauley never asked Mrs. Clinton directly whether she is considering running for the presidency in 2008. However, the pioneering television host noted that in an interview with CBS on Friday, Mr. Bush was asked about the widely held view that Mrs. Clinton is maneuvering to launch a presidential bid.

"She's formidable," Mr. Bush replied. Musing about the possibility of Mrs. Clinton's election, the president said,

"Yeah. Bush, Clinton, Bush, Clinton."

During the exchange Saturday, Mrs. Clinton did say she was heartened by polls showing that most American would consider voting for a *female* candidate for president. "People are saying,' Well, at least we're ready,' "the senator said. She also said she has detected "a certain impatience" to see a *female* president in America following the election of *women* to similar roles in other countries.

Minutes after Mrs. Clinton took to the stage, several protesters from a <u>women</u>'s anti-war group, Code Pink, began shouting from seats in the balcony. The senator continued speaking as the demonstrators called out, "Hillary, stop supporting the war." There were two similar interruptions later in the program. One protester dropped a pink handkerchief onto spectators a level below. Police led at least three <u>women</u> out of the hall in plastic handcuffs.

'Deliberate' Neglect Laid to Bush In Policy on Katrina's Aftermath

Mrs. Clinton's comments got a warm reception from most in the audience, though some were peeved that she showed up more than half an hour late for the event.

At one point, Ms. Pauley, noting Mrs. Clinton's strong approval ratings from voters in upstate New York, said, "It makes me wonder if you're a liberal."

"Well, you're not the only one," Mrs. Clinton shot back to great laughter from the crowd.

Before Mrs. Clinton arrived, about two dozen protesters gathered outside the hall where she was to speak. One man, clad in an orange jumpsuit similar to those worn by prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, was chained to several other demonstrators who led him back and forth on the sidewalk.

"We believe Hillary is not listening, 62% of <u>women</u> are against the war and Hillary Clinton is for the war," a member of Code Pink, Vicky Leidner, 55, of San Francisco, said.

Load-Date: February 1, 2006



Israel hunts for abducted soldier after dawn raid by militants

The Independent (London)

June 26, 2006 Monday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 20

Length: 592 words

Byline: By Eric Silver in Jerusalem

Body

Israeli tanks, supported by helicopter gunships, were combing the southern Gaza Strip yesterday for Palestinian fighters who killed two tank crew members and kidnapped a third in a pre-dawn attack on an army base on the Israeli side of the border.

Lieutenant-General Dan Halutz, the Israeli chief of staff, said they had reason for thinking the missing soldier, 19-year-old Corporal Gilad Shalit, was alive. A spokesman for the abductors said he had stomach wounds but his condition was stable.

Two Palestinians were killed in exchanges of fire inside Israel before their comrades escaped back across the security fence. One Israeli was seriously wounded and three others lightly. The <u>Hamas</u> military wing claimed responsibility in partnership with the smaller Popular Resistance Committees and a hitherto unknown group, the Army of Islam.

Yesterday's raid, near the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel, Egypt and Gaza, was the first Palestinian ground attack from Gaza since Israel pulled out of the strip 10 months ago. Israel's incursion was the largest during the same period.

In an escalation of rhetoric to match the escalation on the battlefield, political and military officials threatened to strike at Palestinian leaders if the missing soldier was not returned safe and well. Israel's inner security cabinet was meeting last night to decide how to retaliate.

Mahmoud Abbas, the relatively moderate Palestinian President who had been trying to restore a ceasefire after weeks of missile fire and shelling in both directions, condemned the militants for giving Israel "a pretext to launch a widespread military operation". Nabil Abu Rudeineh, his spokesman, feared a wave of Israeli "aggression, incursions and assassinations".

Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister, said he held Mr Abbas and Ismail Haniyeh, the <u>Hamas</u> Prime Minister, responsible for the soldier's fate "with all that implies". Ra'anan Gissin, Mr Olmert's spokesman, accused Mr Haniyeh's Islamist government of "encouraging and initiating" yesterday's raid.

General Halutz admitted at a press conference in Kerem Shalom that the well-planned and co-ordinated attack caught his troops off-guard. Seven or eight gunmen penetrated the border via a 300m-long tunnel dug deep in the sandy soil. Asked by an Israeli reporter whether the army knew of the tunnel, the chief of staff replied curtly: "If we'd known about it, it wouldn't have existed."

A military spokesman said the raiders struck at about 5.30am. They split into three groups. The first blewup an empty armoured personnel carrier. A second threw grenades at a tank, which also came under a barrage of missiles from the Gaza side One grenade penetrated the turret, killing the commander and one of his men and severely wounding a third. One of the crew was abducted. Another group opened automatic fire at a 25m-high watchtower.

As well as hunting for the kidnapped soldier, the Israeli invasion force secured the area around the tunnel. Army engineers were preparing to destroy it. Witnesses reported war-planes firing on houses near the border.

Sami Abu Zuhri, a <u>Hamas</u> spokesman, celebrated yesterday's operation as "a natural response to the Israeli crimes of killing <u>women</u> and children and the assassination of two military leaders". The Palestinians blame Israel for killing about 20 civilians in retaliation for rocket fire on Sderot and other border communities.

A joint statement by the three jubilant Palestinian militias boasted: "This is a landing behind enemy lines. The operation targeted military and intelligence facilities."

Graphic

An Israeli victim of the Palestinian raid on a military post just outside the Gaza Strip TSAFRIR ABAYOV/AP

Load-Date: June 26, 2006



Palestinian families pay high price as Israel warns of 'a long war'

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

July 5, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 12

Length: 582 words

Byline: Patrick Bishop in Rafah

Body

THE <u>women</u> were close to hysteria. They had tried to return to the homes from which they fled after the Israelis rolled into southern Gaza to get food and clothing for their children. But the soldiers were unimpressed by their white flags and fired shots to force them back, they said.

As they told their story, the sound of heavy machinegun fire drifted across the sand. It was their misfortune to live in a cluster of seven houses near the gates of the disused airport where Israeli tanks are now parked. No one knows when they will get home.

They, like everyone else in Gaza, now find themselves hostages of the confrontation between their own government and the Israelis, which began after Palestinians seized a 19-year-old soldier, Gilad Shalit, 11 days ago.

The crisis continued yesterday with one of the groups involved declaring that there would be no more information on the fate of the captured corporal. However, the little-known Islamic Army announced there was no intention to kill him because that would be "unIslamic".

Israel kept up its pressure on the <u>Hamas</u> government, destroying a building at the Islamic University in Gaza City in a rocket attack. It claimed it was used for training and directing terrorists. The university said it was the student union building.

Militants responded by firing four Qassam rockets into Israeli territory from Beit Hanoun, a village on the northern edge of the Gaza Strip. The home-made rockets are hopelessly inaccurate but keep Israeli population centres in a state of anxiety.

Another rocket reached the coastal town of Ashkelon, hitting a school. Pupils were on holiday but it caused significant damage. <u>Hamas</u>'s militant wing claimed responsibility and the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, described it as "a major escalation in the war of terror" against his country.

Israeli forces are in the area to crush such attacks and two Palestinian militants were killed. Israel has threatened to use all military means to end the bombardments as well as to secure the freedom of Cpl Shalit. Yesterday both goals seemed as distant as ever.

An Israeli government spokesman said they had evidence that the captive was still alive. "We know that he is injured, that he has been seen by a Palestinian doctor a few days ago," said Avi Pazner.

Palestinian families pay high price as Israel warns of 'a long war'

A deadline set by the abductors for Israel to agree to a large-scale release of prisoners or face unspecified "consequences" passed without any concession being made.

The Islamic Army, one of three groups which claim responsibility for the attack, in which two Israeli soldiers were also killed, said there would be no further statements or negotiations. If true, the crisis could subside into a long, drawn out stand-off resembling the Hizbollah hostage dramas that plagued Lebanon in the 1980s.

Mr Olmert visited the town of Sederot, which has been the target for Palestinian missile attacks as it is close to the Gaza border and said Israel was in for "a long war".

He had given the army orders to "continue operations to strike terrorists, those who protect them and those who give them orders". His words appeared a warning to the *Hamas* government which blames Israel for the crisis.

The most certain victims of the confrontation are the 1.3 million population of Gaza whose life is hard at the best of times. "I don't care how they sort it out but I just want it to be settled for the sake of my children," said Najah Abu Amra, 40. as she looked back forlornly to her abandoned home, now on the front line.

Load-Date: July 5, 2006



Brief

The Toronto Star July 12, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 374 words

Body

Gaza

Israel pushes deeper into territory, targets 'terror infrastructure'

Israeli forces pushed into the central Gaza Strip today, expanding a two-week-old offensive aimed at recovering a captured soldier and stopping Palestinian rocket attacks.

"Our main target is the terrorist infrastructure - the rocket crews, the gunmen, the arms caches," said Israeli commander Col. Yoel, who could not give his last name.

An Israeli air strike targeted the home of <u>Hamas</u> activist Nabil al-Salmiah in Gaza City early today, killing six people - including two children - and wounding at least 24, officials and residents said. There was no immediate word if al-Salmiah was among the casualties. Palestinians said a high-level meeting of <u>Hamas</u> commanders was in progress at the residence in Gaza City just before the air strike.

The air strike came as Israeli tanks and troops were on the move farther south in the territory. A Palestinian policeman was killed during clashes between gunmen and Israeli forces near the town of Deir el Balah, residents said.

United States

Plan to ease drug imports from Canada

The Senate opened the way yesterday to let Americans import prescription drugs from Canada, seeking to ease a regulatory ban on cheaper medicine crossing the border.

The proposal specifically would prohibit border officials from stopping people with doctors' prescriptions for Federal Drug Administration-approved drugs from bringing the medicine in from Canada.

Ukraine

Pro-Russian pegged

as prime minister

The new pro-Russian parliamentary majority formally nominated President Viktor Yushchenko's Orange Revolution foe as prime minister yesterday after a session in which the president's frustrated allies brawled and blared sirens.

Brief

Yushchenko has 15 days to consider the nomination of Viktor Yanukovych and return it to parliament, but does not have the authority to veto it.

Pakistan

Bail for women facing

murder, adultery trials

Authorities released 130 <u>women</u> facing trial for murder and adultery from jails in eastern Punjab province, days after President Pervez Musharraf amended a law to give them the right to be freed on bail, officials said yesterday. Authorities were preparing to free other <u>women</u> awaiting trial from jails elsewhere in the country too.

Load-Date: July 12, 2006



Israel hunts for abducted soldier after dawn raid by Palestinians

The Independent (London)

June 26, 2006 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 20

Length: 591 words

Byline: By Eric Silver in Jerusalem

Body

Israeli tanks, supported by helicopter gunships, were combing the southern Gaza Strip yesterday for Palestinian fighters who killed two tank crew members and kidnapped a third in a pre-dawn attack on an army base on the Israeli side of the border.

Lieutenant-General Dan Halutz, the Israeli chief of staff, said they had reason for thinking the missing soldier, 19-year-old Corporal Gilad Shalit, was alive. A spokesman for the abductors said he had stomach wounds but his condition was stable.

Two Palestinians were killed in exchanges of fire inside Israel before their comrades escaped back across the security fence. One Israeli was seriously wounded and three others lightly. The <u>Hamas</u> military wing claimed responsibility in partnership with the smaller Popular Resistance Committees and a hitherto unknown group, the Army of Islam.

Yesterday's raid, near the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel, Egypt and Gaza, was the first Palestinian ground attack from Gaza since Israel pulled out of the strip 10 months ago. Israel's incursion was the largest during the same period.

In an escalation of rhetoric to match the escalation on the battlefield, political and military officials threatened to strike at Palestinian leaders if the missing soldier was not returned safe and well. Israel's inner security cabinet was meeting last night to decide how to retaliate.

Mahmoud Abbas, the relatively moderate Palestinian President who had been trying to restore a cease fire after weeks of missile fire and shelling in both directions, condemned the militants for giving Israel "a pretext to launch a widespread military operation". It was reported last night that Mr Abbas was in a meeting with Ismail Haniyeh, the *Hamas* Prime Minister, to discuss the incident.

Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister, said he held Mr Abbas and Mr Haniyeh responsible for the soldier's fate "with all that implies". Ra'anan Gissin, Mr Olmert's spokesman, accused Mr Haniyeh's Islamist government of "encouraging and initiating" yesterday's raid.

General Halutz admitted at a press conference in Kerem Shalom that the well-planned and co-ordinated attack caught his troops off-guard. Seven or eight gunmen penetrated the border via a 300m-long tunnel dug deep in the sandy soil. Asked by an Israeli reporter whether the army knew of the tunnel, the chief of staff replied curtly: "If we'd known about it, it wouldn't have existed."

A military spokesman said the raiders struck at about 5.30am. They split into three groups. The first blewup an empty armoured personnel carrier. A second threw grenades at a tank, which also came under a barrage of missiles from the Gaza side One grenade penetrated the turret, killing the commander and one of his men and severely wounding a third. One of the crew was abducted. Another group opened automatic fire at a 25m-high watchtower.

As well as hunting for the kidnapped soldier, the Israeli invasion force secured the area around the tunnel. Army engineers were preparing to destroy it. Witnesses reported war-planes firing on houses near the border.

Sami Abu Zuhri, a <u>Hamas</u> spokesman, celebrated yesterday's operation as "a natural response to the Israeli crimes of killing <u>women</u> and children and the assassination of two military leaders". The Palestinians blame Israel for killing about 20 civilians in retaliation for rocket fire on Sderot and other border communities.

A joint statement by the three jubilant Palestinian militias boasted: "This is a landing behind enemy lines. The operation targeted military and intelligence facilities."

Graphic

An Israeli victim of the Palestinian raid on a military post just outside the Gaza Strip TSAFRIR ABAYOV/AP

Load-Date: June 26, 2006



Israel reoccupies Gaza settlements

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 7, 2006 Friday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 8

Length: 322 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Gaza

Body

THE Israeli Government says its reoccupation of three Jewish settlements in Gaza that it abandoned 10 months ago is a temporary move intended to prevent Palestinian militants from firing long-range rockets into Israel.

A small force of tanks and armoured vehicles moved into the ruins of the former settlements of Dugit, Elei Sinai and Nissanit early yesterday, with at least one Palestinian militant reported killed by supporting helicopter fire.

The incursion came as other militants belonging to the armed wing of the Palestinian ruling party, <u>Hamas</u>, succeeded for the second time in two days in striking the centre of the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon with a new, long-range version of its homemade Kassam missile.

The latest attacks on Askhelon, more than 10 kilometres from the northern edge of Gaza, have caused no casualties but are an embarrassment to Israel, which has threatened retaliation.

For several months the Israeli defence force has been bombarding Gaza with artillery and guided missiles in a failed attempt to prevent militants firing shorter-range rockets at the smaller Israeli town of Sderot.

Ten days ago, small Israeli forces moved into corners of northern and southern Gaza after the June 25 raid in which Palestinian fighters killed two Israeli tank crew and captured a third, Corporal Gilad Shalit, 19.

Since then, the Israeli Government has repeatedly threatened to attack heavily populated areas of the Gaza Strip if Corporal Shalit is not released and the missile attacks stopped.

The militants thought to be holding him say they will not release any information on his condition until Israel frees about 400 *female* and juvenile prisoners.

The price of Corporal Shalit's release is thought to be the release of 1000 Palestinian prisoners, including more than 60 *Hamas* ministers and legislators rounded up by Israeli troops in the West Bank last week.

Israel says there will be no talks or prisoner exchanges.

Graphic

Israel reoccupies Gaza settlements

PHOTO: Dirty business ... Israeli soldiers apply camouflage before advancing on northern Gaza, from where militants have launched rocket attacks on an Israeli town. Photo: AP/Ariel Schalit

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Trapped in Gaza's bloodiest day

The Toronto Star July 7, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 890 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak and Sarah El Deeb, Associated Press With files from THE New York Times

Dateline: BEIT LAHIYA, Gaza Strip

Body

Ali Ajrami and his nine children cowered in one room of their farm house in the northern Gaza Strip, trapped as fighting between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants flared into heavy combat.

Israeli tanks parked in a garden behind the tailor's house yesterday, and special forces soldiers took positions on the rooftops of neighbouring buildings. Gunfire could be heard as Palestinian militants armed with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades fired at Israel's troops.

"We are trapped. I don't know what to do," Ajrami said.

He said he was struggling to keep his children indoors on what blew up into the bloodiest day of fighting since Israel invaded Gaza over a soldier's capture. At least 21 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier died.

Israeli troops retook three empty Jewish settlements nearly a year after abandoning them, seeking to carve out a temporary buffer zone in the northern Gaza Strip to prevent militants from firing more rockets into Israel.

Throughout the day, Israeli aircraft fired missiles at militants while Israeli tanks took up positions among tightly packed Palestinian homes. Apache helicopters hovered overhead, firing flares and machine guns to support ground troops fighting masked Palestinian gunmen.

After touring Gaza's main hospital, Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> called for international intervention to stop the Israeli offensive, which he called a "crime against humanity."

Haniyeh said the Israeli push was "a desperate effort to undermine the Palestinian government under the pretext of a search for the missing soldier."

Earlier this week, <u>Hamas</u> militants fired two rockets into the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon. No one was hurt, but the rockets were the first to reach a major Israeli population centre, indicating militants have obtained longer-range weapons.

In response, Israeli troops moved into the densely populated towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, where militants often launch rockets. The army said all attacks were aimed at militants.

"We are doing the utmost effort ... to avoid civilian casualties," said military official, Brig.-Gen. Ido Nehushtan. "Really, there is no other way of operating against terrorists who are operating inside their own civilian populations."

Trapped in Gaza's bloodiest day

Israel began its ground invasion June 28, three days after militants linked to <u>Hamas</u> captured Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, in a daring cross-border raid. Israeli officials said they would do what was necessary to get the soldier back.

Yesterday, the fighting swelled - and so did the death toll.

Palestinians were seen planting explosives underneath manholes in streets, hoping to blow up a vehicle as it drove by, and one masked fighter rode a bicycle away after laying one such charge, a spool of electrical wire unrolling from the back of his bike. Israeli tanks fired shells at houses where Palestinian fighters sought shelter, and soldiers fired at groups of armed Palestinians who fought in the streets, sometimes surrounded by curious and excited children.

At times, Israeli soldiers fired near groups of children in what appeared to be an effort to get them to run away.

During lulls in the fighting, some Palestinian women and children fled their homes and left the area on foot.

Twenty-one Palestinians were reported killed during the day, including nine Palestinians who died from air strikes in the Beit Lahiya area. A spokesman for the Palestinian Health Ministry, Khaled Radi, said he didn't know how many civilians were among the dead. He said 67 people had been wounded, including 20 children. *Hamas* said six of the dead were its members.

An Israeli soldier died in one skirmish - the first Israeli casualty of the offensive, which has seen a total of 28 Palestinian deaths.

Israel Radio and Army Radio said the army was checking the possibility that the Israeli soldier was killed by errant Israeli gunfire. The army spokesman's office denied that, saying he was killed by a Palestinian gunman.

Lt.-Col. Yaniv, a battalion commander, said there had been stiff resistance. "The Palestinians have been firing rocket-propelled grenades, automatic weapons, and setting off explosive devices," said Yaniv, who only gave his first name under military regulations.

Palestinian militants launched eight homemade rockets at southern Israel yesterday, including five in a one-hour period and one that landed off the coast of Ashkelon. No damage or injuries were reported.

Acting on behalf of Arab nations, Qatar circulated a draft resolution to put before the UN Security Council demanding Israel end its offensive and release Palestinian officials detained during the operation.

The draft drew opposition from the United States and France, which called it unbalanced in its criticism of Israel. France's ambassador said he would offer changes, but U.S. Ambassador John Bolton suggested Washington opposed the resolution entirely - raising the possibility the U.S. would exercise its veto on the council to block the resolution.

In Rome, Italy's foreign minister called the scale of Israel's offensive out of proportion, Italian news agencies reported.

"It's unthinkable that to save one hostage we would embark in an operation that would cause the deaths of dozens of people," the reports quoted Massimo D'Alema as saying.

With files from THE New York Times

Graphic

Trapped in Gaza's bloodiest day

DAVID GUTTENFELDER AP Palestinians run for cover as Israeli troops open fire near Beit Lahiya, Gaza Strip, yesterday. Troops moved into empty Jewish settlements.

Load-Date: July 7, 2006



DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 12, 2006 Wednesday

THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2006 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 648 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Israelis destroy home of militant, killing 6

An Israeli airstrike targeted the home of a <u>Hamas</u> activist in northern Gaza early today and killed six people, officials and residents said, while Israel expanded a two-week offensive in the region with an incursion further south.

Palestinians said a high-level meeting of <u>Hamas</u> commanders was in progress at the residence in Gaza City just before the airstrike.

The Israeli military said it attacked the home because it was a "meeting place for terrorists." It also confirmed Israeli forces were operating in southern Gaza as part of an effort to win the release of a captured soldier.

With tanks and troops on the move further south, a huge explosion destroyed the house of <u>Hamas</u> activist Dr. Nabil al-Salmiah, killing six people, including two children, and wounding at least 24, hospital officials and residents said. There was no immediate word if al-Salmiah was among the casualties.

LAHORE, PAKISTAN

130 women are released from prison under bail law

Authorities released 130 <u>women</u> facing trial for murder and adultery from jails in eastern Pakistan, days after President Gen. Pervez Musharraf amended a law to give them the right to be freed on bail, officials said Tuesday.

Seventy <u>women</u> were freed on bail Monday and Tuesday from jails in various cities in the eastern Punjab province, provincial prisons chief Sarfaraz Mufti said.

Another 60 <u>women</u> were freed later Tuesday, taking the number of <u>women</u> released on bail in the province to 130, said Saeed Niwani, minister for jails in Punjab.

BEIJING

Authorities free filmmaker, Web site says

DIGEST

A Chinese filmmaker detained while making a documentary about underground Christians was released Tuesday after more than five months in police custody, his sister said in an Internet posting.

Wu Hao was taken away by authorities Feb. 22, and police refused to give details about charges or let his family see him, saying his case had to be kept secret.

Before his release, police had informed the filmmaker he was under "supervised residence," according to a Web diary kept by his sister, Wu Na.

Chinese authorities often use "supervised residence" to hold people at small hotels in isolated locations under constant surveillance.

ROME

Premier denounces anti-Semitic graffiti

Premier Romano Prodi on Tuesday denounced a swastika and other graffiti scrawled on walls in a Jewish neighborhood of Rome overnight, when soccer fans thronged the streets to celebrate Italy's World Cup triumph.

Some of the graffiti was painted on a door near outdoor tables of a restaurant in the Old Ghetto, as the neighborhood is known.

Prodi condemned the anti-Semitic graffiti in a letter to the president of the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities. He expressed his government's solidarity with the Jewish community and denounced the "ignoble gesture of hate and intolerance which strikes not only you, but all the Italian people."

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Forensic expert testifies in Marine's rape trial

Prosecutors on Tuesday postponed further testimony from a Filipino woman who says she was raped by a U.S. Marine and instead presented a forensic expert.

The 22-year-old woman, who punched her alleged assailant in court Monday, had been expected to continue her testimony for a third day Tuesday in the trial.

But prosecutors told the court they wanted forensic pathologist Raquel Fortun to testify Tuesday.

Fortun testified that a police lab exam that found no traces of semen on the condom purportedly used in the alleged assault or on the woman's underwear was an "old" procedure no longer used in modern forensics.

"It is believed unreliable," said Fortun, who had served as forensic pathologist for the United Nations in East Timor and Sierra Leone.

Fortun testified that a medical examination administered after the alleged rape indicated the woman had sustained injuries consistent with nonconsensual sex.

Notes

World

Load-Date: July 12, 2006

DIGEST



Israeli envoy rebukes Canada's Arbour

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

May 13, 2006 Saturday

FINAL C Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 625 words

Byline: Mike Blanchfield, Ottawa Citizen

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

OTTAWA -- Israel's ambassador to Canada issued a sharp personal attack Friday on UN Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour, the former Supreme Court of Canada justice, after she criticized Palestinian suicide bombers and Israeli military forces that retaliate against them.

Arbour called on Israel and the Palestinians to respect international law and not target each other's civilian populations.

"The rising number of lives lost, whether as a result of targeted killings or suicide attacks, homemade missiles or artillery fire, is unacceptable," Arbour said in statement released Friday from her Geneva headquarters.

Hours later in Ottawa, Israel's envoy to Canada, Alan Baker, issued a stinging rebuke, saying that he was "surprised" that Arbour would "arbitrarily chose to equate" the actions of Palestinian terrorists with Israel's attempts "in targeting such killers."

"The fact that such an unmerited and harmful equivalence comes from such a prominent Canadian jurist as Mme. Arbour is all the more surprising," Baker said.

Arbour is also the former chief prosecutor of the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

On Friday, Arbour said the Palestinian region "was on the brink of a human rights and humanitarian crisis," as she issued her assessment of the deteriorating situation since the terrorist organization, *Hamas*, won the Jan. 25 Palestinian parliamentary elections.

Western countries, including Canada, have cut or significantly reduced aid to the Palestinian Authority because *Hamas* has not renounced the use of violence or retracted its position that Israel cease to exist.

The economic crackdown has caused problems in paying more than 150,000 workers in the West Bank and Gaza.

Arbour noted the concerns of other UN agencies that predicted a rise in poverty, and restrictions on the flow of people and goods, including humanitarian aid, in the region.

Israeli envoy rebukes Canada's Arbour

"Civilians, particularly the most vulnerable, such as children, <u>women</u> and the elderly, should not pay the price for the neglect of human rights and humanitarian obligations," Arbour said.

She noted that "both Israel and Palestine are under an obligation scrupulously to observe the rules of international humanitarian law, one of the paramount purposes of which is to preserve civilian life."

But Arbour placed an added onus of responsibility on Israel to ensure the movement of goods and humanitarian assistance to and from the Palestinian territories.

"As the occupying power, Israel bears responsibility under international humanitarian law, particularly under the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, for the welfare of the Palestinian people ..."

Arbour said the Palestinian Authority "has the urgent duty to do everything in its power to maintain law and order, prevent attacks on Israeli civilians, investigate those attacks that have taken place, and bring to justice those responsible."

In Ottawa, the Israeli embassy released a statement on Baker's behalf that "stressed his surprise ... that the person carrying the responsibility for monitoring human rights in the world, arbitrarily chooses to equate the actions of Palestinian terrorists who wantonly and indiscriminately kill innocent members of the public dining in restaurants and travelling on buses, with the action of Israel in targeting such killers."

Baker, the statement said, "wondered if Mme. Arbour's attempts to establish an equivalency and balance in her criticism, is not overly exaggerated."

Baker said the key to solving the current crisis in the Palestinian territory "rests solely with the governing <u>Hamas</u> terror organization" by swearing off terror and recognizing Israel.

"It chooses not to do so. It glorifies terror, encourages suicide bombings and openly advocates the elimination of the state of Israel," Baker said.

Graphic

Photo: "As the occupying power, Israel bears responsibility under international humanitarian law, particularly under the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, for the welfare of the Palestinian people . . ." - Louise arbour

Load-Date: May 13, 2006



For better or worse, it's natural selection both behind the camera and in front

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 12, 2006 Wednesday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Entertainment; Pg. 21

Length: 594 words

Byline: Doug Anderson

Body

Survivor Panama

7.30pm, Nine: Nice to read that Steven Spielberg has joined Mark Burnett on a project to bring cringing sentimentality to the sewers of reality television. While we're waiting for this stupendousness to arrive, there's abundant flotsam and jetsam of an intensely venal variety as hand-picked candidates submit themselves to an ordeal supervised by our old friend Jeff Probst. Tonight's tremendously exciting instalment is entitled Starvation and Lunacy. Possibly a message there somewhere - but I fancy not.

The Movie Show

8pm, SBS: Why are we so powerless? Our hapless leaders sell off the nation's assets for peanuts, weed out the staff-elected member of the ABC board, telescope the arts into the gaming and racing portfolio and white ant our workplaces with appalling legislation. Meanwhile, the people who are supposed to know can't remember much more than their names. Just as wretched is the way our public broadcasters behave, cheapening our fare, neglecting their responsibilities and dumbing everything down in the name of expedition or necessity. Cheaper is better? Not on the evidence to hand. Viewers who enjoy the flicks and believe in diversity of viewpoint might think about firing off a protest to SBS over the impending demise of this program which, tonight, assesses the newest releases including Kokoda, Eight Below and The Hills (formerly alive with the sound of music) Have Eyes.

The New Inventors

8pm, ABC: Invent a better mouse trap - or stadium seat - and investors will beat a path to your ingeniously contrived security door - with an award-winning path-beating device. Sheldon King's upholstered and ergonomically refined stadium seat is a tip-up affair made from recycled, weather-resistant plastics. It looks the goods and caresses the buttocks like an angel's kiss. Terry Sarginson and Rodger Lakedemonstrate their new "safe" grease gun, a long-overdue improvement in the vehicle-maintenance field. And for those plagued by boxthorn, there's good news from Geoff Davey. We're still the clever country - everywhere but at the top it seems.

The Eighteenth Angel

(1998), noon, Seven: An OK thriller from David Seltzer, the author of The Omen, begins when a teacher and her daughter move to Rome and become involved with a weirdo cult calling itself the Etruscan Order. These monastic

For better or worse, it's natural selection both behind the camera and in front

acolytes believe Satan is due to return to the mortal coil as an innocent child - a la Rosemary's Baby. Cloning and satanistic gibberish make for a story that smacks heavily of its predecessor - though you have to admire Seltzer's candour when asked what drove him to crank out this absurd novelty. "I did it strictly for the money," he's alleged to have said without a trace of a blush.

Dateline

8.30pm, SBS: Israel has suspended its formal dealings with the elected <u>Hamas</u> Government in Palestine. Some 40 to 70 per cent of those living in the Gaza Strip exist in poverty. <u>Hamas</u> has used its welfare agencies in every community and neighbourhood to establish a grassroots network of support - largely among <u>women</u>. Of the 17 <u>women</u> in the new government, under the quota system, half a dozen are <u>Hamas</u> nominees. If sharia law is eventually introduced under an Islamic regime, will these <u>women</u> maintain their influence?

Living Black

6pm, SBS: West Australia's jails are still crammed with indigenous people. The reasons are obvious yet statistics continue to rise. One people, one law? Fair enough - but surely the dynamics of cause and effect need to be readdressed in the search for useful solutions - and locking people up isn't really useful, is it?

Graphic

DRAWING: By Rocco Fazzari

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Israeli envoy rebukes UN official

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

May 13, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 625 words

Byline: Mike Blanchfield, Vancouver Sun

Dateline: OTTAWA

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Israeli envoy rebukes UN official

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But Arbour placed an added onus of responsibility on Israel to ensure the movement of goods and humanitarian assistance to and from the Palestinian territories.

"As the occupying power, Israel bears responsibility under international humanitarian law, particularly under the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, for the welfare of the Palestinian people ..."

Arbour said the Palestinian Authority "has the urgent duty to do everything in its power to maintain law and order, prevent attacks on Israeli civilians, investigate those attacks that have taken place, and bring to justice those responsible."

In Ottawa, the Israeli embassy released a statement on Baker's behalf that "stressed his surprise ... that the person carrying the responsibility for monitoring human rights in the world, arbitrarily chooses to equate the actions of Palestinian terrorists who wantonly and indiscriminately kill innocent members of the public dining in restaurants and travelling on buses, with the action of Israel in targeting such killers."

Baker, the statement said, "wondered if Mme. Arbour's attempts to establish an equivalency and balance in her criticism, is not overly exaggerated."

Baker said the key to solving the current crisis in the Palestinian territory "rests solely with the governing <u>Hamas</u> terror organization" by swearing off terror and recognizing Israel.

"It chooses not to do so. It glorifies terror, encourages suicide bombings and openly advocates the elimination of the state of Israel," Baker said.

Graphic

Photo: Ottawa Citizen; "As the occupying power, Israel bears responsibility under international humanitarian law, particularly under the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, for the welfare of the Palestinian people ..." - Louise Arbour

Load-Date: May 13, 2006



Israeli ambassador slams UN rights chief for 'equating' its military with terrorists: Former Canadian judge calls for end to killings by Israelis, Palestinians

Ottawa Citizen

May 13, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 621 words

Byline: Mike Blanchfield, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

Israel's ambassador to Canada issued a sharp personal attack yesterday on UN Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour, a former Supreme Court of Canada justice, after she criticized Palestinian suicide bombers and the Israeli military forces that retaliate against them.

Ms. Arbour called on Israel and the Palestinians to respect international law and not target each other's civilians.

"The rising number of lives lost, whether as a result of targeted killings or suicide attacks, homemade missiles or artillery fire, is unacceptable," Mr. Arbour said in statement released yesterday.

Hours later in Ottawa, Israel's envoy to Canada, Alan Baker, issued a stinging rebuke, saying he was "surprised" Ms. Arbour "arbitrarily chose to equate" the actions of Palestinian terrorists with Israel's attempts "in targeting such killers."

"The fact that such an unmerited and harmful equivalence comes from such a prominent Canadian jurist as Madame Arbour is all the more surprising," Mr. Baker said.

Ms. Arbour is also the former chief prosecutor of the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, a post she used to level the historic war crimes charge against Slobodan Milosevic, president of the former Yugoslavia.

Yesterday, Ms. Arbour said the Palestinian region "was on the brink of a human rights and humanitarian crisis," as she issued her assessment of the deteriorating situation since <u>Hamas</u>, a terrorist organization, won the Jan. 25 Palestinian parliamentary elections.

Western countries, including Canada, have cut or significantly reduced aid to the Palestinian Authority because *Hamas* has not renounced the use of violence or retracted its position that Israel cease to exist.

The economic crackdown has caused problems in paying more than 150,000 workers in the West Bank and Gaza.

Ms. Arbour noted the concerns of other UN agencies that predicted a rise in poverty, and restrictions on the flow of people and goods, including humanitarian aid, in the region.

Israeli ambassador slams UN rights chief for 'equating' its military with terrorists: Former Canadian judge calls for end to killings by Israelis, Palestinians

"Civilians, particularly the most vulnerable, such as children, <u>women</u> and the elderly, should not pay the price for the neglect of human rights and humanitarian obligations," Ms. Arbour said.

She noted that Israel and the Palestinian territories "are under an obligation scrupulously to observe the rules of international humanitarian law, one of the paramount purposes of which is to preserve civilian life."

But Ms. Arbour placed an added onus of responsibility on Israel to ensure the movement of goods and humanitarian assistance to and from the Palestinian territories.

"As the occupying power, Israel bears responsibility under international humanitarian law, particularly under the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, for the welfare of the Palestinian people."

Ms. Arbour said the Palestinian Authority "has the urgent duty to do everything in its power to maintain law and order, prevent attacks on Israeli civilians, investigate those attacks that have taken place, and bring to justice those responsible."

In Ottawa, the Israeli Embassy released a statement on Mr. Baker's behalf that "stressed his surprise ... that the person carrying the responsibility for monitoring human rights in the world, arbitrarily chooses to equate the actions of Palestinian terrorists who wantonly and indiscriminately kill innocent members of the public dining in restaurants and travelling on buses, with the action of Israel in targeting such killers."

Mr. Baker, the statement said, "wondered if Madame Arbour's attempts to establish an equivalency and balance in her criticism, is not overly exaggerated."

Mr. Baker said the key to solving the crisis in the Palestinian territory "rests solely with the governing <u>Hamas</u> terror organization" by swearing off terrorism and recognizing Israel.

Load-Date: May 13, 2006



CAIR Settles A Libel Suit Against Critic - Correction Appended

New York Sun (Archive) March 24, 2006 Friday

Correction Appended

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 813 words

Byline: By JOSH GERSTEIN, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Body

An Islamic group has settled a \$1.35 million libel suit against one of its critics, who operates a Web site charging that the organization, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, has links to terrorism.

The terms of the settlement between the Muslim group and Andrew Whitehead of Virginia Beach, Va., are confidential, but the Web site, *www.anti-cair-net.org*, still includes the statements Cair contended were libelous.

"Nothing has changed in that regard. It's as if this lawsuit had never existed," said Mr. Whitehead, 48, a former Navy sailor.

An attorney for Mr. Whitehead, Reed Rubenstein, described the outcome as a victory for his client. "This is the first time somebody has stood up and stopped these folks," the lawyer said.

A spokesman for Cair, Ibrahim Hooper, confirmed that the libel case was dismissed earlier this month on the request of both parties. "It was settled out of court for an undisclosed amount," he said.

Asked if he was suggesting that Mr. Whitehead paid the organization to drop the case, Mr. Hooper said, "We filed the suit." Asked again, the spokesman simply repeated the statement.

An attorney for Cair, Jeremiah Denton III, declined to comment.

The group's lawsuit, filed in a Virginia state court in March 2004, accused Mr. Whitehead of libeling Cair by calling it "a terrorist supporting front organization that is partially funded by terrorists." The suit also charged that Mr. Whitehead falsely claimed Cair was founded by supporters of a Palestinian Arab terrorist group, <u>Hamas</u>, and that the organization favored the "overthrow of the United States Constitution" and the imposition of Islamic law, known as Shariah.

In June, Cair amended its suit against Mr. Whitehead, dropping its challenge to several of the statements, including the claim that the group was started by *Hamas* members and has received funds from terrorists.

Mr. Hooper said that despite the withdrawal of the suit, his organization, which describes itself as "a grassroots civil rights and advocacy group," still contends that Mr. Whitehead's assertions are false. "We've always denied them. We continue to deny them," the spokesman said.

CAIR Settles A Libel Suit Against Critic

Mr. Rubenstein said Cair's interest in settling the suit intensified late last year just as a judge was considering whether the group should be forced to disclose additional details about its inner workings, including its financing and its alleged ties to *Hamas* and other terrorist groups.

"It would have opened up Cair's finances and their relationships and their principles, their ideological motivations in a way they did not want to be made public," said Mr. Rubenstein, who represented Mr. Whitehead without charge.

Mr. Rubenstein charged that the lawsuit was one of a series of suits filed by Cair and other Muslim organizations as part of a concerted effort to intimidate their critics. "It's part of a larger pattern groups like this have followed. If you say something some of those Muslim groups don't like, they sue you even though the cases have no merit," the attorney said. "You change people's behavior simply by bringing the lawsuit."

"It looks like all they're really trying to do is stifle free speech," Mr. Whitehead said.

Mr. Rubenstein pointed to libel suits brought against several news outlets and journalists recently by the Islamic Society of Boston. The Islamic Society, which is seeking to build a new mosque on public land, alleged that the journalists and pro-Israel activists unfairly linked the religious group to terrorism.

Cair is pressing to revive a \$2 million lawsuit it filed in 2003 against a former North Carolina congressman, Thomas Cass Ballenger, who asserted in a newspaper interview that the group was "the fund-raising arm of Hezbollah." He also said his wife was distressed by the presence of a Cair office near their home and by scenes of "hooded" **women**, wearing Islamic head coverings, going in and out of the office.

Last year, a federal judge in Washington, Richard Leon, ruled that Mr. Ballenger's comments fell within the scope of his employment as a congressman. The ruling made the federal government the defendant in the case and led to its dismissal.

Last week, Mr. Denton appeared before a federal appeals court panel to argue that the case should be reinstated.

Mr. Rubenstein said that after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Cair posted links on its Website leading visitors to make donations to two Islamic non-profit groups, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development and the Global Relief Foundation. Both groups have had their assets frozen and seized by federal authorities over alleged ties to terrorism.

A man who was a co-founder of the Holy Land Foundation and of Cair's Texas chapter, Ghassan Elashi, was convicted in 2004 on six counts of illegal trade with Syria. The FBI has charged that he also has links to *Hamas*.

"These are bad guys," Mr. Rubenstein said.

Correction

Reed Rubinstein is the correct spelling of the name of an attorney for Andrew Whitehead. The name was spelled incorrectly in an article on page 1 of the March 24–26 Sun.

Correction-Date: March 27, 2006

Load-Date: March 27, 2006



The Forward

September 8, 2006

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Section: Editorial; Pg. 8

Length: 1510 words

Body

Halachic Change a Core Conservative Belief

The comment by Rabbi Joel Roth, a Jewish Theological Seminary professor, that the Conservative movement unfairly levels charges of misogynism against those who choose to daven in minyanim that forbid <u>women</u> to play any public ritual role is surely puzzling ("Conservative Rabbis Predict Gay Ban Will Fall, Canadian Shuls Weigh Split With Movement," September 30). That such minyanim are peopled by men who do not consider themselves misogynists is unmistakable. No one would say, for instance, that all men who daven in Orthodox minyanim are misogynists.

What is at issue is what a person purports to believe in when they call themselves a Conservative Jew. Conservative Judaism holds as a core belief that Halacha changes - not by the heavens, but by real people studying Torah in unapologetic conversation with the times in which we live. To believe in halachic change - and then to choose not to accept that Halacha ought to change to reflect <u>women</u>'s equality and dignity - may not be misogynistic, but it certainly communicates one's beliefs about <u>women</u>.

It is unfortunate that Roth focuses on the perceived wrongs dealt to those future leaders at the Jewish Theological Seminary who are not egalitarian. It seems to me that the real victims of their choice to daven in non-egalitarian minyanim are the girls and <u>women</u> in the congregations, schools and camps where these students will, upon graduation, serve as rabbis and educators.

Rabbi Joanna Samuels

Congregation Habonim

New York, N.Y.

No Denying High Rate Of Jews Carrying Gene

As the parent of two children with Familial Dysautonomia, I found an August 25 article by Sander Gilman to be of particular interest ("Genetic Diseases? Yes. But Must We Call Them 'Jewish'?"). Although I understand Gilman's point that the implication may be that one group is "inferior," and it would benefit everyone to take advantage of genetic testing, there is no getting away from the fact that one out of 30 Jews of Eastern European descent are carriers of this recessive gene. It is practical and important that information about testing be directed to them via the synagogues, schools and organizations they frequent.

Also, the possibility that some Hasidic families might hide a child who has Familial Dysautonomia is not necessarily because they cannot accept the idea that he or she is not smart - many Familial Dysautonomia children are not even intellectually impaired - but possibly because the parents are concerned the other siblings may find that their family history will make them less eligible for a shidach, or match, one day.

This was not entirely unreasonable, since carrier tests were only recently available. Two carriers can now have a healthy child, with the help of modern medicine.

Elaine Coplin

Hollywood, Fla.

Check <u>Hamas</u>'s Role in Fox News Kidnapping

Especially since some Palestinians have been known to falsify events in order to support their cause - see the shelling of the Gaza beach earlier this year, and the exaggeration of the assault on Jenin in 2002 - I am surprised that the Forward would laud the <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian Authority for its role in freeing two Fox News newsmen ("Let Them Go," September 1).

Is it not out of the realm of possibility that <u>Hamas</u> orchestrated the entire abduction from start to finish, in order that they might be seen as peacemakers by the West? At the first news conference after their freedom was announced, the former captives spoke of the Palestinian people as being "very beautiful and kindhearted." Odd words from people just released from the clutches of that very kindhearted people. Is it not possible they were forced to say this by <u>Hamas</u>, as a condition for their release?

Before we start to lavish praise on <u>Hamas</u>, perhaps we should wait for the details to emerge as to who was behind these kidnappings. I would expect the Forward to exhibit a tad more prudence before it cheers <u>Hamas</u> for resolving a situation that they are more than capable of having created. As far as we know, the leopard has not yet changed his spots.

Rabbi Aryeh Leifert

San Antonio, Texas

Armenian Appreciation

I greatly appreciated a candid September 1 article on the Armenian genocide issue and the evident polarization in the Jewish community's response to it ("Showdown Set in 'Genocide' Debate").

With fervent anticipation, we Armenians look to the champions of conscience in your community. We sense that now, 90 years after the fact, the balance is finally ready to be tipped toward moral integrity over political expediency. We pray that justice and truth will triumph now so as to help prevent future holocausts.

Robert Ajemian

Sunnyside, N.Y.

Revisit Laws of Warfare

Having studied and taught on Jewish laws of warfare for many years, I was interested in an August 25 article on the Rabbinical Council of America's position that Israel need not be so careful about collateral damage ("Rabbis: Israel Too Worried Over Civilian Deaths"). I went to its Web site and read the statement, which could not possibly have been a responsum, or rabbinic legal opinion.

It would be difficult to justify such a position based on rabbinic laws of warfare, which explicitly requires that non-combatants be permitted to leave the arena of war. Israel's policy honors that law.

And while Hezbollah is a non-government organization and therefore not a signatory to the Geneva conventions or any other covenants concerning the conduct of war, it is an Islamic organization, and the indiscriminate targeting of non-combatants is forbidden by Islamic law. In fact, all acts of terrorism directed at non-combatants conducted by Muslims are in violation of Islamic tradition. Political aims have trumped religious law for groups that practice suicide bombing, firing rockets at non-military targets, and so forth. In addition using civilians as shields by attacking from residential neighborhoods is a war crime.

Grief and outrage at the slaughter of innocents is right and proper. Soldiers engaging in military actions know that their lives are at risk. Soldiers fighting for a nation committed to laws restricting military action must honor those restrictions - no matter who the enemy is. This is not just a matter of national pride, although it is that, too. The Jewish state sets a higher standard for itself, even in the conduct of war. Whether or not that is right is the underlying issue here.

In the Torah, there is a commandment forbidding the cutting down of fruit trees in time of war for military purposes (Deuteronomy 20:19-20), and another requiring a Jewish army to seek peace before prosecuting a war (Deuteronomy 20:10-12). From the beginning, and in our most basic source of law, limits are placed on the conduct of war. It seems to me that the Rabbinical Council of America's position violates both the letter and spirit of that law. I hope they are not letting politics trump our religious tradition.

Rabbi Philip Bentley

Agudas Israel Synagogue

Hendersonville, N.C.

Give Abolitionist Credit

In a September 1 review of my book, "Moses Levy of Florida: Jewish Utopian and Antebellum Reformer," arts writer Glenn Altschuler presents a highly ambiguous assessment ("A Century Later, A Jewish Pioneer Gets His Due"). "More interesting than influential," Altschuler writes of Levy, the subject of my biography is nevertheless "eminently worthy of our attention."

Although I am heartened by this last remark, once the reviewer strips Moses Levy of his influential role, one may reasonably ask: What qualifies this individual as worthy of any note?

Levy's achievements were substantial. For instance, in 1820s London, Levy emerged as a Jewish activist and celebrity without parallel. His "Plan for the Abolition of Slavery" was praised by the editors of The World, the leading evangelical newspaper at the time. The London Literary Chronicle recommended the tract "to the serious attention of the legislature and the public."

After the release of Levy's plan, a new antislavery organization advanced its innovative tenets. Attendance during Levy's speeches at prominent venues approached 1,000, and his activities were routinely noted in the venerable Times. Levy's activism, according to one contemporary, "made his name so well known, as to render any further introduction... unnecessary." This recognition took place at a pivotal time during the British abolitionist crusade, which is regarded by many as the greatest human rights campaign of all time.

Yet Altschuler disregards this evidence and, quite astonishingly, maintains that Levy's abolitionism "received no endorsements."

As I have acknowledged, all utopians are especially vulnerable to a particular brand of cynicism. For obvious reasons, communitarian idealists fell short of their visions of heaven on earth. Thus Levy's best attributes include his role as a disseminator of radical and innovative ideas, and not as a colonizer.

While it is hard to quantify the influence of any activist, the evidence is overwhelming that Levy's clout was most substantial indeed.

C.S. Monaco

Oxford, United Kingdom

Load-Date: September 8, 2006



<u>Israel widens bombing campaign as Lebanese militia groups retaliate;</u> MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

The Independent (London)

July 14, 2006 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 911 words

Byline: By Donald Macintyre in Nahariya and Eric Silver in Jerusalem

Body

Israeli forces blockaded Lebanese ports and bombed runways at Beirut airport yesterday in a series of fierce reprisal attacks that Lebanese officials say have killed at least 55 civilians.

Tthe biggest military operation since Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon six years ago came in response to a raid by Hizbollah on Wednesday in which two soldiers were seized while on patrol on the Israeli side of the border. The most serious casualties were caused by a series of air raids on south Lebanon that Lebanese security officials say killed 55 people and wounded 110. Sources said 10 members of a single family were killed in Dweir village and seven from another family were killed in Baflay.

The Israeli military said Hizbollah guerrillas fired more than 100 Katyusha rockets in retaliation at towns and villages across the north of Israel, killing two <u>women</u> in what was the most serious barrage since the mid-1990s. One woman was killed in Nahariya and another woman died from her wounds in Safed.

The guerrilla group appeared last night to have dramatically exceeded the rocket's previous range by launching two at the coastal city of Haifa. Another landed in the suburbs. Danny Ayalon, Israeli ambassador to the US, said the attack was a "major, major, escalation" but Hizbollah's initial reaction was to deny its rockets had been fired at Haifa.

Israeli planes late last night launched a second attack on Beirut's airport, setting fuel tanks ablaze, and leafleted residents in the crowded southern suburbs of Beirut, warning them to stay away from Hizbollah sites in an apparent prelude to further air raids. Israeli jets also bombed the highway linking Beirut with the Syrian capital, Damascus.

The Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad responded by warning Israel against an attack on Syria. "If the Zionist regime commits another stupid move and attacks Syria, this will be considered like attacking the whole Islamic world and this regime will receive a very fierce response," he said.

Earlier, Israeli forces attacked two military bases and hinted at a ground offensive, the Lebanese Information Minister, Ghazi al-Aridi, said that Lebanon wanted a comprehensive ceasefire and an end to "this open-ended aggression" by Israel.

Israeli helicopters also fired on three facilities of the Hizbol-lah-operated al-Manar television network. One person was reported killed and 10 wounded.

The US vetoed a UN resolution last night that demanded Israel halt its military offensive in Gaza - the first UN Security Council veto in almost two years. Ten of the 15 countries voted in favour' while Britain, Denmark, Slovakia and Peru abstained.

President George Bush voiced concern about the fate of Lebanon's fragile government, which is no longer dominated by Syria, but said: "Israel has the right to defend herself." Margaret Beckett, the Foreign Secretary, said Israel should respond to the "inexcusable provocation" in a "measured and proportionate" way.

The seized Israeli soldiers were named as Ehud Goldwasser, 31, of Nahariya, and Eldad Regev, 26, of Kiryat Motzkin. The deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, Gideon Meir, said Israel would not negotiate "with any organisation that kidnaps soldiers".

The operation in Lebanon has opened a second front a fortnight after Israeli troops staged their first military operations inside Gaza since withdrawing from the Strip last summer. After 23 Palestinians were killed in attacks on Wednesday, Israel's air force bombed the <u>Hamas</u>-controlled Foreign Ministry overnight. The operation in Gaza was launched with the stated aim of freeing an abducted 19-year-old army corporal, Gilad Shalit, and stopping Qassam rocket attacks from Gaza.

Israel said it was hitting targets that were of assistance to Hizbollah and which had been operating without interference from the Lebanese government.

The second day of attacks

How Israel and Hizbollah exchanged rocket fire

Wednesday night

Air strikes kill 20 civilians including a family of 10 in the town of Dweir near Nabatiye.

6am (local time) Israeli jets bomb Beirut Airport and pro-HizbollahTV station Al Manar.

7am

Hizbollah fire Katyusha rockets at the Israeli town of Nahariya killing one woman.

3pm

Seven injured as Hizbollah rockets hi the Israeli town of Safed. 70 missiles land on Israeli border towns

5pm

Israeli warplanes target a Lebanese military airbase in Rayak, east of Beiru and in Qoleiat, near Triploli.

8pm

Militants fire at least one rocketi the Israeli port city of Haifa. No casualties reported Israel responds by shelling Beirut airport.

The main players as Israel fights on two fronts

EHUD OLMERT

Page 3 of 3

Israel widens bombing campaign as Lebanese militia groups retaliate MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Four months after his election victory promising a West Bank withdrawal and greater security, Prime Minister Olmert is fighting on two fronts.

AMIRPERETZ

Leader of Israel's Labour party, he has had his pacifist beliefs sorely tested since becoming defence minister in March. Faces international pressure to minimise civilian casualties.

BASH AR ASSAD

The Syrian President will feel increasing international pressure to rein in his Hizbollah and <u>Hamas</u> allies. The US holds Syria responsible for the crisis.

SHEIK HASSAN NASRALLAH

Hizbollah's leader, believed to be in southern Beirut, threatened further rocket attacks if Israeli air strikes continue, and said the two soldiers will be freed only in an exchange.

KHALED MASHAL

The <u>Hamas</u> political leader is in hiding in Damascus. Has said <u>Hamas</u> will only release the Israeli soldier held hostage in Gaza in exchange for prisoners.

Graphic

An Israeli artillery unit fires across the border into southern Lebanon' Israeli security officers attend a building in Nahariya hit by a Hizbollah missile

Load-Date: July 14, 2006



Israel offers prisoners if kidnapped soldier is freed

The Independent (London)

July 8, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 34

Length: 393 words

Byline: By Donald Macintyre in Gaza

Body

A senior Israeli cabinet minister suggested for the first time that some Palestinian prisoners might be released if abducted Army Corporal Gilad Shalit was freed and Qassam rocket fire halted.

The hint by Interior Minister Avi Dichter came as the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that Israel had already promised potential releases from among certain categories of prisoners in return for the freeing of Cpl Shalit.

Mr Dichter was quoted as telling a conference that in such circumstances "Israel knows how to carry our a release of prisoners as a goodwill gesture," adding "We did it in the past and we know how to do it."

Mr Abbas went significantly further by saying Israel had already promised the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak they would release "a "number" of prisoners among those "that have been there for more than 20 years, those that are sick, **women** and children"

Mr Abbas fiercely condemned the Israeli incursion on Thursday into northern Gaza that resulted in the deaths of 20 Palestinians and an Israeli soldier and said Israeli military operations needed to end to create an "atmosphere" in which diplomatic efforts could proceed freely.

But he added that President Mubarak had been told that if <u>Hamas</u> militants and others holding the corporal freed him, "this will happen' they will withdraw, they will release the PLC members [from <u>Hamas</u> who were detained last week in the West Bank] and the prisoners."

Mr Abbas also said the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert had told Mr Abbas personally at their meeting in Petra last month - well before the raid by Palestinian militants 13 days ago in which Cpl Shalit was abducted - that he would announce prioner releases when the two met in earnest.

At least five more Palestinians were killed yesterday in a series of aerial and tank attacks directed at militants as funerals were held through the north of Gaza for the Palestinians.

Israel offers prisoners if kidnapped soldier is freed

The Israel Defence Forces are also investigating whether its First Lieutenent Yehuda Bassel, 21, killed on Thursday, was the victim of friendly fire. The officer's funeral also took place in southern Israel yesterday.

The Atrata district of Western Beit Lahiya where the heaviest fighting took place on Thursday, was somewhat quieter yesterday, though sporadic machine-gun fire from Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles continued sporadically through its streets.

Load-Date: July 8, 2006



Israel 'will not hold back' in military move to free soldier; World at a glance

The Evening Standard (London)
June 28, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: LSE; Pg. 14 Length: 323 words

Byline: JASON BEATTIE

Body

ISRAELI premier Ehud Olmert today warned of "extreme action" as an air and land assault began on Gaza to free a captured soldier.

The Israeli leader said his country would not hold back in its effort to free 19-year-old Corporal Gilad Shalit, seized by militants from a checkpoint outside the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

He spoke as fighters destroyed three bridges in central Gaza and missiles knocked out power supplies with an attack on the territory's main power station.

"We won't hesitate to carry out extreme action to bring Gilad back to his family," Mr Olmert said. "All the military activity that started overnight will continue in the coming days.

"We do not intend to reoccupy Gaza. We do not intend to stay there. We have one objective, and that is to bring Gilad home."

Tanks stormed across the border in the early hours despite pleas from US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice to "give diplomacy a chance". The invasion force, led by bulldozers to clear booby-trap bombs, set up camp just inside the Gaza area in what the Israelis described as a "limited" swoop aimed at "terrorist infrastructure".

But there was an implicit threat the operation would be stepped up if Cpl Shalit was not released.

In a sign the conflict could escalate, a *Hamas* leader called on supporters to confront the Israelis.

"Fight your enemies, who came to their deaths. Grab your rifles and resist," Nizar Rayan said in a radio message.

Palestinian gunmen were reported to have set up barricades, blocked roads with sand and planted improvised bombs.

Israel 'will not hold back' in military move to free soldier World at a glance

Despite international pressure <u>Hamas</u>, the governing party in Palestine, is refusing to release Cpl Shalit unless Israel frees Palestinian <u>women</u> and children held in its jail. Mr Olmert has refused to consider such an exchange.

"The question of freeing prisoners is in no way on the Israeli government agenda. There will be no negotiations, no bargaining, no agreements," Mr Olmert said before ordering the invasion.

Graphic

HAMMER BLOW: PALESTINIAN POLICEMEN PASS A BRIDGE WRECKED BY A MISSILE. INSET: AN ISRAELI SOLDIER DIRECTS AN ARMOURED PERSONNEL CARRIER

Load-Date: June 28, 2006



Sounding off on all sides

The Philadelphia Inquirer
July 18, 2006 Tuesday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A11

Length: 1206 words

Body

Here's a roundup of blogs, news and commentaries on the war in the Mideast. Also, at right, see what the region's English-language media are saying.

Walid Phares

http://counterterrorismblog.org, July 13

I developed the real four reasons for this war across the Lebanese-Israeli border:

- 1. Iran is concerned about the nuclear crisis and wants to deflate the issue away.
- 2. Syria is concerned about the Hariri murder investigation and wishes to postpone its results.
- 3. Hezbollah is concerned about the call for disarming its militias and therefore decided to flare up the conflict with Israel.
- 4. Finally, <u>Hamas</u> was sinking in crisis with Mahmoud Abbas and Fatah. Thus a jihad against Israel was the solution.

Saree Makdisi

Commentary, Houston Chronicle, July 14, www.chron.com

The tragedy now unfolding in Gaza is not merely one more episode in a supposed "cycle of violence" (which implies proportionality), let alone a genuine military contest (for only one side has an army).... What is happening in Gaza is an expression of Israel's political vision.... the consolidation of a state with a Jewish majority in a land in which barely half the population is actually Jewish.... Israel seeks to forcibly isolate the land's remaining non-Jewish population into barren islands cut off from each other and the rest of the world.

James S. Robbins

National Review Online, July 17, www.nationalreview.com

Sounding off on all sides

In the global struggle against terrorist groups, Hezbollah has... enjoyed virtual immunity in the war on terrorism.

Until last week that is.

In response to a small-scale incursion and kidnapping of two of its soldiers... Israel has unleashed a massive response seeking a more thorough solution to the Hezbollah problem. Vladimir Putin showed his keen eye for the obvious when he stated, "It is our impression that aside from seeking to return the abducted soldiers, Israel is pursuing wider goals." No kidding, and long overdue at that.

Iran Daily

http://www.iran-daily.com,

July 17

Major General Yahya Rahim-Safavi on Sunday called for reinforcement of solidarity among Islamic states in the face of the escalating crimes of the Zionist regime and its allies.

"The U.S. planned these events to cover up its failures in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Zionists... would do better to end their attacks on the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, release the Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners of war, and declare a cease-fire because this war will definitely end in favor of the Muslim resistance movement," Rahim-Safavi said.

Michael Rubin

National Review Online, July 17, www.nationalreview.com

There will be a role for diplomacy in the Middle East, but it will only be successful if it commences both after the eradication of Hezbollah and *Hamas*, and after their paymasters pay a terrible cost for their support..... There will never be peace if Syria and Iran are allowed to use Lebanon as a proxy battlefield safe and secure in the knowledge that they will not pay directly.

Tim Hames

The Times of London, July 17, www.timesonline.co.uk

The notion of a Middle East peace process still rests on the premise that states can negotiate with one another. But recent events indicate that the authority of several states surrounding Israel has slipped to the point of incredibility. *Hamas*, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad count for more than the Palestinian Authority, Lebanon and Syria. And while some of these groups have been sponsored by states (particularly Syria), they are now strong enough to exercise independence from their old masters.

Mark Steyn

Commentary, Chicago Sun-Times, July 16, www.chicagosuntimes.com

Israel withdrew from Gaza and, instead of getting on with a prototypical Palestinian state, <u>Hamas</u> turned the territory into an Islamist camp. Israel withdrew from Lebanon entirely in 2000, yet Hezbollah is now lobbing rockets at Haifa.

Why? Because in both cases these territories are now in effect Iran's land borders with the "Zionist Entity." They're "occupied territories" but it's not the Jews doing the occupying. So you've got a choice between talking with proxies or going to the source: Tehran. And, as the unending talks with the EU have demonstrated, the ayatollahs use negotiations with the civilized world as comedy relief.

Mona El-Farra

Sounding off on all sides

Commentary, Boston Globe, July 10, www.boston.com

To the outside world it might seem like an easy decision for Palestinians: Let the soldier go, and the siege will end. Yet for Gazans, even in the face of this brutal violence, another decision comes, not with ease, but with resolve. He is one soldier who was captured in a military operation. Today, several hundred Palestinian children and <u>women</u> are locked in Israeli prisons. They deserve their freedom no less than he does.

Frida Ghitis

Commentary, July 17

A strong Hezbollah means a weak Lebanon. It means an empowered Iran, even as it pursues its nuclear objectives. And it means ever more distant prospects for finding true peace in the region. Without Hezbollah, Lebanon and Israel will one day work toward reconciliation.

Politicians, diplomats and others who call for all sides to stop fighting, may feel like they're taking action. But... the international community... must recognize the conflict's cause is Hezbollah. To really help, they should demand its removal and offer to help Lebanon disarm this radical threat. Stopping the fighting now, without removing Hezbollah, will not end the suffering, it will only postpone it.

Fawaz A. Gerges

Commentary, Washington Post, July 17, www.washpost.com

People are anxious and fear the worst. With no way in or out of the country, a sense of panic is taking hold. The streets of Beirut, often congested, are deserted. How to survive if the hostilities last longer than a few days? Tens of thousands of tourists find themselves stranded in what appears to be a war zone... . Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable in urban warfare. Like other fathers, I am worried about my own children and what to do with them. I cannot afford to take risks with their lives.

James Carroll

Commentary, The Boston Globe, July 17, www.boston.com

If the United States has been made so warlike by the one attack of Sept. 11, 2001, who should be surprised at the reactions of an Israel under constant siege? Indeed, the responses of Israel and America are related. Even though the futility of vengeful belligerence is on full display in Iraq, the United States does nothing to promote alternative strategies in resolving the Palestinian question. The Bush administration has not only squandered its considerable Middle East leverage, but has done more than anything to empower Islamic extremists, beginning with Iran.

William Kristol

The Weekly Standard, July 17, www.weeklystandard.com

Radical Islamism isn't going away anytime soon. But it will make a big difference how strong the state sponsors, harborers, and financiers of radical Islamism are. Thus, our focus should be less on *Hamas* and Hezbollah, and more on their paymasters and real commanders - Syria and Iran... . We have done a poor job of standing up to them and weakening them. They are now testing us more boldly than one would have thought possible a few years ago. Weakness is provocative. We have been too weak, and have allowed ourselves to be perceived as weak.

Load-Date: July 18, 2006



West can't relate as tribes fight in the name of God; Letters to the Editor>letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

Canberra Times (Australia)

July 29, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. B06 Length: 621 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

I refer to the recent spate of letters and opinion pieces on the situation in Palestine, Israel and Lebanon.

We will get nowhere near appreciating the nationalist and political loyalties of the inhabitants of those countries until we become instinctively aware of the meaning of the following terms.

Hezbollah Party of God; Israel he who troubles God; and *Hamas* Enthusiasm.

(HAMAS is an acronym for Harakat Al-Muqawama Al Islamiyya, ie, Islamic Resistance Movement.)

In other words centuries of cultural, social and religious history are epitomised in these simple names.

There is no equivalent nomenclature in Western democratic nation states.

Getting to know one another and to be able to deal with one another is going to take a long, long time.

It is certainly going to take more than the gung-ho pronouncements of some Western leaders to bring peace and stability to the Middle East.

We need to try to see the world from a Middle Eastern perspective.

A start would be to try to appreciate what resonance every day words like "Hezbollah" and "*Hamas*" have for citizens of the Arab world.

Joseph P. Quigley, Tomakin, NSW The article by Robert Fisk ("Cry, the beloved city", July 22, ppB1-B2), was masterful.

Robert Fisk presented the stark truth that this war is a fight between David and Goliath - David, of course, being the sovereign country of Lebanon.

That we are seeing ordinary men, <u>women</u> and children, killed in their hundreds in Lebanon - I understand the present count as of July 27 is 443 - is shameful.

That the US appears to be supporting such a war is obscene.

West can't relate as tribes fight in the name of God Letters to the Editor>letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

We are indeed crying for not only Beirut but for the whole of Lebanon, a ruined country.

Beryl Legge-Wilkinson, Campbell Condoleezza Rice has declared that it is not yet time for a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

Translated, this means she has declared that not enough people have been killed yet to force Hezbollah into submitting to the Israeli view of peace.

Will Condoleezza Rice also dictate how many more must be killed? Will she select which mother must see her infant child's body disembowelled by flying shrapnel? Will she nominate the number of Lebanese civilians v Israeli civilians, the number of Israeli conscripts or UN observers that must be killed in order for the time for ceasefire to have been reached? I think not.

But the truth is that in her voicing America's support for this war she has already done so. And so too, I am ashamed to say, has Australia's Government. While ever one combatant refuses to put down their gun there can be no peace.

David Grant, Murrumbateman, NSW And so the calls for the US to step in and hammer out some solution in the Middle East are heard loudly around the world, again ("US needs to get seriously involved in Middle East crisis", July 25, p13).

Just like in the Balkans. Just like most places that get nasty. (Rwanda and the Sudan missed out.) Why the US? We don't really buy that Wall Street/Zionist conspiracy mantra, do we? If the US is the Great Satan, the capitalist-imperialist aggressor, the root of all evil, why shouldn't it sit this one out like all the rest of us? Like all the hear/see/speak-no-evil gun makers of the world - the French, Russians, British, Germans - they can of course, continue to supply whoever has cash or credit, but surely this is one for the UN to resolve.

Why would it be a US responsibility to step in? But, I hear you say, the UN can't organise a piss-up in a brewery, is a veto-immobilised, committee that can't get meaningful resolutions passed and only has Third World, work- for-the-dole soldiers on tap.

This needs real drive and resources.

So apparently it has to be the US; the old (hated) global policeman, to do the job again.

Down with Uncle Sam!

Tom Waring, Ainslie

Load-Date: July 28, 2006



<u>Terrorist's death cheered, mourned: Baghdad streets filled with celebratory</u> gunfire

Ottawa Citizen

June 9, 2006 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 556 words

Byline: Louise Roug, The Los Angeles Times

Dateline: BAGHDAD

Body

BAGHDAD - Reactions yesterday to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's death reflected the contradictions and conspiracy theories that surrounded the elusive figure in life.

American Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad called Mr. al-Zarqawi the "godfather of sectarian violence in Iraq" during a speech in Baghdad, shortly after Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's televised announcement of Mr. al-Zarqawi's killing.

But from Iraq's Anbar province, where the insurgency is strongest, to the Palestinian territories, Mr. al-Zarqawi was mourned as a martyr whose cause would continue long after his death Wednesday in a U.S. bomb attack.

"He died, but thousands of al-Zarqawis will follow," said Hussein Hashim Falluji, a 54-year-old Sunni merchant in Fallujah.

News of Mr. al-Zarqawi's death spread rapidly across the bloodied nation yesterday, as Iraqis ran to tell their neighbours or sent cellphone text messages to friends further afield.

Haider Abbas, a 24-year-old Shiite living in Basra, joined other students in a street party and a bout of celebratory gunfire. "This is the second time in my life I shoot to express my happiness," he said. "The first was when Saddam was captured."

In parts of that southern city, women danced in the streets and revellers handed out sweets to passersby.

But while some Iraqis celebrated the news with impromptu street parties, others remained skeptical of Mr. al-Zarqawi's role in their country's troubles.

Hilal Ibrahim, a 28-year-old Kurdish journalist from the northern city of Sulaymaniya, said American officials exaggerated Mr. al-Zarqawi's significance as "an excuse to legitimatize their military actions in Iraq," he said. "Al-Zarqawi is just one of many who have waged a war against the U.S. in Iraq, so the end of al-Zarqawi is not the end of violence."

Terrorist's death cheered, mourned: Baghdad streets filled with celebratory gunfire

Elsewhere in the region, Mr. al-Zarqawi's symbolic importance was highlighted in an angry exchange between Israel and *Hamas*, which praised him as a fallen hero. "We commend the martyr al-Zarqawi for his role in facing the U.S. occupation," Sami Abu Zuhri, a *Hamas* spokesman.

"Those who praise al-Zarqawi expose themselves before the world for what they truly are," said Mark Regev, spokesman for the Israeli foreign ministry. And former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Israel Radio, "Among the ranks of terror, they need to know that if they want to be martyrs, this can be arranged."

In Iraq, some described the announcement of Mr. al-Zarqawi's death as theatrics intended bolster the new Iraqi government and boost the waning domestic support for U.S. President George W. Bush, who yesterday described the killing as "a victory in the global war on terror."

In Zarqa, an industrial city in Jordan, Mr. al-Zarqawi's family received a steady stream of mourners at their modest white-washed house.

"If the news is true, I will be happy for his martyrdom and not his death," Mr. al-Zarqawi's brother-in-law, Abu Qudama, told reporters who had gathered outside. During an interview with Al-Jazeera later in the day, Jordanian security forces arrested him on live TV.

"When people invoke al-Zarqawi's name, it's not because they love him," said Abu Muhammed Al Maayteh, a 49-year-old who knew Mr. al-Zarqawi as a child. "It's a reaction to the American policies in the Middle East. They see in al-Zarqawi a man who is achieving their dreams to fight America."

Graphic

Photo: Karim Sahib, AFP, Getty Images; Iraqis dance with soldiers in Baghdad after hearing news that al-Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed in an airstrike late Wednesday. American Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad called Mr. al-Zarqawi the 'godfather of sectarian violence in Iraq,' shortly after the prime minister's televised announcement of Mr. al-Zarqawi's killing. But not everyone was cheering. 'We commend the martyr al-Zarqawi for his role in facing the U.S. occupation,' said Sami Abu Zuhri, a <u>Hamas</u> spokesman.

Load-Date: June 9, 2006



The New York Times
February 22, 2006 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 957 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-10

Furor Over Cartoons Pits Muslim Against Muslim

The arrests of moderate Muslims who spoke out against the violent protests over cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad have magnified a separation in the Middle East, between those who want to engage their communities in a direct dialogue and those who focus on outside enemies. A1

U.S. Pressure in Iraq Criticized

The Iraqi prime minister angrily denounced the growing American pressure to form an inclusive government, as a car bomb killed at least 21 people and wounded dozens more, most of them **women** and children. A3

In Iraq, a country where the power is usually out, few traffic lights work and some neighborhoods are paralyzed by violence, mail carriers still deliver thousands of letters a week to Iraqis. A1

General Confirms Tough Tactics

Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, the commander responsible for the American detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, said officials there used aggressive methods to deter prisoners who were carrying out hunger strikes to protest their incarceration. A6

Aristide Seeks Return to Haiti

Former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said he hoped to return to Haiti from exile in South Africa "as soon as possible," joining his onetime protege, the new president of Haiti, Rene Preval. A6

Egypt Resists Isolating **Hamas**

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, visiting the Middle East to try to persuade Arab leaders to cut off aid to <u>Hamas</u>, encountered resistance from Egypt's foreign minister, who said funds to the Palestinians should continue for an indefinite period. A10

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, formally asked <u>Hamas</u> to establish a new government, while the top <u>Hamas</u> leader said Iran was likely to play an increasingly important role in Palestinian affairs. A10

NATIONAL A11-16

Bush Vows to Veto Bills That Undermine Port Deal

President Bush, trying to put down a rapidly escalating rebellion among leaders of his own party, said he would veto any legislation that blocks a deal by a state-owned company in Dubai to take over management of port terminals in New York, Miami, Baltimore and other major American cities. A1

Justices to Hear Abortion Case

The Supreme Court, at full strength with Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. on the bench, opened the next chapter in its long-running confrontation with abortion by agreeing to decide whether the first federal ban on a method of abortion is constitutional. A1

Bush Admits Mixed Message

President Bush acknowledged that his administration had sent "mixed signals" to the Department of Energy's primary renewable energy laboratory. A12

Interrogation Tactics Limited

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said he rescinded the use of controversial interrogation techniques for detainees at Guantanamo Bay in early 2003 because he learned that Pentagon lawyers thought some of them verged on torture. A16

EDUCATION B7

President of Harvard Resigns

Lawrence H. Summers resigned as president of Harvard University after a brief and turbulent tenure of five years, nudged by Harvard's governing corporation and facing a vote of no confidence from the influential Faculty of Arts and Sciences. A1

Education Law Under Scrutiny

The federal Education Department will review requests from 20 states to significantly alter the way they measure student progress under the No Child Left Behind law.A12

NEW YORK/REGION B1-6

'Double Dipping' Pensions Raise Critics' Concerns

Several high-ranking officials in the Bloomberg administration who rejoined the work force after retirement have been granted waivers allowing them to continue to collect their pensions while also earning a city salary. The practice, known as double dipping, has become more common as employers try to keep qualified workers, but it has sounded alarms in other states. B1

More Surgery for Pataki

Governor Pataki underwent a second round of surgery to try to alleviate the intestinal problems that have troubled him since he had his appendix removed last week. He was transferred from a hospital in Westchester County to one in New York City. B1

FASHION B8

ARTS E1-10

DINING OUT F1-10

OBITUARIES A16-17

Paul C. Marcinkus

An American archbishop and longtime head of the Vatican bank who was linked to a major Italian banking scandal in the 1980's, he was 84. A16

SPORTSWEDNESDAY D1-8

Questions for Austrian Skiers

Austrian ski team officials said two team members, who fled after a weekend police raid of five residences in the Alps where Austrian biathletes and cross-country skiers are staying, said they possibly "used illegal methods" in preparation for their Olympic events. D5

BUSINESS DAY C1-16

Rise in Foreclosures on Poor

The housing boom of the last decade helped push minority home ownership rates above 50 percent for the first time in 2004 and the overall foreclosure rate below 1 percent. But in the last several years, neighborhoods with large poor and minority populations have experienced a sharp rise in foreclosures. A1

Testimony in Enron Case

The former chief executive of Enron took an active role in preparing misleading statements about financial conditions at the company, a former investor relations manager and board secretary testified. C1

No Action Against Lawyers

William S. Lerach, a famed class-action lawyer, and his former partner Melvyn I. Weiss have been informed that no charges will be filed against them for now in a five-year-old inquiry of allegations that the two used illegal tactics in shareholder lawsuits. C1

Business Digest C2

EDITORIAL A18-19

Editorials: The president and the ports; Justice Alito's welcome; beyond strong words on Darfur; the Capitol's accidental monument.

Columns: Thomas L. Friedman, Maureen Dowd.

Crossword E4

TV Listings E9

Weather D9

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: February 22, 2006



Letters

Christian Science Monitor April 17, 2006, Monday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 686 words

Body

Rays of hope for justice for Palestinians in the West Bank

I could kiss Monitor writers on both cheeks for their March 30 editorial, "Bush must now focus on the West Bank." It's been a long time since I read anything from the US that tries to be balanced and nonbiased. As a Palestinian-Arab and Muslim Jerusalemite who has been forced out of her city, I want to be able to visit Jerusalem, smell its odors, and touch its walls. I wish I could spend my last days there, worshiping at the Al Aqsa Mosque, and praying at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Nothing anywhere compares to this.

My father - may God rest his soul - used to tell us that Mr. Eisenhower would see to it that justice prevailed. Since then, how many UN resolutions and US decisions were made and broken, or negated? Your editorial brought tears of hope into my eyes, whether President Bush takes your view or not. There is some justice in your comment; there is some balance. Maybe some good will come out of it all before it is too late. Thank you.

Dr. Hala Hammad

Amman, Jordan

Palestinians reap the hardship they sow

Regarding the April 12 article, "Palestinians feel pinch": I have been a supporter of the Palestinian cause since my college days in the late 1980s and early '90s. But the time for change has come to both Israel and Palestine. Ariel Sharon was in the process of making that most unlikely of Israeli changes - getting rid of settlements and giving land back to Palestinians. I see yielding and compromise from the Israelis, but from the Palestinians I see nothing but people's hands reaching out, waiting for more cash as they continue their refusal to recognize Israel as a nation.

Palestinians voted <u>Hamas</u> into power, a party with the same tired rhetoric about how they can't do this or that with the Israelis. The international community is right to step up the pressure economically. <u>Hamas</u> has to answer for its political decisions - which it has used to justify more violence, instead of a search for a diplomatic solution. If <u>Hamas</u> doesn't want peace, then its members and supporters reap what they sow, and this hardship is the crop they've planted.

Suzanne Young

Granger, Iowa

Stress good conduct with student athletes

Letters

The April 11 article, "At Duke, hard questions about lacrosse culture," struck a chord with me. As an athlete attending a small, mostly white, private college, I was relieved to know that one major university was examining the off-field culture of its athletes.

While the recent incident at Duke involved the alleged assault of a <u>female</u> student from another university by members of Duke's lacrosse team, I think similar events often include athletes from other sports. Recently, football players at the University of Colorado were charged with sexually assaulting <u>female</u> students at a party. The football program at CU was scrutinized for a few weeks, but since then I've heard nothing of preventive measures against future attacks.

Why don't schools look more closely at the actions of their athletes? Athletes are the most visible representatives of their institutions, and they should act accordingly. In my four years of playing varsity sports at the college level, it has always been stressed that conduct, on and off the field, is everything. If conduct were stressed heavily at more schools, athletes would be less inclined to harm their peers.

Athletes must take responsibility for their actions. If athletic programs encouraged students to take responsibility, schools would not have to deal with these issues.

Robin Wesman

Arvada, Colo.

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Load-Date: April 16, 2006



Strip-searched. Interrogated. Threatened. Just another week on the wild West Bank; Lauren Booth wanted to discover whether last week's historic Palestinian elections will really change anything on the West Bank. After humiliation, sinister phone calls and a rare insight into the day-today drudgery of life under occupation, this is her compelling and highly personal report

Mail on Sunday (London)
January 29, 2006 Sunday

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Section: FB 04; Pg. 24 Length: 2978 words

Byline: LAUREN BOOTH

Body

The interrogation wouldn't have been so bad if I'd had any underwear on. (It was the end of a long trip; my laundry maths hadn't worked out.) But the metal button on my trousers beeped when scanned with a handheld metal detector at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport.

The **women** in the cubicle told me to drop my trousers.

I'd already removed my bra. I refused unless they brought me a towel. The best they could do was loo paper; so there I was with one woman holding paper to my naked bits and another scanning my groin for weapons.

My luggage had been taken off the flight I should have been boarding.

Everything inside was being removed by a group of armed Israeli security officers.

Makeup, children's presents and coffee were being meticulously examined.

Back in the main room, I leaned against a table dreaming of a hot coffee in the business lounge. It was not to be. A little man with a large air of authority came over. 'Do you have your press pass?' I showed him the one issued by Ariel Sharon's office, valid until February.

'What was the purpose of your visit?' 'I was in the West Bank as a journalist covering the Palestinian elections'.

It was the tenth time I'd been asked the same question.

This was airport security, Israeli style. And, according to Yanni, my small, sinister interrogator, I was in trouble. As far as I could understand from his veiled language, I was being questioned because, despite obeying Israel's 'laws', I had, it seemed, not respected some unwritten 'rules'.

Finally, I was released after more than two hours' detention, having refused to write down my mobile phone number or email address on privacy grounds.

(This made Yanni very cross.

'What if we want to follow up this meeting?' he demanded. 'You can always call my office,' I suggested.) This bizarre encounter was the culmination of ten days in the West Bank testing the political water ahead of last week's elections for the ruling Palestinian body, the Palestinian Authority (PA), contested chiefly between Fatah the 'establishment' party founded by Yasser Arafat, who was succeeded by Mahmoud Abbas and *Hamas*, a movement regarded by most people in the West as a terrorist organisation bent on the destruction of Israel.

Besides meeting members of the two main parties, I had travelled across the region to find out whether life had improved for Palestinians in the year since I was last there. And, unusually to Yanni, it seemed, I had also spent time with Interpal charity workers in Bethlehem and Nablus, handing out food and toys to the neediest families.

Interpal has links to 150 NGOs (nongovernmental organisations) in Palestine.

It was this contact with the charity Israel deems 'illegal' that had landed me in trouble why, despite clearing the usual hurdles faced by media exiting the airport, I had reached the passport desk only to be told my documents were not in order and swept away into a search cubicle by a woman snapping on rubber gloves.

And why, days earlier, when staying in the Grand Park Hotel, Ramallah, I had received a mysterious call to the mobile phone I had borrowed from a friend in Jerusalem.

'This is Rahan. Are you Lauren?' 'Ah, the photographer,' I said, verifying the name of the man who had been booked to accompany me on the trip.

'Not the photographer,' said the voice. 'Israeli security.' There was a pause. I was subjected to six minutes of veiled threats. The thrust was that Israeli security thought it better for me not to visit projects run by Interpal. Whoever this was said they would look very seriously at any attempt by me to 'carry a message from them' beyond the territories. I hung up, but later heard that the real Rahan was stopped at Ben Gurion airport, locked in a room for ten hours, interrogated and put on a plane back to London.

But in occupied Palestine, it seems, you can't be paranoid enough.

My visit starts in the heart of Ramallah, the dusty West Bank town that is regarded as the 'capital' of the fledgling state of Palestine. Here, in an anonymous office, my meeting with the local <u>Hamas</u> candidate begins with a farce we are locked in. My translator, Ahmed, is fiddling anxiously with the door.

Finally, Dr Mahmud al Ramahi takes over jiggling the lock, laughing: 'This is absolutely not a kidnapping.' Dr Ramahi is a hospital consultant in Ramallah. He is urbane and well-educated. Perhaps deep down I was expecting a 'mad mullah' type so often seen on news footage from the Middle East.

Indeed, <u>Hamas</u>'s stated fundamentalist aim is the establishment of an Islamic theocracy in Palestine. It is listed as a terrorist organisation by the European Union, America, Canada and naturally Israel.

'I was born here in 1963,' he tells me in English. 'I was head of the Muslim Students' Union when I studied medicine in Rome. But when I came back I was put in an Israeli jail for three years for being the head of the <u>Hamas</u> political office in Ramallah.' My preconceptions were wrong.

<u>Hamas</u> chooses well-educated, middleaged candidates like Dr Ramahi in order to provide a statesmanlike, unthreatening face during the election.

In Gaza, they have even selected a Christian candidate. The party has already enjoyed high-profile success in municipal elections, though this was the first time it fielded candidates for parliamentary elections in the West Bank,

where the organisation's popularity is soaring as much for its reputation for opening schools and managing essential services such as water supplies as for resisting Israeli occupation.

'After ten years of the Palestinian Authority, our situation is bad,' Dr Ramahi tells me. 'There is corruption and legislature has not been put into place. A vote for <u>Hamas</u> is not a vote for violence, but for resistance.'

Exactly a year since Abbas won presidency of the PA, his government has been rattled by <u>Hamas</u>. In Ramallah, there has been no noticeable improvement in living conditions since I was last here. The roads are pitted and strewn with rubbish. They also bear the scars of the Israeli occupation, as I am now to discover.

It's the Muslim festival of Eid; political activity is suspended for four days.

It's important that families are together during this feast. Like Christmas, gifts are exchanged, too much is eaten, there's TV and bickering.

I'm invited to Jenin, 70 miles away, to the family home of Natalie, an attractive 26-year-old working at the Council Of Ministers.

We jump into a taxi with our overnight bags. At the first checkpoint we are waved through. But over the next three hours we endure a tank blocking a main road, two arbitrarily shut checkpoints and a hazardous trip along a dirt track. Eventually, my patience and sense of humour severely frayed, a pile of rubble blocks a side route from Nablus, followed by a carstopping trench.

This conflict is waged with a myriad petty irritations in daily life, as well as with tanks and guns.

Natalie scoffs at the idea that the Israelis are withdrawing from the Occupied Territories. We trudge along silently with dozens of others down a muddy bank on to another main road. The occupation relies heavily on controlling movement, which inflicts maximum discomfort and stress on the Palestinian population. Imagine the M1 on Christmas Eve, at rush hour; now add boulders and soldiers to get close to the misery.

'The IDF [Israeli Defence Force] always do this on holidays,' says Natalie.

'They block the side roads. In the morning they close the checkpoints. We can't move.' By the time we arrive in her picturesque village on the outskirts of Jenin I feel shaky, not to mention carsick; the bumps, the dips, the skidding around rubble and the anxiety have taken their toll.

'Marhabar! You made good time,' smiles Natalie's mum.

I gather with the family at her Aunt Solina's house in a picturesque village in the hills above Jenin. Hot sweet mint tea is served, followed by hot sweet coffee, fruit, pastries and toffees. 'We must eat everything at Eid for afterwards we have nothing,' Solina tells me.

I ask who they will vote for. 'Fatah' is the unanimous response. They tell me the appeal of <u>Hamas</u> is limited because of the party's insistence on a religious Muslim state. 'We have lived together with Christians for generations,' says granddad Yousef, a teacher. 'No one wants Palestine to be a Muslim state, it must be a state for all the people. Israel is a religion-based state and you see how they treat others who are different.'

One nephew is a fighter in the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, Fatah's militant wing. He says they back Abbas's ceasefire (though they do fight Israeli incursions into the town and refugee camp, firing M16 rifles at tanks and troops) and that the main threat to the fragile peace is poverty and Israeli attacks. On the way home, Natalie gives me a present: a CD of rebel songs.

In the evening I'm invited to dinner by Amin, a hugely amusing captain in the PA's 'preventive security' service a spy catcher. I persuade him to take me to Darna, the most famous restaurant in the city, where we smoke apple hookah pipes and watch men in suits and beautiful **women** in flashy jackets come and go.

Two months ago this restaurant, a symbol of wealth, was shot up by gunmen.

'Al-Aqsa fighters came,' Amin told me. 'They can't buy milk for their children. They come because Fatah leaders eat here, drink wine, spend lots of money. It makes people angry to see it.' The message was clear: Pay us, Abbas, don't ignore us. Amin, who knows all the best gossip, tells me senior Fatah sympathisers quietly paid Pounds 50,000 to restore Darna's business.

A young man comes in and Amin leaps up with a shout. It's Menwer, the boyish 30-year-old leader of a small Al-Aqsa group and the spitting image of Steve Coogan. He and a silent older friend join our table. Menwer winks flirtatiously at me, cracking his knuckles. Over coffee and many cigarettes, the talk turns to politics the ever-present 'situation'.

A Fatah-affiliated fighter, Menwer is sticking with the ceasefire.

For how long is uncertain. Arafat pledged men like Menwer would have homes and incomes for life, but Abbas attracts his deepest contempt. Menwer hasn't seen his wife and two young children for months. He spends weeks at a time living in a cave, hiding from the IDF.

He, like Amin, was put in prison at 13 and was there for four years. 'What did you do?' I ask them. 'We threw stones,' says Amin sucking on the pipe.

There's a pause. 'OK. Molotovs too.' He smiles.

Of the original 16 in Menwer's unit, eight are now dead and six are serving life sentences in Israel. Menwer starts flirting with me. 'Are you married?' he asks. When I show him my wedding ring, he smiles and tilts his head. 'I like you,' he says.

As they drive me back to my hotel through wet, empty streets, I ask them about the kidnapping of British aid worker Kate Burton, recently released, in Gaza. 'Bad,' says Menwer. They agree that taking hostages is unacceptable and self-defeating. 'But perhaps for you we make an exception,' they laugh.

'I eat a lot,' I point out, in no doubt that for these guys life is just a game.

'Then I take you home to be wife number two,' grins Menwer.

When I ask about Tony Blair, Menwer says, 'We hate Blair. He is the tail of Bush.' I ask Amin what Britain could do to help Palestine. He says, 'Kill Blair, of course.' A year ago this kind of talk was rare, but international promises of support if democracy came to the region have failed to materialise.

Next day I meet Saeed Hijleh, director of PR at the Palestine Development and Investment Company, and encounter the Nablus checkpoint en route. It is particularly bad today after the rain. Long lines of beaten-looking Palestinians queue in the freezing damp to be allowed like cattle through narrow gates. They shuffle from metal enclosure to metal enclosure. They are searched and, if they're lucky, permitted to travel short distances to their work, their schools, their families.

Instead of keeping an eye on the uneven track, I am watching the soldiers and lose my footing, landing in a big clay-coloured puddle. I meet Hijleh 400 metres on I look like an extra from a 'Nam movie. Unbeknown to me my hands are bleeding, I have blood on my jacket and mud caked on to my clothes. I am rushed to Nablus main hospital for a tetanus jab. On the way I am told that an entire family have been shot by the IDF after a father, apparently thinking the army shots were an attempted car theft, returned fire.

Five cars pass us, each with young boys hanging out the windows defiantly waving the Palestinian flag. It is the start of the funeral cortege for the dead mother and brother.

At the hospital the doctor tells me three more family members are in intensive care. I hear on the news only that two people were shot in Nablus as Israeli forces 'returned fire' on an armed man.

Finally, I visit Khaled Alamori, a businessman from East Jerusalem, whose back garden, orchards and brother's house last week disappeared behind Israel's security wall.

Since June 2002, Israel has been building an extensive barrier between Israel and the West Bank, arguing it is necessary to prevent suicide bombings and incursions by Palestinian militants.

It consists of more than 450 miles of concrete wall, razor wire and electrified fencing up to a height of 25ft.

Inside Israel, the enormous security barrier like the checkpoints and the IDF activity in cities and towns across the Occupied Territories is seen as a defensive, not an aggressive, measure.

The so-called 'fence' is considered a necessary evil that can prevent terrorists reaching civilian targets within Israel by limiting the movement of all Palestinians. It is described by Sharon's government (which is still in a state of limbo following his recent stroke) as a 'temporary and reversible measure'. Having seen it for myself I can say it looks both permanent and aggressive. Whether it even achieves its stated aim is questionable. Ten days ago, a bomber from the West Bank town of Nablus managed to slip into Tel Aviv and detonate his deadly cargo, wounding 30 people. He was shot dead by police in the process.

For Alamori's peaceful family, the wall means that they have to live in a no-man's land with no hospitals, no fire service, no police and no schools.

The PA has no authority here and cannot help the many thousands trapped in a similar situation. Sipping coffee in his pleasant living room, my eyes start brimming with tears. 'Don't be sad,' he says. 'We look to the skies here, things will change.' Surprisingly, most people here are like that. They laugh a lot. It's a nonstop, gallows-humourfest from start to finish. Last year, my visit left me drained and pessimistic about the future of Palestinians struggling to survive on 22 per cent of their original homeland. Won't most of the next generation feel so hopeless that turning themselves into human bombs is their only way out? Perhaps not. Throughout the West Bank, and particularly so in Nablus, rebuilding is apparent. Schools and universities are receiving more and more funds from wealthy Palestinians in exile.

Education here is seen as the true victory over adversity.

Amin summed up the mood perfectly. 'Last year, we were all stressed by the wall. "No wall! No wall!" everyone was screaming. Now we don't care.

Build one wall, build three or 300. This is our land and no matter what happens we're staying. So we laugh, because some day things will have to get better.

We just don't know when.'

THE POLITICS OF PALESTINE

The Palestinians voted in only their second parliamentary election ever on January 25. They elected candidates to the Palestinian Legislative Council, which runs the Palestinian Authority, the body governing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

These two areas the West Bank to the east of Israel and the coastal strip of Gaza to the west, make up Palestine or the Occupied Territories.

It was a historic event and saw the recognised Fatah party standing against the militant group *Hamas*. Fatah, headed by Palestine's leader Mahmoud Abbas, is the leading group of Palestinian politics.

There is also a breakaway military group, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade.

<u>Hamas</u>, however, is deemed a terrorist group by Israel, America, Canada and the EU.

<u>Hamas</u> tried to create a separate front by running under a Change And Reform banner. This, though, still holds hardline views associated with <u>Hamas</u> such as the refusal to recognise that Jews have a right to their own state in the region.

Fatah accepts that the only way forward is to search for a two-state solution.

Fatah's chief candidate in the elections was the charismatic Marwan Barghouti, who ran his campaign from his cell in an Israeli prison. Israeli authorities allowed Fatah representatives to visit him during the campaign.

One of the main problems for Abbas, who won power in January 2005 after the death of Yasser Arafat, and the newly elected Palestinian Authority is to keep control of the increasingly divided Palestinian people. The majority of factions and military groups within Palestine signed up to last year's ceasefire, which has seen a dramatic drop in Israeli casualties.

But while Israeli deaths may have fallen from 117 in 2004 to 45 last year, the country is still targeted by militant offshoots of Islamic Jihad, which was not a signatory to the ceasefire.

Their terrorist attacks, which recently injured 30 people in a bombing in Tel Aviv, are seen as a failing of the Palestinian Authority to root out terrorist groups within the Occupied Territories.

Such attacks provide ammunition for Israeli authorities in their continued aim to complete the controversial concrete wall they are building along the 450-mile length of the West Bank.

The security barrier is being built as a measure to keep hardline Palestine suicide bombers out, but it has caused much resentment among civilian Palestinians and ironically is helping to build greater support in the Occupied Territories for the more hardline groups.

Load-Date: January 31, 2006



WHAT IS HEZBOLLAH?

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

July 13, 2006 Thursday

0 Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 14A

Length: 404 words

Body

Hezbollah, or Party of God, is a powerful political and military organization of Shiite Muslims in Lebanon.

ITS BEGINNINGS: Hezbollah was conceived in 1982 by Muslim clerics after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Hezbollah was formed primarily to offer resistance to the Israeli occupation.

ITS AGENDA: The party calls for the destruction of the state of Israel. It regards the whole of Palestine as occupied Muslim land. Hezbollah has sought to further an Islamic way of life, but says that its vision is not an attempt to impose an Islamic society on the Lebanese.

ITS BACKERS: The movement has long operated with neighboring Syria's blessing, protecting Damascus' interests in Lebanon. Iran has long provided arms and money. During the '90s Iran was believed to contribute \$10-million to \$20-million a month.

ITS ATTACKS: In 1983, militants who went on to join Hezbollah ranks were behind a suicide bombing that killed 241 U.S. Marines in Beirut. It has been linked to the bombings of two American Embassy buildings and kidnappings of more than 50 foreigners.

TODAY: Hezbollah has an important presence in the Lebanese Parliament and has built broad support by providing social services and health care. Its militia refuses to demilitarize.

CHRONOLOGY OF A CRISIS

Israeli-Arab violence since Gaza militants captured an Israeli soldier on June 25.

JUNE 25: <u>Hamas</u>-linked militants tunnel from the Gaza Strip into Israel and attack an army post, killing two Israeli soldiers and capturing Cpl. Gilad Shalit.

JUNE 26: Shalit's captors call for the release of all Palestinian <u>women</u> and children under 18 held in Israeli prisons in return for information about the soldier. Israel says it will not bargain.

JUNE 27: Israeli troops move into southern Gaza, where Shalit is believed to be held, and blast bridges and a power station.

JULY 4: Militants in Gaza launch a homemade rocket into the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon. More rocket attacks on Israel follow. No one is seriously hurt.

WHAT IS HEZBOLLAH?

JULY 5: Israeli tanks and troops move into northern Gaza and occupy residential areas, attempting to halt the rocket attacks.

SATURDAY: Israel broadens the Gaza offensive, sending troops and tanks into the eastern part of the strip.

WEDNESDAY: Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas kidnap two Israeli soldiers, and eight Israeli soldiers are killed. Israel responds with a thrust into Lebanon. In Gaza, a home is bombed, targeting *Hamas* fugitives.

- Times wires

Graphic

MAP

Load-Date: July 13, 2006



Chile elects its first female president; opponent concedes

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)
January 16, 2006 Monday
0 South Pinellas Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A

Length: 701 words

Dateline: SANTIAGO, Chile; JERUSALEM; BAGHDAD; HELSINKI, Finland

Body

SANTIAGO, Chile - A socialist doctor and former political prisoner was elected Sunday as the country's first <u>female</u> president, with her conservative multimillionaire opponent conceding defeat in a race that reflected Latin America's increasingly leftward tilt.

The victory of Michelle Bachelet - a political prisoner during the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet and defense minister in the current administration - extends the rule of the market-friendly center left coalition that has governed since the end of Pinochet's 1973-90 rule.

With 97 percent of some 7.2-million votes counted, Bachelet had 53 percent of the vote; Sebastian Pinera had about 46 percent.

Sunday's runoff was necessary after a Dec. 11. election involving four candidates failed to produce a winner with a majority.

Her political success has baffled many Chileans who thought a left-leaning single mother jailed during Pinochet's dictatorship stood little chance in this socially conservative country.

Bachelet, 54, will be only the third woman directly elected president of a Latin American country, following Violeta Chamorro, who governed Nicaragua from 1990 to 1997, and Mireya Moscoso, president of Panama from 1999 to 2004.

Unlike those two women, Bachelet did not follow a politically prominent husband into power.

Chile's next president will be inaugurated on March 11, joining the ranks of Latin American leaders including leftists such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and newly elected Evo Morales of Bolivia.

Bachelet indicated she would work with all the region's leaders. "Chavez, Morales, they are presidents elected by their peoples. Chile must have relationships with all of them."

Election in Jerusalem

okayed, but Hamas barred

JERUSALEM - Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert led his Cabinet on Sunday in a unanimous decision to let Palestinians vote in Jerusalem this month.

The move came hours before doctors performed a tracheotomy on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to help wean him off a respirator 11 days after he suffered a stroke, Hadassah Hospital said in a statement. Saturday night, the 77-year-old was taken off the last of the sedatives that kept him in a medically induced coma, it said. But he remained unconscious.

Attorney General Meni Mazuz also directed Olmert on Sunday to continue as acting prime minister.

Israel had threatened to bar voting in east Jerusalem because candidates from the Islamic militant group *Hamas*, which calls for Israel's destruction, are running.

The Cabinet decision said the Jan. 25 voting could proceed as long as armed groups were not on the ballot.

"We don't need Israeli permission to participate in the elections," Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said.

Report on election fraud

in Iraq expected today

BAGHDAD - Iraq's election commission will announce results of its investigation into allegations of vote fraud today.

The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq has worked through the 50 or so serious complaints of voter fraud lodged after the Dec. 15 election, election official Safwat Rashid said Sunday.

About 2,000 complaints were filed overall, but the commission said only 50 had the potential to change vote totals.

Final election results have been delayed by Sunni Arab complaints of fraud.

The international team assessing the IECI's handling of the voting process also said it would release its final report on Thursday. The IECI is expected to release uncertified final results shortly after that, perhaps as soon as this coming weekend.

Also Sunday, the U.S. military released some 500 prisoners cleared of ties to Iraq's insurgency, including a pair of journalists who had been held in Iraqi prisons for months, U.S. military officials said.

Finland's presidential race forced to runoff vote

HELSINKI, Finland - Finland's left-leaning president failed to win enough votes to secure re-election Sunday, forcing a runoff.

President Tarja Halonen won 46 percent, according to final results, short of the 50 percent needed to avoid a runoff. The second-place finisher, Sauli Niinisto, won 24 percent of the vote.

Halonen bears a resemblance to U.S. talk show host ConanO'Brien, who has promoted her re-election on his show as part of a running joke about their supposed physical similarities.

Graphic

PHOTO

Michelle Bachelet, a political prisoner during Gen. Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship, will be Chile's next president.

Load-Date: January 16, 2006



Morocco sees the rise of 'acceptable' Islamist party Unlike Hamas or the Muslim Brotherhood, the US views the PJD as an organisation it can engage with, writes Roula Khalaf

Financial Times (London, England)

May 23, 2006 Tuesday

USA Edition 1

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Section: MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA; Pg. 4

Length: 981 words

Byline: By ROULA KHALAF

Body

Lahcen Daoudi is a curious kind of Islamist. A top leader in Morocco's Party of Justice and Development, a legal Islamist movement emerging as a political force, he fights off suggestions that he wants to Islamise society, blaming his secular rivals for spreading false rumours. "People cannot eat from Islamist slogans. They come to us because they want solutions."

A good-humoured, economics professor and opposition MP, the clean-shaven Mr Daoudi looks younger than his 59 years and repeatedly bangs his hand on the table to emphasise his points. The PJD's objective, he says, is to improve "productivity" and "efficiency" in a country of 30m people reeling from massive youth unemployment in urban areas and a literacy rate of just over 50 per cent.

"The government is simply not performing," he says. "If it were, Moroccans wouldn't be looking for an alternative."

Barely eight years after it was officially created from an existing party and a collection of Islamist associations, the PJD is emerging as a powerful alternative, with a good chance of winning legislative elections schedule for the second half of next year.

A leaked poll conducted by the US's independent International Republican Institute earlier this year showed that up to 47 per cent of the electorate were leaning towards the party. A second just-concluded IRI poll is believed to confirm this.

The party's rise is in line with the trend across the Arab world, where Islamist groups are capitalising on their image as honest movements dedicated to social justice and riding the wave of discontent with existing regimes and discredited secular parties.

But what makes the PJD's experience all the more significant is that it is seen by the US as an acceptable interlocutor, unlike the Palestinian *Hamas* or Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood.

As Washington grapples with the empowerment of political Islam that is the consequence of its drive to democratise the Arab world, it appears to have found in the PJD a rare Islamist party it can engage with.

Morocco sees the rise of 'acceptable' Islamist party Unlike Hamas or the Muslim Brotherhood, the US views the PJD as an organisation it can engage with, writes

The PJD, which now has 42 deputies in the 325-seat parliament, benefits from US assistance and training programmes available to parties in Morocco. During a private trip to the US this month, Saadeddine Othmani, the PJD's secretary-general, met an American deputy assistant secretary of state. His trip was part of an international charm offensive launched by the PJD and it followed visits to France and Spain.

"It is in the interest of Morocco that the world community knows the PJD. I don't want investors to flee because of us," says Mr Daoudi, pointing to the economy's dependence on tourism and foreign investment.

That Morocco is a monarchy, where King Mohammed VI still holds the main levers of power and both the government and the parliament have limited authority, makes the risk of a PJD victory next year more palatable to the US.

Moreover, unlike Justice and Charity, probably the largest non-violent Moroccan Islamist movement, the PJD does not challenge the legitimacy of the monarchy. A moderate Islamist party is also seen as a buffer against al-Qaeda-inspired groups that have sought to mobilise impoverished Moroccans. It was a group of young men from the slums of Casablanca, the country's financial hub, that launched the May 2003 suicide attacks against western and Jewish targets.

But if the PJD has been successfully building bridges with the outside world, it remains controversial at home, where politics outside the palace have been dominated by the leftist Socialist Union of Popular Forces and the nationalist Istiglal.

Government officials and secular rivals accuse it of spreading a radical ideology through its press while putting on a moderate face to the world. Nabil Benabdallah, the government spokesman, says that the PJD goes against the vision of modernity promoted by the king, including a 2004 code that strengthens <u>women</u>'s rights. He points to demands by PJD-affiliated associations for the banning of Marock, a daring new film directed by a young woman and showing scenes that ridicule praying and fasting.

Well-organised and recognised even by rivals as hard working, the PJD is not monolithic, although the most radical within it have been gradually pushed out of the top positions.

Mustafa Ramid, a popular MP from Casablanca, has openly criticised Mr Othmani's trip to the US, for example, and says he is against Marock. He has also called for the palace to play the role of arbiter and says he sees little point in joining or forming a government when the institutions have so little power. "My fear is that under the current system we will not be able to deliver," he says.

The debate over the PJD has intensified in recent months as the party has adopted a more assertive attitude. The Islamists lowered their profile after the 2003 Casablanca attacks, which led to a torrent of criticism that the PJD was contributing to a climate of intolerance. The attacks also provoked a new law banning political parties based on religion, leading the PJD to emphasise that it was no more than a party with "Islamic references".

Party officials have indicated that they are likely to contest elections across Morocco next year, departing from a more gradualist approach adopted so far that saw them field candidates in less than 60 per cent of constituencies in 2002.

Controversy was fuelled by the IRI poll. The palace was reported to be rattled by what it saw as American meddling in Moroccan affairs while political rivals considered the poll a confirmation of their worst suspicions - that the US was secretly promoting the PJD.

Mr Daoudi says he is gearing up for a difficult election year but urges Moroccan secularists not to deepen the polarisation in society. "It will be a year when the PJD is demonised," he says.

"But the PJD is a barrier against radicalisation. If you crush it, it is not you who benefits, it's the others, the radicals."

Morocco sees the rise of 'acceptable' Islamist party Unlike Hamas or the Muslim Brotherhood, the US views the PJD as an organisation it can engage with, writes

Load-Date: May 22, 2006



Israeli shells kill seven on beach picnic

The Irish Times

June 10, 2006 Saturday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 12

Length: 404 words

Byline: Peter Hirschberg in Jerusalem

Body

MIDDLE EAST: Seven Palestinian civilians, including three children, were killed yesterday in an Israeli artillery barrage as they were having a picnic on a Gaza beach.

Earlier, three Palestinian militants were killed in an Israeli air-strike, bringing to 14 the number of Palestinians killed in less than 24 hours in the Gaza Strip.

The military wing of <u>Hamas</u>, which has largely observed a truce since February 2005, announced it would renew attacks inside Israel. In a statement, the Islamic movement's armed wing declared that "the earthquake in the Zionist cities will resume and the herds of occupiers have no choice but to prepare coffins or departing luggage".

Three <u>women</u> and a man were also killed and 40 injured when at least one artillery shell struck a packed beach in northern Gaza. The army halted all artillery fire in the area, aimed at deterring Palestinian militants from firing rockets into Israel, and said the incident was being investigated.

The military also issued an apology, saying it regretted "any harm caused to innocent civilians".

"We take many security measures not to harm the uninvolved," said Maj Yoav Galant, head of Israel's southern command. "Unfortunately, in a war operation, there are also mistakes. If indeed a mistake happened, we will admit it."

Since Israel withdrew from Gaza last year, Palestinian militants have stepped up the firing of makeshift rockets into southern Israel. The army has responded with frequent artillery bombardments of the area in northern Gaza from where the rockets are being launched, and with aerial strikes on militants, often in their cars.

Three militants were killed in one such air-strike yesterday, just after they fired a rocket into Israel. The three were identified as members of a small militant group called the Popular Resistance Committees, which has carried out much of the rocket fire in recent months. The group's leader, Jamal Abu Samhadana, was killed on Thursday night, along with three other militants, in an air strike on a training camp in southern Gaza. Samhadana, a powerful figure in the southern part of the Strip, was recently appointed to head a militia set up by the new *Hamas* government.

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas condemned the "bloody massacre" in Gaza, and called on the international community to intervene.

Palestinian prime minister Ismail Haniyeh called the Gaza attacks "war crimes in the full meaning of the word".

Load-Date: June 10, 2006



Mexico to legalize small drug amounts

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

April 29, 2006 Saturday

0 South Pinellas Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 4A

Length: 432 words

Body

Mexico's Congress approved a bill Friday that would legalize drug possession for personal use - decriminalizing the carrying of small amounts of marijuana, cocaine and heroin. That prompted U.S. criticism that the measure could harm antidrug efforts. The only step remaining is the signature of the president, whose office indicates he will sign the measure. Mexican officials declined to explain how the law would work - including whether drug use in public would be tolerated, or discouraged by other means.

Chirac proposes Palestinian fund

French President Jacques Chirac proposed on Friday the creation of a World Bank fund to pay the 165,000 Palestinian Authority employees living without wages since an international freeze on aid. The idea, intended to help needy Palestinians without rewarding their <u>Hamas</u> government, is part of quickening European efforts to address the Palestinians' growing plight. The United States and the 25-nation European Union, which includes France, this month cut off direct aid to the Palestinian Authority because the <u>Hamas</u> movement heading it refuses to recognize Israel or renounce violence. The Palestinian Authority last paid employees in mid March.

UPDATE

Spanking trial

In Fresno, Calif., a jury awarded \$1.7-million Friday to a woman who was spanked in front of her colleagues in what her employer called a camaraderie-building exercise. The jury of six men and six <u>women</u> found that Janet Orlando, 53, was subjected to sexual harassment and sexual battery when she was paddled on the rear end two years ago at Alarm One Inc., a home security company in Fresno. Jurors awarded Orlando \$10,000 for economic loss, \$40,000 for future medical costs and \$450,000 for emotional distress, pain and suffering. They awarded her an additional \$1.2-million in punitive damages. Orlando quit in 2004, saying she was humiliated during the company's team-building exercises. Sales teams were encouraged to compete, and the losers were made fun of, forced to to wear diapers and spanked with a rival company's yard signs, according to court documents.

Britain bombings

Five men pleaded not guilty Friday to murder conspiracy and other charges in the failed attempt to bomb London's transit system July 21. The failed plot to attack three subway trains and a bus came two weeks after four bombers killed 52 people and themselves aboard three London Underground trains and a double-decker bus. Muktar Said

Mexico to legalize small drug amounts

Ibrahim, 27; Ramzi Mohammed, 23; Yassin Omar, 24; Manfo Asiedu, 32; and Hussein Osman, 27, all of London, appeared via video link Friday at the Central Criminal Court.

Load-Date: April 29, 2006



Rider in the storm

The Dominion Post (Wellington, New Zealand)
September 9, 2006 Saturday

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Section: FEATURES; GENERAL; Pg. 3

Length: 1301 words **Byline:** VENTER Nick

Body

The diplomat who helped free kidnapped Kiwi cameraman Olaf Wiig is known for his calm, unflappable manner. Nick Venter reports.

Shortly after New Zealand cameraman Olaf Wiig and his American colleague, reporter Steve Centanni, were kidnapped in the Gaza Strip, senior officials at the Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry met to discuss how to handle the crisis. Peter Rider, the new director of the ministry's information and public affairs division, thought he'd better tag along.

A few days later, Mr Rider, a tall, bespectacled, 55-year-old diplomat, known to colleagues as "Easy", was on his way to Jerusalem to take charge of the diplomatic rescue mission.

Mr Rider's nickname has its origins in Easy Rider, Peter Fonda's 1969 biker movie epic, but it also reflects his character.

The way Mr Rider tells it, he was only chosen for the mission because he was in the room at the time, he speaks a smattering of Arabic and he was available.

But he was the ideal man for the job. A former international affairs adviser to Prime Minister Helen Clark, he is known for his calm, unflappable manner.

The full story of the kidnapping may never become public.

According to the Jerusalem Post, the kidnappers, who called themselves the Holy Jihad Brigades, were disaffected members of the Palestinian security forces, but they have not been identified and the reasons why they let their captives go have not been explained.

There is no doubt, however, that diplomacy played an important part in their release.

Thanks to the efforts of Wiig's wife, broadcaster Anita McNaught -- who ignored advice to leave Gaza for her own safety -- Palestinians were reminded daily that the hostages were family men who had risked their own lives to show the world what was happening in the Gaza Strip.

Rider in the storm

Thanks to the efforts of Mr Rider, who shuttled backward and forward between Jerusalem and Gaza, New Zealand was able to enlist Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Hani-yeh and Interior Minister Sa'id Siyam in the rescue effort.

In addition to pleading Wiig's case, Mr Rider also advocated for Centanni, something the United States Government could not do directly because it refuses to deal with <u>Hamas</u> as a terrorist organisation.

That, says Mr Rider in his understated way, was something the Americans "appreciated".

Whether they would have appreciated his earlier contributions to US foreign policy is debatable.

The son of a Kaitaia sports shop owner who graduated from Auckland University with degrees in nuclear physics and philosophy, Mr Rider is a model of diplomatic decorum and restraint, but he is not quite as straitlaced as he appears.

When former American vice-president Spiro Agnew visited New Zealand in 1970 to drum up support for the Vietnam War, Mr Rider was among the students who voiced their opposition to the visit. Did he march alongside some of the current members of the Government? "I do remember throwing eggs at Spiro Agnew," he says with a grin.

On hitting the ground in the Middle East, one of Mr Rider's first tasks was to meet Mr Haniyeh at his office in Gaza. The arrangements for the meeting illustrated just what those trying to free the kidnapped pair were up against.

To get there, Mr Rider travelled in a British armoured vehicle with five-centimetre-thick bulletproof glass. Just getting through Israeli security at the border took 40 minutes, even though he was carrying a diplomatic passport and his British companions were regular visitors to Gaza.

On the other side he encountered what he described as a "concrete hell" -- 1.4 million people squeezed into an area about half the size of Lake Taupo without adequate sewerage and power supplies. He was dropped outside the prime minister's office by the British for the first meeting between a Western envoy and the <u>Hamas</u> prime minister, an occurrence that delighted Mr Haniyeh and the local media.

Mr Rider describes Mr Haniyeh, whose party surprisingly gained power in January's elections, as a "pretty personable guy" and thoroughly briefed. He knew the names of the victims and the details of what had occurred.

In a strategy agreed with the Americans and the British, Mr Rider was briefed to tell Mr Haniyeh that whatever happened to the hostages, <u>Hamas</u> would be held responsible. The kidnapping represented an opportunity for the organisation to do its image a lot of good. But he did not need to deliver the message.

After the pleasantries were over, Mr Haniyeh told him he was well aware of the implications the affair had for <u>Hamas</u>'s international reputation.

In succeeding days Mr Rider met with security forces, representatives of the Fatah movement and interior minister, while McNaught lobbied Palestinian <u>women</u>'s groups and journalists. An inter-faith religious group, the Foundation of Reconciliation in the Middle East, also became involved, though Mr Rider says he had no knowledge of its activities till he got back to Wellington last week.

Despite all the endeavour, it was not till 10 days after the kidnapping that contact was established with the hostage-takers.

Mr Rider believes the Palestinian authorities probably had a good idea who was responsible for the kidnapping, but inquiries follow a very different route to what would happen in New Zealand. They couldn't go looking for them door-to-door because they "might have found them by mistake and all hell could have broken loose".

"When they did go searching, it was in areas they were fairly sure the kidnappers weren't. The aim was to panic the kidnappers into moving their victims, something that might alert the authorities to their whereabouts."

Rider in the storm

The initial assumption was that Wiig and Centanni had been taken to use as bargaining chips by a disaffected local group seeking jobs or money from the Palestinian Authority. But, as time wore on, fears mounted that there might be a more sinister purpose to the kidnapping. Those fears were heightened by the fact that Centanni was an American and that he and Wiig were working for Fox News, an organisation with a pro-Israeli reputation.

Then, when contact was established, the language used by the kidnappers raised further fears. The Arabic content of the message was full of al Qaeda style rhetoric of a sort not previously used by Palestinian kidnappers.

The only comfort from the message was that the kidnappers did not make any threats about what would happen if their demand for the release of all Muslim prisoners in the United States within 72 hours was not met.

The release of Wiig and Centanni three days later was as sudden as it was dramatic.

Mr Rider was briefing McNaught in her hotel bedroom about the meeting he had just had with the Palestinian Authority prime minister when they heard a commotion outside and shouts of "They're here".

For Mr Ryder, it was a moment of complete elation. "I was just so pleased for Olaf and Anita."

It was also a career landmark. "I will probably never do anything like that again."

Then it was back to Wellington to make sure, among other things, that the British embassy was reimbursed for the use of the armoured Range Rover that ferried him to and from Gaza. The hundreds of hours that British embassy staff put into the case are, apparently, nothing between friends.

But balancing the embassy accounts is another matter.

The armoured vehicle is charged out at 1.52 (\$4NZ.60) a kilometre. Mr Rider has promised to make good the damage.

CAPTION:

Diplomacy to the rescue: In addition to pleading Wiig's case, Mr Rider also advocated for Centanni, something the United States Government could not do directly because it refuses to deal with <u>Hamas</u> as a terrorist organisation.

Pictures: CRAIG SIMCOX

Hostages: Olaf Wiig and his Fox News colleague Steve Centanni as they appeared in a video released by the Holy Jihad Brigades.

Picture: REUTERS

Load-Date: September 11, 2006



JI Convention on March 24

The Nation (AsiaNet)
March 21, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 400 words

Dateline: ISLAMABAD March 21

Body

The NWFP chapter of the Jamat-e-Islami (JI) is holding a three-day Convention in Peshawar from March 24 to strengthen the Islamic movements of the world, said Senior Minister NWFP and JI Provincial Chief Siraj ul Haq while addressing a press conference here on Tuesday.

The three-day convention would start from March 24, and end on March 26 at Peshawar WAPDA Colony ground. International leaders of Islamic movement from across the world including *Hamas* are likely to take part in the JI Convention, he said.

Siraj ul Haq said that JI has invited the leaders of the Islamic movements including the Saddat party of the Turkey and <u>Hamas</u>. "I would not disclose the names of the leaders of the Islamic movements who have confirmed their participation in the religious gathering. The NWFP Senior Minister told the media that the basic objective of such event is to give a clear massage to the US that it should immediately leave the Islamic countries and it should deoccupy the natural resources of the Muslim countries.

"The present situation of Waziristan and the US attack on Bajour is a clear example of the US interference in Pakistan's internal affairs which is condemnable," he said. He further said our forces are fighting against our own people of tribal areas to keep the US happy. "A war is going on in the tribal areas," he added. He said we would not allow any one to hand over Pakistan to the US.

He said convention is also a part of the protest movement launched by the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) against the publication of the blasphemous cartoons in some of the European countries. "This convention would further mature the protest movement," he said. He said Sabir Hussain Awan, MPA was appointed as organiser and 40 different committees were formed for the arrangements of the convention.

He said the three cities would be established in the premises where the convention would be held including Jihad City, Shariah City and Quran City. Places for the children and <u>women</u> are being allotted separately. He informed that MMA president Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, Muhammad Akram Khan Durrani, Chief Minister of NWFP and other leaders of the JI and MMA would attend the convention. The Provincial Minister said leaders of the other political parties of the country, MNAs, Senators and MPAs, are also invited to the convention.

Load-Date: March 22, 2006



World has 'enough' oil; Al-Faisal blames geopolitical instability, not resources, for driving prices higher; sees hope for Iraq while warning against the use of force over Iran's nuclear ambitions

USA TODAY May 10, 2006 Wednesday FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 13A

Length: 1468 words

Body

Oil prices are skyrocketing. Iran appears determined to develop its nuclear program, if not weapons. The Iraq war blazes on with no end in sight. Israelis and Palestinians haven't had meaningful peace talks in years. In the middle of this chaos sits Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer. Prince Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States, discussed these and other issues last week with USA TODAY editors and reporters. His comments were edited for length and clarity.

Question: With oil prices reaching record highs, what is your sense of today's supply and demand?

Answer: There are enough supplies today to meet world demand. In fact, there is an excess supply. For the last two or three years, we've been trying to sell some of our oil on the market, without any customers. When OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) met a couple weeks ago, they said that not only were supplies available, but also all inventories in all countries are at their highest levels ever. These factors should be bringing down the price of oil. But the issue of security, and the political dimension -- not just in our part of the world, but in places like Nigeria, and your differences with Venezuela -- add \$15 to \$20 to the price of a barrel. The political dimension, really, has overtaken the economic and business dimensions.

Q: Where would Saudi Arabia like to see the price of oil?

A: Our minister of oil said two months ago that a fair price would be between \$40 and \$45 per barrel. (Today prices are roughly \$70 a barrel). Whether that has changed, I don't know. But that range is an equitable price for producers and consumers.

Q: What would be the significance of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons, and how far should the U.N. and U.S. go in preventing that?

A: The Middle East should be free of weapons of mass destruction, no exceptions. I think the United Nations process is probably the most logical way that this issue can be treated.

Q: If diplomatic efforts were to fail, should force be used to prevent Iran from acquiring weapons?

A: We are against the use of force in any conflict. The effects would be detrimental not just to us but to the whole area. King Abdullah has publicly stated that war destroys, and what our region needs is to be built up.

World has 'enough' oil Al-Faisal blames geopolitical instability, not resources, for driving prices higher; sees hope for Iraq while warning against the use of

Q: Many Americans see Saudi Arabia as a country that suppresses women's rights. What would you say to them?

A: I would say that Saudi Arabia started from a very low point in its attitude toward social issues. We came from a society that was more like 17th- or 18th-century practices than 20th- or 21st-century practices. But in the past 70 years, we've moved forward. More <u>women</u> graduate from universities than men. More <u>women</u> are joining the workforce. If you'd looked at Saudi Arabia 25 years ago, a household would be perhaps composed of a father, mother and six or seven kids. The father would have felt that it would be shameful to allow his wife or any <u>female</u> family member to seek a job. Today, the most prized woman is a woman with a job. It's that kind of evolutionary process that we're going through.

Q: So, does that then lead to **women** participating in elections, too?

A: Absolutely. The next elections are going to be in three years, for municipal elections. And <u>women</u> will participate fully in those elections, and not just as voters, but as candidates if they want.

Q: There seems to be warming ties between Saudi Arabia and China. How would you characterize this relationship?

A: It's a confluence of many interests. When we established relations with them, it was on a footing of one to one. They don't throw their weight around. They're very careful in what they engage in, and they've been supporters of the Arab position, for example, in terms of the peace process in the Middle East -- Palestinian rights and so on. Of course, they also buy a lot of oil from us, but it is not just an issue of oil. There is a sense of empathy between the two countries.

Q: Is China a better friend to Saudi Arabia than the United States is?

A: Not necessarily a better friend, but a less complicated friend. I don't think, nor does anybody in Saudi Arabia think, that China is a counterweight to the United States. But your country is courting China because you obviously think that it is important to court China. We're simply following your lead.

Q: Looking realistically at the situation in Iraq, do you think civil war or partition can be avoided? Is there a way to bring a successful solution?

A: I think it can. This is the challenge that faces this government, and hence the need for them to think more as Iraqis and less as Shiites, Sunnis or Kurds. I don't think it's useful or important to say whether there is civil war or sectarian conflict or whatever you want to call it, but killing is taking place. The only way they can be stopped is by a strong central government that can impose its authority on the society and show that it is capable of meeting challenges.

Q: Sen. Joseph Biden, the ranking Democratic member of the Foreign Relations Committee, has called for partitioning Iraq. Your thoughts on this?

A: That's an awful idea because it creates more problems than it solves. Dealing with one Iraq is enough of a problem. Imagine dealing with three Iraqs. How do you partition? To divide Iraq into territorial entities would create a mess. And neighbors would try to interfere with that process. All the contiguous countries to Iraq, without exception, want a unified Iraq.

Q: More broadly, hasn't the terrorist problem gotten worse since the Iraq war began?

A: If you look at the literature coming out of the terrorist organizations, Iraq figures prominently among them. Look at (Osama) bin Laden's sermons, and Ayman al-Zawahiri's preachings, and (Abu Musab) al-Zarqawi's participation. All of these people constantly refer to Iraq as an issue to be taken up with. We've interrogated some of the Saudis who have come back from Iraq, and most of them were going, not to join al-Qaeda, but to fight the invader. And, generally what happens is they get sucked into the al-Qaeda operations. And then the brainwashing takes place.

World has 'enough' oil Al-Faisal blames geopolitical instability, not resources, for driving prices higher; sees hope for Iraq while warning against the use of

Q: The Israeli-Palestinian peace process has been stalled, and the United States has said it will not deal with <u>Hamas</u>. Is this a wise course?

A: Both countries have shown that the people want a two-state solution. Since the recent elections, Palestinians urged the new government to talk with the Israelis, and the Israeli people urged the new government to talk with *Hamas*. So you've got an expression of public will to move the peace process forward. How do you translate that into political action? Obviously, *Hamas* on one side and (Israeli Prime Minister Ehud) Olmert and his coalition on the other have baggage and perhaps even political impediments to adhering to the will of their people. This is where the United States should come in and be the honest broker that it has always promised to be. Something has to be done.

Q: What's the best way for the United States to resolve the *Hamas* dilemma?

A: When Israel signed the Oslo agreements with the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) in 1993, in Israel's eyes, the PLO was then a terrorist organization. The PLO constitution and manifesto included the same phrases that exist in <u>Hamas'</u> manifesto and constitution about driving out the Zionist enemy and liberating all of Palestine, etc. It wasn't until 1997 that the PLO removed those phrases. Hence came the demand of the Israelis on their government to talk to <u>Hamas</u>.

Q: How was the outcry over the Dubai ports deal viewed in Saudi Arabia and in the rest of the Middle East?

A: Everybody looked upon it in the Middle East as another example of American unfairness. The issue of Palestine was always the ranking issue for Arabs in general as an issue of double standards, and when Dubai ports came along, it just seemed to confirm that. In my talks with American officials and non-official experts on your politics, I have been told that this is more an issue of grandstanding and demagoguery during your election season. But it left a bitter taste.

Q: Is there anything else the United States could be doing to promote its image in the Middle East?

A: We would like to see American students come to our universities. In as much as you have your own stereotypical images of Saudi Arabia, Saudis have stereotypical images of you. Personal contact can break down these stereotypes. I tell our students everywhere I go that they are the real ambassadors. We (in government) are bound by diplomacy and officialdom and sort of at arms length from engagement with American society. Students are the ones who are going to fully engage in that process. I tell them I hope that they represent Saudi Arabia in the best manner.

Graphic

GRAPHIC, B/W, Marcy E. Mullins, USA TODAY, Source: Energy Information Administration (Line graph)

GRAPHIC, B/W, Adrienne Lewis, USA TODAY (Map)

PHOTO, B/W, H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY

Load-Date: May 10, 2006



A moral and strategic mistake

Australian Financial Review
July 28, 2006 Friday
First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Features; Pg. 81

Length: 1418 words

Byline: Geoffrey Barker.

Body

Israel has miscalculated the consequences of its attacks on Lebanon, writes Geoffrey Barker.

Israel's brutal artillery and aerial attacks on Lebanon - and now on United Nations observers - are at once morally untenable and strategically counterproductive.

The attacks will not reduce or eliminate security threats facing Israel and the wider global community. They are more likely to intensify those threats - including threats from terrorist groups and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The attacks will strengthen support throughout the Middle East for Hezbollah militants in Lebanon and for <u>Hamas</u> on the West Bank, as well as for thug states such as Iran, which is pursuing nuclear weapons, and Syria, which arms and finances Hezbollah.

The attacks have undermined efforts by Lebanon's new and fragile democratic government to establish effective authority over elected Hezbollah militants in its ranks and to gradually disarm Hezbollah fighters. And there is now at least an outside chance of a wider Middle East war, possibly between Israel and Syria.

Israel's declared objectives - to clear Hezbollah from southern Lebanon in order to stop rocket attacks, and to have an international peacekeeping force installed in the area - are plainly unrealistic.

Southern Lebanon is Hezbollah's breeding ground; some 2000 United Nations forces, in the area for years, have proved ineffective against Hezbollah militants. Morever, new longer-range rockets will enable Hezbollah to strike at Israel far from southern Lebanon.

There is little reason for hoping that international diplomacy will bring an early end to this crisis. The United States, backing Israel to the hilt, is not pressing for ceasefire until conditions are right for what US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice calls "a durable solution".

In fact, the US has given Israel carte blanche to do whatever it wants in Lebanon, and is supplying Israel with precision weapons to help it to do so. Owen Harries, a pre-eminent Australian strategic thinker, has told the ABC the Middle East now faces greater instability as the Bush doctrine enters its "death throes".

A moral and strategic mistake

Without US pressure, Israel has little incentive to heed calls at the Rome conference by Lebanon, its Arab allies, some European nations and the United Nations for a quick end to the war. Egged on by US neo-conservatives, it might rather be encouraged to widen the war by attacking Syria.

The bottom line, then, is that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has embarked on a war of moral and strategic miscalculation with potentially grave consequences for Israel and the world.

In order to understand the magnitude of Olmert's moral miscalculation it is necessary to consider the internationally accepted conditions for a so-called just war.

This issue has received little detailed attention, but Israel's actions have caused more than 400 civilian deaths and thousands of injuries, and displaced some 750,000 people. Some 41 Israelis have been killed in Hezbollah rocket attacks or in fighting.

Israel has ignored the consequences for thousands of foreign nationals in Lebanon, some of whom have been killed trying to escape. It has attacked a country with which it is not at war, destroying buildings, homes and infrastructure.

It is not simply a question of who started it. Accepting that Hezbollah was the immediate initiator, the issue is whether Israel's actions were a proportionate response to Hezbollah's rocket firings into Israel and to the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers, reportedly being held for a prisoner exchange.

The literature on just war and international law stresses that the internationally accepted conditions for just war involve the principles of discrimination and proportionality. Non-combatants are entitled to immunity; the use of force should be "neither gratuitous nor excessive" the philosopher A. J. Coates writes in The Ethics of War.

These notions are complex and contested, but it is impossible to see how Israel's actions against Lebanon respect the principles of either discrimination or proportionality, however the terms are understood.

Olmert appears to have let the Israeli military strike to maximise the terror effect, killing civilians and making it extremely difficult for UN agencies to deliver relief supplies and to bring wounded people to hospitals. Now it appears the US is rushing new precision weapons to Israel to enable it to continue its attacks.

Of course, as strategic expert Allan Behm says, Israel does face two well-organised, well-funded and well-armed centres of opposition to its existence: <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah. <u>Hamas</u> controls the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza legislature; Hezbollah has 23 seats in the Lebanese parliament and two ministries.

"They present a substantial threat to Israel, and Israel has the right to plan militarily to meet that threat, including with armed force," Behm says.

But Behm, former head of international and strategic policy in the Defence department, disputes that the abduction of two Israeli soldiers and Hezbollah rocket attacks on Israel were provocations justifying the use of armed force against other than military targets in Lebanon.

Behm worries that Israel's actions may have legitimated Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons, especially in the Shiite world. "Global interests are not served by military activity with that sort of counterproductive impact," he says.

While Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> clearly constitute a challenge to Israel's security and are capable of inflicting severe pain on Israel, they are not a threat to Israel's existence. A nuclear-armed Iran obviously could constitute such a threat.

Behm's view is that Israel's mistake was not in responding to Hezbollah, but in the timing and nature of the response. He says Israel acted too quickly, as well as disproportionately, in not giving the recent Group of Eight industrialised countries summit meeting time to focus on preventing Iran from gaining nuclear weapons.

A moral and strategic mistake

"Israel's actions have strengthened support for Iran and Syria . . . For Israel the priorities should be to deny nuclear capability to Iran and to work with the Lebanese government to reinforce security by disarming Hezbollah. Those objectives are now going to be more difficult".

Behm also says Israel's miscalculation has made it more difficult for its Western allies to achieve rapprochement with the Arab world. "Military force is used to support policy. Here we have an immature and inexperienced Israeli government being driven by military rather than policy considerations," he says.

In so doing, Israel is adding a new and bloody chapter to the bitter history of Israel-Lebanon relations. In fact, Israel's actions are consistent with its 1982 invasion and occupation of Lebanon and with Israeli attacks on Palestinians over many years in the Gaza strip.

It is now extremely difficult for Israel to credibly maintain that its military actions are not morally equivalent to those of <u>Hamas</u> or Hezbollah fighters. Israel's reported use of cluster munitions in populated areas of Lebanon is, if accurate, disgraceful. So was the air strike that targeted a UN observation post, killing four UN peacekeepers.

There are no clean hands in the Middle East. The UN emergency relief co-ordinator in Beirut, Jan Egeland, has condemned both the Israeli bombings and Hezbollah rocket firings into Israel. He has also accused Hezbollah's "cowardly blending" with <u>women</u> and children in civilian centres being struck by Israel. Other UN officials have warned both sides they might be guilty of war crimes.

Egeland's remarks reflect the moral ugliness and strategic futility of the Middle East conflict. The Israelis and their enemies need to understand that, short of nuclear warfare, they cannot destroy each other, although they can inflict great and continuing suffering on each other.

Terrorism expert Clive Williams argues that Israel will not be able to break Hezbollah as an organisation or sever its links to Syria and Iran. "Israel will eventually have to negotiate with Hezbollah on the issue of occupied Lebanese land and prisoners," he says.

Williams also warns that Israel's actions have made it many new Arab and Muslim enemies and lost it friends in the West. He agrees that Israel and Hezbollah have committed war crimes, but says moral outrage against Israel will be greater, though neither party will face legal consequences.

Israel has, nonetheless, made a moral and strategic error that jeopardises its own security as well as wider global security.

Graphic

PHOTO: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's goals in Lebanon appear increasingly unrealistic. Photo: AP

Load-Date: April 5, 2012



Israeli missiles pound Gaza into new Dark Age in collective punishment

Belfast Telegraph

June 29, 2006 Thursday

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Length: 1313 words

Byline: By Donald Macintyre

Body

As a textbook example of hi-tech precision bombardment it could hardly be improved. Smoke was still rising yesterday from the scorched wreckage of the six transformers at Gaza s only power station, each destroyed by a single missile fired by an Israeli warplane some 10 hours earlier.

Had they hit the huge cylindrical diesel tank 100 metres away they would have set the whole power station alight. But the strike was clinically effective, cutting all the electricity to 700,000 Gaza consumers, threatening water supplies and depriving its public of light, cooking, broadcast news, and a crucial issue in scorching summer temperatures fans.

I m so surprised that they did this, said Dr Derar Abu Sisi, the operations manager at the Al Nusirat power station. We have been right through the worst of the intifada but this didn t happen. It would, Dr Abu Sisi said, take a minimum of three to six months to restore supplies at a cost between \$5m (£2.8m) and \$7m. The Geneva Convention says it is not allowed to attack infrastructure for the civilian people, he added. You might expect that economic infrastructure could be a target in the last stages of a war. But this is not like that.

The damage to Gaza's power supply was condemned as unacceptable and barbaric collective punishment of civilians, including <u>women</u>, children and old people by the office of Mahmoud Abbas, which complained it was intensifying what it says are the difficulties he already faces in trying to secure the safe release of Gilad Shalit, the 19-year-old Israeli army corporal abducted by militants including members of *Hamas*'s military wing on Sunday.

The crisis escalated yesterday as <u>Hamas</u> called for the prisoner swap Israel has so far refused to entertain; another faction responsible for Cpl Shalit s abduction, the Popular Resistance Committees, threatened to kill Eliahu Asheri, 18, a settler it says it is holding, if Israel does not end its military campaign in Gaza, and a third, the al-Aqsa Martyrs, claimed to have seized a 62-year-old man from the central Israeli city of Rishon Lezion.

In retaliation, Israeli soldiers last night arrested the Labour Minister, Mohammed Barghouthi, a member of the *Hamas*-led Palestinian government, in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Palestinian security officials said.

The army fired a barrage of artillery rounds into northern Gaza throughout the night, including at the Islamic University in Gaza City, as it prepared to tell local residents to leave their homes before moving in force into Beit Hanoun to attack Qassam rocket launching units.

Roads in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis were also targeted. The Israeli army said they were to prevent the kidnapped soldier being moved and to cut off access to militants launching rockets at Israel.

Ehud Olmert, the Israeli Prime Minister, said that the army would not hesitate to carry out extreme action in the coming days to bring the abducted soldier back to his family.

The aerial attack on the power station was one of four conducted early yesterday. The other three were on bridges in central Gaza, which the Israel Defence Forces said were intended to hamper attempts by Cpl Shalit's captors to move him from the south to the north.

Yesterday, however, a side road alongside the most easterly of these, which fords the currently dried-up river running through the Wadi Gaza on the main north-south Salahadin road, was busy with traffic which had turned off to avoid the wrecked bridge and continue its journey unimpeded towards Gaza City from the south.

Another target was an old railway bridge 200 metres to the west, which the army says can be used by vehicles but which carried a now-broken water pipeline to two refugee camps.

Zakri al-Ouh, 62, a construction worker who lives near by and helped to build the two-lane road bridge under Egyptian supervision in 1965 and 1966, said: When it rains then it will be impossible to use the road, but at the moment I can t see how this can help the soldier. He added: At first I was in favour of handing back the soldier as quickly as possible. We have to consider the power of Israel against our own weakness. But now they have done this I think there should be an exchange of prisoners before he is handed back. The southernmost town of Rafah to which roads were notably less crowded than usual yesterday still has power because it takes its electricity from Israel. But Rafah, which had most to gain from Israel s withdrawal last August because it had been the most ravaged in all of the occupied territories during four years of the intifada, now fears a return of conflict.

Yesterday morning, with Israeli troops and tanks now occupying the disused airport two kilometres from the town centre, Maher Abu Ermana 21, was doing a brisk trade in sacks of flour, oil, sugar and beans provided by aid agencies, sold to him by impoverished refugee recipients trying to make a few extra shekels, and invariably labelled not for resale.

Such is Gaza s dysfunctional economic cycle that Mr Abu Ermana is now selling his wares to customers stocking up in fear of war shortages. Up until two days ago, after Cpl Gilad Shalit was abducted, he said: I was selling two sacks a day. Now I am selling 20 to 40.

We are all worried, said Zakia Mahmoud, 40, who has 10 children. I hope it will not return to what it was before. If it does, we will lose half of our sons.

The most audible element of the message Israel says it is delivering to Gaza in the hope of securing the safe release of Cpl Shalit in the event of which it says it will pull back its forces from the Strip are the sonic booms produced by warplanes deliberately flying faster than the speed of sound over Gaza.

Yesterday s booms which produce the shattering sound of a heavy explosion in the immediate vicinity started at 5am and were the first for several months, after two human rights groups filed a High Court petition saying that they constituted an illegal collective punishment.

But the most powerful impact of Israel s so far specific and limited military campaign is likely to be power cuts. Gaza City s main Shifa hospital said its generator was working 24 hours a day but because of fuel shortages could keep going for only two weeks. Mark Regev, the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, insisted the attacks on power stations and bridges were justified by the need to bring out Cpl Shalit alive.

The Israeli human rights agency Btselem warned that the power cuts would jeopardise water supplies and health care. It stressed that Israel had the right to enact all legal measures to secure the release of Cpl Shalit but not those which conflict with international humanitarian law prohibitions against objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population .

Warplanes buzz Syrian President

Israeli missiles pound Gaza into new Dark Age in collective punishment

Israeli warplane s buzzed the summer residence of Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian President, yesterday to pressure him to secure the release of the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

Military officials said the jets flew over President Assad s palace near the coastal port city of Latkia. Television reports said the Syrian President had been at home during the predawn flights. Mr Assad was apparently targeted because Israel believes there are close links between Syria and *Hamas*. Khaled Mashaal, the exiled *Hamas* leader believed by many Palestinians, as well as Israel, as having sanctioned the abduction of Cpl Shalit on Sunday last week, is based in Damascus. Officials said the aircraft flying low had made a noise on the ground but did not say whether they created sonic booms of the sort generated in Gaza.

State-run Syrian television said two Israeli aircraft had flown over the country s coast in an aggressive act and a provocation. It claimed national air defences opened fire in the direction of the planes, and they dispersed.

Load-Date: June 29, 2006



The unintended consequences of exporting democracy

The Australian (Australia)
July 21, 2006 Friday
All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Cut & Paste; Pg. 15

Length: 752 words **Byline:** George Will

Body

MATP

Leading US conservative George Will, in The Washington Post, on the Bush White House being mugged by reality

GROTESQUE, was Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's characterisation of the charge that the US invasion of Iraq was responsible for the current Middle East conflagration. She is correct, up to a point. This point: Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> were alive and toxic long before March 2003.

Still, it is not perverse to wonder whether the spectacle of America learning a lesson -- one that conservatives should not have to learn on the job -- about the limits of power to subdue an unruly world has emboldened many enemies. Rice called it short-sighted to judge the success of the administration's transformational ambitions by a snapshot of progress "some couple of years" into the transformation. She seems to consider today's turmoil preferable to the Middle East's "false stability" of the past 60 years, during which US policy "turned a blind eye to the absence of the democratic forces".

There is, however, a sense in which that argument creates a blind eye: It makes instability, no matter how pandemic or lethal, necessarily a sign of progress. Violence is vindication: <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah have, Rice says, "determined that it is time now to try and arrest the move towards moderate democratic forces in the Middle East".

But there also is democratic movement towards extremism. America's intervention was supposed to democratise Iraq which, by benign infection, would transform the region. Early on in the Iraq occupation Rice argued that democratic institutions do not just spring from a hospitable political culture, they also can help create such a culture. Perhaps.

But elections have transformed <u>Hamas</u> into the Government of the Palestinian territories, and elections have turned Hezbollah into a significant faction in Lebanon's parliament, from which it operates as a state within the state. And as a possible harbinger of future horrors, last year's elections gave the Muslim Brotherhood 19 per cent of the seats in Egypt's parliament.

Miranda Devine, in The Sydney Morning Herald, on the ABC's lament that the NSW Liberal movement is ditching the Left:

The unintended consequences of exporting democracy

BEING openly conservative and displaying any regard for [John] Howard causes egregious offence to leftie types who have dominated student union gatherings for decades ... The pendulum is swinging away from the political correctness and reflexive Left-liberal ideology that has dominated student politics and much of the media, but not yet at the ABC [whose TV programs Stateline, Four Corners and Lateline have recently broadcasted exposes into the Right's takeover of the party]. Thus competition between two groups within the Liberal Party, the Left and the Right, is categorised as "moderates" v "extreme religious Right".

And yet on issues such as heroin injecting rooms, lowering the age of homosexual consent, compulsory student unionism, affirmative action, same-sex marriage and removing censorship of pornography, the Right better reflects the feelings of Liberal voters and, indeed, the broader community. So who are the extremists?

The Left has controlled the NSW Liberal Party for more than two decades and always regarded the Young Liberals as its personal breeding ground. But with the coming of age of the Howard generation, conservatives now dominate the Young Liberals, the <u>women</u>'s council and, most recently, the state executive. As the pendulum swings back from the extremes of political correctness which made the state party unelectable, feelings are bound to be hurt ...

But that's politics.

Laurie Oakes, in The Bulletin on February26, 2002, says John Howard's lies will help Peter Costello:

HOWARD may ride out the [children overboard] storm, but he will be permanently damaged by it. His credibility will not recover ... If he tried to stay on, the issue would dog him and the Liberal Party through the next campaign. It must now be clear to even the most one-eyed Howard backer -- and to Howard himself -- that a change of leader before the next poll is imperative.

Laurie Oakes, in The Bulletin on Wednesday, says Howard's lies hurt Costello:

JOHN Howard is exposed as a purveyor of porkies and his support grows. Peter Costello tells the truth and gets the thumbs-down from voters. Should we be surprised? Sadly, no.

The punters want Howard to stay on as Prime Minister. They don't want to hear about him leaving politics. They don't care if he lied, as long as he's going to stick around. Tough luck for the Treasurer.

Load-Date: July 20, 2006



Hizbullah pressure on Israel to exchange prisoners

The Irish Times

July 13, 2006 Thursday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 11

Length: 760 words

Body

MIDDLE EAST: The militant group's seizure of two Israeli soldiers was more than a gesture of solidarity with the Palestinians, writes Michael Jansen

Lebanon's Shia Hizbullah movement opened up a second Arab front against Israel yesterday because the movement could not ignore the challenge posed by Israel's escalating offensive in Gaza.

On the pan-Arab level, Hizbullah cannot claim to be a resistance organisation and sit tight while Israeli troops and tanks operate in Gaza.

Hizbullah's operation was more than a gesture of solidarity with the Palestinians: for some time it has been coordinating attacks against Israel with Palestinian factions based in Lebanon.

By mounting a dramatic raid across the Lebanese-Israeli frontier and capturing two Israeli soldiers, Hizbullah increased pressure on the Israeli government to negotiate an exchange of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel for the movement's captives and Cpl Gilad Shalit, snatched by Palestinian on the Gaza border on June 25th.

Israel has rejected the offer made by the head of <u>Hamas</u>'s politburo, Khaled Mishaal, and Palestinian prime minister Ismail Haniyeh to release Cpl Shalit if Israel frees minor, <u>female</u> and elderly Palestinian prisoners, ends its offensive and halts assassinations of Palestinian activists.

Mr Mishaal, a hardliner based in Damascus, may have agreed to the deal under pressure from Syria. When the offer was rebuffed, Damascus may have encouraged Hizbullah to mount its operation.

Syria's ally, Iran, which founded Hizbullah during Israel's 1982 invasion and occupation of Lebanon and funded the movement for many years, would also back action.

Syria and Iran would like to see Israel humbled by forcing it to deal with <u>Hamas</u>, shunned by Israel and the international community since it formed a government, and to negotiate a second exchange with Hizbullah.

Syria allows radical Palestinian figures, including Mr Mishaal, to reside and maintain offices in its capital. Iran has a long-standing connection with Palestinian Islamic Jihad and has recently cultivated relations with *Hamas*.

On the Lebanese level, Hizbullah has to act to justify its defiance of a September 2004 UN resolution calling for the movement to disarm and dissolve its armed wing. Anti-Syrian Lebanese politicians have pressed Hizbullah to

Hizbullah pressure on Israel to exchange prisoners

submit and Damascus has been censured by the US, France and the UN for failing to secure Hizbullah's compliance.

By mounting this dramatic raid, Hizbullah also seized the initiative from Israel which is accused of masterminding assassinations of two Hizbullah officials and three Palestinian activists in Lebanon.

The latest, the murder at the end of May of an Islamic Jihad member and his brother, precipitated an exchange of fire.

Following Israel's military withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000, Hizbullah said it would maintain pressure on Israel for the return to Lebanon of farmland belonging to the village of Shebaa and the repatriation of Lebanese in Israeli jails.

In October 2000, Hizbullah captured three Israeli soldiers on routine patrol and seized in mysterious circumstances an Israeli businessman, Elhanan Tannenbaum.

Although the soldiers died in the raid, Israel agreed in 2004 to exchange 340 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners for the bodies and Mr Tannenbaum.

One prisoner Israel refused to swap however was Samir Kuntar, a Lebanese involved in a 1979 guerrilla operation in the Israeli town of Nahariya during which three Israelis died.

At the time of the exchange, Hizbullah secretary general Hassan Nasrallah said that Mr Kuntar would be returned in the "next exchange."

Hizbullah has designated 2006 as the year of the prisoner and has pledged to work for the release of all Arab detainees.

Mr Kuntar's freedom was Hizbullah's initial demand after yesterday's operation and Sheikh Nasrallah proclaimed that a prisoner exchange was the only means of securing the soldiers' freedom.

The Lebanese government, which formally supports the Arab right of resistance to Israeli occupation and demands the release of prisoners and the return of the Shebaa farms, has tried to put distance between it and Hizbullah, which is a mainstream political party with deputies in parliament and a minister in the cabinet.

In an effort to counter Israeli and US accusations that Damascus was involved, vice president Farouk Sharaa said Israel had prompted the attack by "provoking" Palestinians and Lebanese by occupying their territory and stated that "the resistance in South Lebanon and among the Palestinian people decides solely what to do and why."

Load-Date: July 26, 2006



Another type of deterrence

The Nation (AsiaNet)
April 28, 2006 Friday

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Section: NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 777 words

Body

By SAJJAD SHAUKAT - An unending wave of suicide bombers in Iraq and Afghanistan in particular and in Israel and Kashmir in general has strengthened the idea of a new deterrence. The conflict especially between Americans and the Muslims is not only just a battle between two peoples over one piece of land as noted in case of Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel, but it is also a self-destruction contest of national wills. In such a war, spirit of self-sacrifice is a potent weapon, and there the Muslim fighters and their growing legions of suicide bombers have the edge.

There seems to be no military way to fight suicide missions as found in case of Palestinian-Israeli conflict and US-Iraq clash that are test cases for Washington and Tel Aviv in their anti-terrorism campaign. In the past, it was the job of professionals. Today it is popular effort and aspiration of thousands of Muslim girls and boys. You can kill, deport and deter professionals. As terrorism experts of the US and Israel have pointed out, "the infrastructure of suicide bombing requires little more than bomb making know-how and some very basic equipment".

If an explosives belt can be assembled in a work shed or, a garage, then destroying the "infrastructure of terrorism" begins to sound virtually impossible, more a slogan than a battle plan. There are signs that the US Administration and Israeli as well as Indian governments do not know exactly what goal they are pursuing against Iraqis, Afghans, Palestinians and Kashmiris. Civilian and military officials of these states are increasingly frank about their need to punish the freedom fighters for turning to violence and terror, although it is usually phased in terms of "reestablishing the US, Israeli and Indian strategic deterrence."

No matter how difficult it may be emotionally to step into the shoes of steadfast Islamic revolutionaries, it is impossible not to take note of the fact that until now the violent conflict stuck to a formula of relatively direct relationships between terror attacks and punitive deterrent actions that followed. Let us see the example of the Israeli 'target killings'. An Israeli missile hit a car on March 22, 2004 and killed the spiritual head of the Palestinian organization, *Hamas*. Later on, on April 17, 2004 another *Hamas* leader, Abdel Aziz al Rantissi was killed in the Gaza city in a similar attack. Decisions to kill the *Hamas* leadership were made by the cabinet of former Israeli PM Ariel Sharon. This decision has broken down the rule of the game.

One can note that there is no difference between Bin Laden and Israeli rulers, if he judges the latter in light of the extra-judicial killings. It may be mentioned that the US-led forces are committing similar crime in Iraq and Afghanistan and almost same pattern of state terrorism prevails in the Occupied Kashmir. Some western psychiatrists believe that many suicide bombers are criminal-minded and have had "a difficult childhood producing narcissistic wounds", resulting in "projecting the hated parts of the self onto the outside world". According to another line of reasoning, "the desire to destroy the establishment is driven by the terrorist's search for identity".

Another type of deterrence

But the most important cause behind the suicide attacks is that when real brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and parents of the Muslims demanding independence from colonialism, and neo-imperialism are being killed due to state terrorism, extremism develops in the concerned persons who feel psychologically compelled to commit suicide and the political objectives they espouse are only a rationalization.

Psychologically speaking, when a person crosses the stage of fear towards non-fear in these adverse circumstances, the previous one can never be achieved and in such a situation, even a coward person becomes bold to sacrifice his or her life. A number of suicide missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and Kashmir verify this fact. Particularly, some events of <u>women</u> committing suicide in some cases as found in Iraq and Israel further testify this fact.

It is because of these reasons that human lives themselves become bombs, supplying the requisites of a new-style deterrence. As regards the new 'different war', the United States has a far higher nuclear deterrence and technological superiority over the Islamic radical groups, but it is helpless before the suicide missions as events in Iraq and some other countries of the world have indicated so far, in wake of the American strict measures, taken in the aftermath of the September 11. Without any doubt, ground realities have proved that suicide bombers are themselves deterrence of the poor and the helpless.

Load-Date: April 30, 2006



Armed Men, Lacking Jobs, Fuel Gaza's 'Violent Energy'

The New York Times

January 9, 2006 Monday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8; CRISIS IN ISRAEL: MILITANTS

Length: 1266 words

Byline: By CRAIG S. SMITH

Dateline: GAZA, Jan. 8

Body

Virtually sealed off from the outside world, residents of this violence-riddled strip of land along the Mediterranean Sea liken it to a giant, deteriorating prison, and at its worst it feels like the film "Escape From New York," where inmates ran the show.

The economy beats feebly, filling the streets with armed men and markets and chaotic traffic during the day and emptying them but for scattered police patrols and idle young men at night. The Palestinian Authority, charged with governing the territory together with the West Bank, maintains tenuous control.

"The intifada has ended, but the violent energy is still there," said Eyad Sarraj, a psychiatrist and human rights activist living here.

In Gaza City on Saturday night, one man was killed during a gun battle between armed militants and the police, while elsewhere in town another armed group threatened to destroy the local offices of the satellite television station Al Arabiya, which is based in Dubai. The men were angry at the station for broadcasting a documentary that suggested that **female** Palestinian suicide bombers had been put under pressure by male relatives.

Farther south that same day, gunmen cordoned off a neighborhood in Khan Yunis, Gaza's second largest city, while members of a well-known drug-smuggling family battled with the Palestinian police. Eleven policemen were reported wounded.

And in Rafah, along the Egyptian border, armed men from the Abu Taha family stopped cars on Sunday, checking identification papers in hopes of catching members of Al Masri, the rival family with which they have been waging a deadly feud.

While the world is watching Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's fight for life and wondering who will govern Israel in his absence, people in Gaza are far more preoccupied with growing lawlessness and tension between armed factions since Israel's withdrawal.

"One day, these guys woke up and had nothing to fire rockets at, but they had no food in the kitchen, so they turned on the Palestinian Authority," said Khalid Abu Hilal, known as Abu Adham, a spokesman for 10 branches of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, an armed wing of the Fatah political faction. "We are heading toward civil war."

Armed Men, Lacking Jobs, Fuel Gaza's 'Violent Energy'

That possibility, as much as the uncertainty surrounding Israel's post-Sharon policies, has cast a pall over the whole peace effort because any progress toward peace depends on a strong Palestinian negotiating partner.

But the narrow 28-mile swath of chewed-up roads, dusty orange groves and crumbling concrete buildings covered with graffiti that make up the Gaza Strip, home to 1.4 million Palestinians, is growing more chaotic by the day.

Part of the problem is Fatah's inability to control the armed men who once did its bidding.

Take Alla al-Hams, a brooding 32-year-old man with a short beard and heavy eyebrows. Like tens of thousands of other men in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Hams spent five years fighting Israel, commanding as many as 200 men in carrying out mortar and rocket attacks against Israeli forces and the fortified Israeli settlements that they were here to protect. He says he lost 20 men, 4 of them in suicide bomb attacks.

But ever since Israel abandoned the settlements and withdrew its troops in September, Mr. Hams and his men have been idle. They lost the financial support they enjoyed as opponents of the occupation and have grown increasingly frustrated by the lack of any reward for what they regard as years of sacrifice.

"The occupation is over, and we have the right to be compensated for the last five years," he said, surrounded by gunmen in the sitting room of his father-in-law's four-story, cinder-block house in Rafah. "The least that we expected after Israel withdrew was a job."

About two-thirds of the territory's work force is unemployed, entertainment is scarce and so politics is about the only game around.

Last week, Mr. Hams was seized by masked men while walking alone at night near his home and was taken to the Palestinian Authority's military intelligence office in Gaza City where he was accused of kidnapping three Britons in December.

Gunmen had taken the Britons away by car shortly after they entered Gaza from Egypt at the Rafah border crossing. As with two other kidnappings of foreigners last month, the abductions were apparently meant to press the Palestinian Authority to provide work for former opponents of the occupation. All hostages were released within a few days.

But Mr. Hams's detention set off a series of confrontations between his men and the Palestinian Authority. His gun-toting supporters closed government offices in Rafah and temporarily blocked the crossing into Egypt. Finally, they bulldozed the concrete border wall, leading to an exchange of gunfire with Egyptian border guards that left two guards dead.

The Palestinian Authority released Mr. Hams in the wake of the unrest, though many people insist that he was responsible for the kidnappings. He denies it, but said the actions by his men won his release. He still argues that the Palestinian Authority should give him and his men jobs.

"During the intifada, if a fighter was killed their family was adopted by the factions or the Palestinian Authority would support them, but now, they will die from hunger," he said, cradling his young son between his knees. "You can expect me to do anything to guarantee a good life for my family."

An even more volatile element in the deteriorating security situation is the increasing desperation that Fatah and its followers feel in the face of the political challenge by <u>Hamas</u>, the radical Islamic group. Fatah, the Palestinian government's main faction, is in disarray, consumed with infighting and corruption, while <u>Hamas</u> appears poised to win a significant slice of political power in parliamentary elections this month. But few people believe that Fatah will give up government control easily if it loses.

"They are not ready to leave their positions and the advantages they have with the projects they've created," said Mr. Hilal, a spokesman for Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades. "That is why Fatah is not interested in holding the elections or why they won't accept the results if they do."

Armed Men, Lacking Jobs, Fuel Gaza's 'Violent Energy'

One potential reason to postpone elections is Israel's threat to block voting in East Jerusalem, which Israel claims as its territory. But Fatah officials said late Sunday that they had received the go-ahead to campaign in the city, contrary to an earlier decision by Israeli officials.

Campaigning does not mean residents will be allowed to vote in the city, but Palestinians were allowed to vote there during the legislative election in 1996, and Israel is under intense international pressure to facilitate the elections so that they are not postponed.

Many people here believe that violence will eventually break out between <u>Hamas</u>'s armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigade, and Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, either because Fatah will force the elections to be postponed or because they will not accept the results if the elections are held and they lose.

Already, one Qassam fighter was killed last week when members of the two groups battled over *Hamas*' efforts to put campaign posters up on the wall of a house belonging to a Fatah official.

Some people even suggest that Fatah officials orchestrated recent kidnappings in order to give the Palestinian Authority an excuse to postpone the elections.

"<u>Hamas</u> is trying to take Fatah's place, but we won't let that happen," said Mr. Hams, who, despite his frustration with the Palestinian Authority, remains a Fatah supporter.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Alla al-Hams, a militia leader, with his children and other militants in the Gaza Strip. With the end of the occupation, the militants seek rewards. (Photo by Khalil Hamra for The New York Times)

Load-Date: January 9, 2006



International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA) February 13, 2006 Monday

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Section: NATIONAL/WORLD; Pg. a5

Length: 453 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

Haitian election official alleges 'manipulation'

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - Pierre Richard Duchemin, a member of Haiti's electoral council, said results of the presidential elections were being "manipulated." He echoed complaints by throngs of supporters of Rene Preval, who filled the streets Sunday with allegations of fraud.

With 75 percent of votes counted, Preval was falling short of winning Tuesday's elections outright. Preval was leading 33 candidates with 49.1 percent of the vote, short of the 50 percent he needs to avoid a March 19 runoff with the runner-up. Leslie Manigat was second with 11.7 percent of the vote.

Jacques Bernard, director-general of the electoral council, denied accusations the panel voided many votes for Preval.

Suspected U.S. military fire kills 2 in Pakistan, officials say

MIRAN SHAH, Pakistan - Suspected U.S. military fire struck the tent of a nomad family on the Pakistan side of the rugged border with Afghanistan, killing two **women** and injuring at least four children, two Pakistani officials said.

The Pakistani officials said four rockets or shells were apparently fired by the U.S. military in fighting with suspected militants in Afghanistan's eastern Khost province late Saturday, and one hit the nomads' tent at Bangi Dar, in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal area.

Sharon in critical but stable condition after surgery

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has been comatose since suffering a massive stroke more than five weeks ago, was in critical but stable condition Sunday following emergency abdominal surgery, the hospital treating him said.

Sharon, 77, was rushed into surgery Saturday after an abdominal scan revealed dead tissue in his digestive system. Doctors removed 20 inches, or one-third, of his large intestine.

Israelis urge other nations to remain firm against *Hamas*

International Briefs

JERUSALEM - Israel's foreign minister on Sunday criticized Russia's invitation for <u>Hamas</u> leaders to visit Moscow for talks, urging the international community to stand firm in rejecting the militant group despite its victory in Palestinian elections.

Russia's offer runs counter to the stand recently taken by the so-called Quartet of Mideast peace negotiators, which had threatened to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars to the cash-strapped government unless the group recognized Israel and renounced violence.

Massive ancient tomb unearthed

THESSALONIKI, Greece - Archaeologists have unearthed a massive tomb in the northern Greek town of Pella, capital of the ancient kingdom of Macedonia and birthplace of Alexander the Great.

The eight-chambered tomb dates to the Hellenistic Age between the fourth and second century B.C., and is the largest of its kind ever found in Greece.

Load-Date: February 13, 2006



Freeing Prisoners Key Goal in Fight Against Israel

The New York Times
August 4, 2006 Friday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1; HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDEAST: WAR AIMS

Length: 1676 words

Byline: By CRAIG S. SMITH; Steven Erlanger contributed reporting from Jerusalem for this article.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Aug. 2

Body

When Hezbollah guerrillas sneaked into Israel last month, killing and capturing Israeli soldiers and setting off the current crisis, their goal was to trade them for a Lebanese man held by Israel.

The prisoner, Samir Kuntar, was part of a cell that in 1979 raided an apartment building in the northern Israeli town of Nahariya, terrorizing the Haran family. Mr. Kuntar shot Danny Haran in the head, killing him, while his daughter, Einat, 4, watched, then smashed the girl's head in with his rifle butt, killing her as well. Mr. Haran's wife, Smadar, hid in the attic with their 2-year-old daughter, so afraid that the girl would cry out that she accidentally suffocated the girl to death.

After Hezbollah made off with two Israeli soldiers in the raid last month, Israel vowed that it would not negotiate for their release. But the question of prisoners held by Israel -- nearly all of them Palestinians -- is the subtext of this crisis and is likely to figure in its resolution. It is an issue that animates Hezbollah and the Palestinians as much as anything else in their fight with Israel.

Political discourse, billboards, street graffiti and militant songs and manifestos are all laced with references, sometimes nearly rote, to winning freedom for the prisoners.

The prisoners now number about 9,700, about 100 of them <u>women</u>, according to a spokeswoman for the Israeli Prison Authority. About 300 are younger than 18, including two girls and a boy of 14, being held in juvenile detention facilities for acts against Israel. The Israelis say many of them are terrorists -- if not quite on the scale of Mr. Kuntar, not far from it -- and some clearly are. But the Palestinians say that others are wrongfully accused and that many have never committed a violent act.

The <u>Hamas</u> movement's military wing, the Qassam Brigades, say they captured the Israeli corporal Gilad Shalit as a bargaining chip to win the release of at least some of those prisoners, particularly the <u>women</u> and children. It is a move that many Palestinians support.

"We have 10,000 prisoners in jail, and the world cares only for this one Israeli prisoner," said Mohsin Jirjawi, an uncle of a Palestinian wounded in the current fighting, referring to Corporal Shalit during an interview in Al Shifa hospital in Gaza City, where his wounded nephew is. He said all Palestinians supported *Hamas*'s proposal to trade

Freeing Prisoners Key Goal in Fight Against Israel

prisoners with Israel. "And when Israel doesn't respond, our steadfastness grows." When it followed with its raid, Hezbollah said it was acting in solidarity with the Palestinians.

Since 1998, the Palestinian Authority has maintained a Ministry of Prisoners' and Former Prisoners' Affairs, with 300 bureaucrats to keep track of the rising number of prisoners in Israeli jails and to give allowances and legal aid to the prisoners and their families. Even its own minister, Wasfi Qabaha, is now in prison, arrested by Israel in the wake of the capture of Corporal Shalit.

For the Palestinians, the ripples of distress from every arrest have become an oppressive wave. One Gaza family has four sons in prison, and more than one family has both parents and children in jail, the Israeli Prison Authority said.

Fakhri al-Barghouti of Ramallah was sentenced to 28 years in jail and is sharing a cell with two of his sons, who are both serving life sentences, said Muhammad Tluli, the Palestinian prisoner's ministry assistant deputy minister. Israeli officials could not immediately confirm those details, but said the Israeli Prison Authority did approve such living arrangements for prisoners with good records of behavior.

"We are willing to sacrifice ourselves for the freedom of the Palestinian prisoners," said Abu Muhammad, a field commander for the Qassam Brigades, in a standard turn of phrase. He said he had spent four years in prison after the first intifada, or uprising, against Israel that began in 1987. "Even if Israel destroys all of Gaza, we will fight until they are released," he said.

One of the factors that helped the militant movement <u>Hamas</u> beat the long-governing Fatah movement in elections in January was Fatah's failure to win the release of Palestinian prisoners in large numbers. The Fatah leader and Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, secured the release of 900 prisoners in 2005, but Palestinians complained that the prisoners freed did not include long-term prisoners or fighters. Israel said it would not release any Palestinian guilty of killing Israelis.

During the current crisis, the Palestinians and their backers have insisted that there is an easy way for Israel to reclaim its soldiers. "From the first day, the Arab countries have supported a prisoner exchange -- it's the logical solution," said Taher al-Nounou, the Palestinian Authority's Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Israel has repeatedly said that it will not trade prisoners to free its soldiers. But Israel has traded prisoners many times. In January 2004, it released some 430 prisoners in exchange for Elhanan Tannenbaum, an Israeli businessman kidnapped by Hezbollah four years earlier. The exchange also included the bodies of three Israeli soldiers.

In 1997, Israel freed the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Sheik Ahmed Yassin -- who was later killed in an Israeli missile strike -- along with dozens of others in return for two Israeli intelligence agents who had been arrested in Jordan after a failed attempt to kill <u>Hamas</u>'s current leader, Khaled Mashaal.

"Israel returned prisoners many times in the past, so why is Israel being so stubborn this time?" asked Ikrama Sabri, the mufti of Jerusalem, the highest-ranking Islamic cleric here, in a recent sermon at Al Aksa Mosque. "Returning the prisoners will bring happiness and peace to the hearts of both the Israelis and the Palestinians."

That kind of talk has given hope to people like Fathiya Sbieh, who believes the fighting will mean that she will see her new grandchild soon.

Two months ago, Ms. Sbieh watched on TV as her daughter Samar got off a prison bus, her hands and feet shackled, and hobbled into Meir Hospital in Kafr Saba in Israel. She watched again as Samar hobbled out five days later, this time with her hands free, holding her newborn son.

Ms. Sbieh insists that her daughter's only crime was using someone else's identification card to get permission to travel to the West Bank. But Orit Shteltzer, another spokeswoman for the Israeli Prison Authority, said that Samar had been convicted of belonging to the Qassam Brigades and that she had prepared a suicide belt for a would-be bomber.

Freeing Prisoners Key Goal in Fight Against Israel

The birth was widely covered in the Gaza Strip, where her family has lived since fleeing the fighting in Israel in 1948. The prison guards who took her to the hospital insisted that she remain shackled during her Caesarean section. Ms. Sbieh still believes that her daughter's hands and feet were tied. A hospital spokeswoman, Hagit Sharon, said Samar was shackled only in her room. She said the hospital had refused the request of prison administrators to keep her shackled in the operating room. Ms. Shteltzer said her agency had made no such request.

In the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs headquarters in Gaza City, the walls are lined with posters bearing the pictures of prisoners. One shows the face of Saeed al-Ataba, the longest-serving Palestinian prisoner in Israeli jails. He will soon enter his 30th year in prison.

Like all the Palestinian Authority's ministries, this one has twin headquarters, another in the West Bank city of Ramallah. It deposits monthly stipends of about \$45 in prisoners' canteen accounts and distributes allowances averaging \$340 a month to many families whose breadwinners are in jail.

The ministry, with funds from the Palestinian Authority, normally spends \$3 million to \$4 million a month to support prisoners and their families and to cover some legal fees, said Mr. Tluli, the deputy minister, beneath a calendar with the picture of a dove flying from an open hand. The caption reads, "No freedom without releasing prisoners."

But because of the international financial embargo since <u>Hamas</u> came to power, no money has been paid to prisoners since April and none to their families since March.

So deep is the hatred of Israel that fighting the country has become a tradition in some families and prisoners often span several generations. Awni Abedalkader Ferwana, now white-haired and weary, was arrested in 1970 and sentenced to 25 years in prison. He admits to having thrown grenades at Israeli jeeps in Gaza City. He was freed in 1985 as part of prisoner swap in which 1,150 Palestinian inmates were exchanged for three Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon. He was delivered by bus to Gaza where he hugged his sons, one of them for the first time. "It was like being reborn. My feelings were expressed by my tears."

His eldest daughter had married and had a child. She was the exact age his wife had been when he went to jail. "My eldest brother was 18, I was 15," recalled one son, Jamal. "It was the first time I met my father without a prison grill between us." But then in 1986, Jamal was arrested and sentenced to five years for fighting the Israelis. He said he threw a firebomb at an Israeli jeep, among other actions. The Israeli Prison Authority could not confirm that.

"It was normal for a kid of 15 who grew up with a father in prison," Jamal said. "Knowing that he's alive and you are denied his love and cannot reach him is something very painful. This creates hatred in your heart." A year after that, during the beginning of the first intifada, Jamal's brother, who said he was part of a team that hunted down Palestinian collaborators with Israel, was picked up in a sweep. The brothers said they were freed in 1994.

Jamal, now 36, sat by his curly haired 3-year-old son. "If the Israelis keep up like this," he said, "who can prevent my son from becoming a fighter? He sees images of blood, martyrs, hears sonic booms and says, 'I will become a martyr and fight them.' "

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: The Ministry of Prisoners' and Former Prisoners' Affairs in Gaza City has photographs of Palestinian prisoners and former prisoners. (Photo by Shawn Baldwin for The New York Times)(pg. A8)

Load-Date: August 4, 2006



InShort

The Irish Times

August 17, 2006 Thursday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

Length: 494 words

Body

A round-up of today's other stories in brief

Pluto moved to new planet category

PRAGUE - The question of whether Pluto is a real planet, hotly debated by scientists for decades, came to a head yesterday when the global astronomers' body proposed a definition of a planet that raises their number from nine to 12.

Under this definition Pluto would remain a planet but would fall into a new category called Plutons, which are distinguished from classical planets in that they take longer than 200 years to orbit the sun.

It would be joined in this category by two other celestial bodies, Xena and Charon, while another, Ceres, would be known as a dwarf planet. - (Reuters)

21 killed in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD - Security forces battled armed gangs and insurgents in two Iraqi cities yesterday as bomb attacks killed 21 in the capital.

British troops and armoured personnel carriers rushed to Basra as armed gangs fought with Iraqi forces for more than an hour in the mainly Shia city.

Police killed six insurgents in Mosul, a religiously divided city 390km north of Baghdad and the scene of considerable recent violence, including a suicide attack on a Kurdish political party on Tuesday in which nine died. - (Reuters)

Sex trafficking ring broken up

NEW YORK - A sex trafficking ring that smuggled Korean <u>women</u> in to the United States to work in brothels has been cracked and 31 people arrested.

Seventy <u>women</u> were in custody yesterday for questioning to see if they were victims of the ring that trafficked prostitutes between brothels in cities including New York, Washington and Philadelphia. - (Reuters)

Carter in wins Nevada primary

InShort

WASHINGTON - Jack Carter, the son of former US president Jimmy Carter, has won the Nevada Democratic primary for the US Senate and will face Republican incumbent John Ensign.

Making his first try for elective office, Mr Carter won the primary race with 76.5 per cent of the vote, according to an unofficial tally by the secretary of state's office. - (Reuters)

African leaders accused on Aids

CAPE TOWN - Zackie Achmat, South Africa's leading Aids activist, has accused African leaders of shirking their responsibility to fight the disease. Mr Achmat said leaders should be more vocal and criticised South Africa health minister Manto Tshababala- Msimang's advocacy of garlic, beetroot, potatoes and lemon to combat Aids.

"We want to hear from the African Union, we want to hear not about garlic and lemon juice, we want to hear real voices," Mr Achmat said at a protest in Cape Town to demand anti-retroviral treatment for infected prisoners. - (Reuters)

Abbas, Haniyeh talks to resume

GAZA - Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas and prime minister Ismail Haniyeh, a leader of the militant <u>Hamas</u> group, say they will renew negotiations to form a unity government that might ease international isolation.

In southern Gaza, a Palestinian boy was killed yesterday in fresh violence between Fatah gunmen and members of a *Hamas*-led police force. - (Reuters)

Load-Date: August 17, 2006



Olmert promises 'broad' offensive; Israeli leader rules out bargaining with those who kidnap Israeli soldier

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

June 27, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: TRISTATE; Pg. a8

Length: 465 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

With troops poised to invade Gaza, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Monday ruled out bargaining with the captors of an Israeli soldier and promised a "broad and ongoing" military offensive.

But large-scale army action appeared unlikely. Officials said they were pursuing a diplomatic solution and conceded that a broad attack would threaten the life of the 19-year-old hostage captured Sunday.

After more than 24 hours of silence, the militants claiming to hold Cpl. Gilad Shalit issued their first demands Monday. The groups, linked to the <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian government, said Israel should release all imprisoned Palestinian **women** and children younger than 18 in return for information about Shalit.

Olmert rejected the demand. Addressing Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, he charged that the Palestinian attack on an army post at a Gaza crossing and the abduction of the soldier were part of a "murderous, hateful, fanatical Islamic extremist desire to destroy the state of Israel."

"This is not a matter of negotiations, this is not a matter of bargaining," he declared. "Release of prisoners is absolutely not on the agenda of the Israeli government."

Shalit was seized at a military post near the Gaza border by militants who infiltrated Israel through a tunnel. The attack was the first successful infiltration by militants since Israel withdrew from Gaza in September and immediately threatened to plunge the region into a major flare-up of violence.

Speaking earlier to a tourism conference in Jerusalem, Olmert said he held the entire Palestinian leadership responsible for Shalit's safety and warned that his patience was wearing thin.

"I gave the orders to our military commanders to prepare the army for a broad and ongoing military operation to strike the terrorist leaders and all those involved," he said. "There will be immunity for no one."

Military officials said elite brigades and armored forces, backed by tanks, were sent to the frontier, where thousands of soldiers already are deployed.

The only concrete measure Olmert announced was closing off Gaza.

Olmert promises 'broad' offensive Israeli leader rules out bargaining with those who kidnap Israeli soldier

Egyptian security officials said they have posted 2,500 police on the border to head off a flood of refugees if Israel invades Gaza. They called the move precautionary.

With Israeli intelligence showing that Shalit was not seriously wounded, defense officials said there were no immediate plans for a massive ground incursion. Although Israel frequently carries out air raids in Gaza, ground troops have entered the area only three times - all briefly - since last year's pullout.

However, the officials said a limited operation could begin in the coming days.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, a moderate who has repeatedly clashed with <u>Hamas</u>, was working with Egyptian mediators and Arab and Western leaders to locate the soldier.

Graphic

AP Photo

Load-Date: July 5, 2006



Realities, absurdities of Israel-U.S. policies

The Toronto Star July 30, 2006 Sunday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. A17

Length: 765 words

Body

The humanitarian and moral crises in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip are the inevitable outcome of Israeli-American exceptionalism elevated to dangerous levels under George W. Bush and now adopted holus bolus by Stephen Harper.

It was a given that Israel would respond to the abductions and killings of its soldiers in Gaza and Lebanon. But there are many theories about how and why its response became so disproportionate that it triggered worldwide condemnation.

A new cabinet got railroaded by the defence establishment.

Israel was taken aback by the range, payload and accuracy of Hezbollah's missiles and had no choice but to go in, guns blazing, to send a strong message.

The abductions provided the excuse to do what Israel was planning anyway - try and destroy Hezbollah and *Hamas*.

Israel and the U.S. are redrawing the map of the region, with a wink and a nod from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan. They are all spooked by the American disaster in Iraq, the growing influence of Iran, the failure to curb its nuclear program, and by the rise of Hezbollah, in particular.

Regardless, the crisis has brought to the fore some of the realities and absurdities of Israeli-American policies.

Arab lives are cheap.

"Is the value of human life less in Lebanon than that of citizens elsewhere?" asked a distraught Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. "Are we children of a lesser God? Is an Israeli teardrop worth more than a drop of Lebanese blood?" Yes.

Bush wants an end to the conflict but he does not want a ceasefire. The U.S. sympathizes with the suffering of the Lebanese and the Palestinians but it won't stop the Israeli offensives that create the suffering.

The immediate causes of the twin wars in Gaza and Lebanon must be addressed but not the nearly four decadelong occupation and colonization of Palestinian and Syrian lands.

Israel won't negotiate a prisoner exchange - getting its soldiers back in return for four or five Lebanese prisoners and some of the 1,500 Palestinian prisoners, including <u>women</u> and children - even though it has swapped prisoners before.

Realities, absurdities of Israel - U.S. policies

The 2004 UN resolution on Lebanon, calling for Hezbollah to be disarmed, must be enforced - but not the 1967 and 1973 Security Council resolutions calling on Israel to vacate Arab-occupied lands.

The Lebanese government is too weak to disarm Hezbollah but must nevertheless do so. Hezbollah - as the main representative of the Shiites, the single largest community, constituting 35 per cent to 40 per cent of the population - is, in fact, part of the government that's supposed to do the disarming.

We need an international force to contain Hezbollah even though France, the former occupier of Lebanon (1920-'43), Germany and others won't join without Hezbollah's consent.

Previous buffer zones between Lebanon and Israel had to be abandoned but a new one must be created.

Hezbollah must be shunned in favour of the Lebanese government even though the latter parrots all of Hezbollah's demands: prisoner exchange; an end to Israeli violation of Lebanese air space; the return of the disputed Shabaa Farms; and the release of Israeli maps showing where mines have been laid.

It is important to protect Lebanon's nascent democracy but it's all right to cripple it with the current military offensive.

Democracy must be promoted but crushed if it does not produce the right results, as in the Occupied Territories.

Israel can destroy but others must pay. Saudi Arabia has pledged \$1.5 billion, the U.S. \$30 million, the EU \$12.6 million and Canada \$1 million to help fix the bombed infrastructure, as they had done earlier in the West Bank and the Gaza.

Iran and Syria should not arm <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah but the U.S. can arm Israel, to which it has just rushed aviation fuel and bunker-buster bombs.

Pulverizing Palestinians, by force and economic strangulation, hasn't worked for 40 years but it must continue, even if it produces evermore militant forms of resistance.

Assassinating Arab leaders seems not to deplete their bench strength but targeted killings must go on, the latest in the Israeli crosshairs being Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Iran and Syria can contain Hezbollah and Hamas but Iran and Syria must be boycotted.

NB: The Arab/Muslim world is inflamed; militancy is rising; moderates are marginalized; Islamists are winning wherever America is most involved; and the U.S., the biggest power in the world, and Israel, the biggest power in the region, are driven more and more by insecurity and fear.

It is to this world order that Harper has committed Canada.

Haroon Siddiqui appears Thursday and Sunday. hsiddiq @ thestar.ca.

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



The New York Times

June 14, 2006 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 1356 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER and IAN FISHER; Steven Erlanger reported from Gaza for this article, and Ian

Fisher from Tel Aviv.

Dateline: GAZA, June 13

Body

Eight Palestinian civilians were killed and more than 40 wounded Tuesday by an Israeli missile strike on Islamic militants riding in a van that Israeli officials said was carrying rockets to launch at Israel. Two men in the van were also killed, including a man the Israelis consider an important rocket maker.

The officials said the strike had prevented more of what has been a rising number of Palestinian missile attacks launched from Gaza. But the civilian casualties further inflamed Palestinian rage over eight deaths last week on a beach from what residents said was an errant Israeli shell. Seven of the dead were from one family.

In a news conference in Tel Aviv, Israel's defense minister, Amir Peretz, announced Tuesday that an investigation into the deaths on Friday showed that Israel was not to blame.

"We have enough findings to back up the suspicion that the intention to describe this as an Israeli event is simply not correct," he said, citing films, data on where and when the shells landed, and a piece of shrapnel taken from a victim. "The accumulating evidence proves that this incident was not due to Israeli forces."

The account was quickly disputed by officials from Human Rights Watch, who cited contrary evidence from an investigation of their own.

In the attack on Tuesday, one missile struck a van and killed two members of Islamic Jihad and apparently wounded a third. But a second missile fired shortly afterward hit the curb just in front of a house whose occupants had emerged to see what had happened, and members of the Mughrabi family and their neighbors were killed.

Two children and three medical workers died in the second explosion, after the first had destroyed the yellow Volkswagen van of a noted Islamic Jihad rocket maker, Hamoud Wadiya, who was killed. Israel said Mr. Wadiya was transporting Katyusha rockets to launch at Israel, and rockets were seen in the wreckage.

The Katyusha is a factory-made weapon of longer range and much greater accuracy than the crude Qassam rocket that Palestinian militants build in machine shops with explosives mixed in cooking pots.

The Katyushas, Israel says, have been smuggled into the Gaza Strip from Egypt and represent a significantly enhanced danger to Israeli cities.

Since Israel withdrew from Gaza 10 months ago, scores of Qassam rockets have been launched from Gaza; Israel says there were 100 rockets fired last month. Between June 2004 and March 2006, eight Israelis, including three children, were killed in the attacks, the Israeli military says.

Israel says it has been forced to go after the launching sites because the Palestinian authorities have done nothing about them.

Palestinian militants say they launch the rockets in response to Israel's continuing campaign to capture or kill Palestinian militants from Islamic Jihad and Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades.

After Tuesday's attack, a weeping Hekmat Mughrabi said her 30-year-old son, Ashraf, had died in her arms. Ashraf ran to the door after the first explosion, trying to calm children playing on the roof, she said. "He was shouting to the kids, 'Don't be afraid, don't be afraid!' " and had not even finished his sentence when the second missile hit, she told The Associated Press.

An angry Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, called the Israeli actions "state terrorism" and accused Israel of trying to "wipe out the Palestinian people."

Mr. Abbas, whose aides feel his support for talks is being undermined by the civilian death toll, said, "Every day there are martyrs, there are wounded people, all of them innocents, all of them bystanders."

The deaths are bound to make it harder for Mr. Abbas and the United States to persuade <u>Hamas</u>, which controls the Palestinian Authority, to recognize the right of Israel to exist, to forswear violence and to accept previous Palestinian-Israeli agreements, which are based on a permanent two-state solution.

Mr. Abbas will also find it more difficult to get <u>Hamas</u> to accept a referendum proposal that would at least implicitly recognize Israel.

There was pandemonium on Tuesday at Al Shifa Hospital, where the dead and the wounded were brought. Gunmen surged through the courtyard, firing weapons into the air, and banging on the door of the morgue to retrieve the bodies of their colleagues or family members.

They grabbed stretchers and paraded the corpses in impromptu marches around the hospital yards and into the streets, bearing the black banners of Islamic Jihad and the yellow ones of Fatah and Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, to which Ashraf Mughrabi belonged.

In a gruesome scene, one Islamic Jihad militant smeared the blood of his dead colleague onto his rifle and lifted it high into the air. Amid the acrid smoke of burning tires, <u>women</u> shouted, "Death to Israel! Death to the occupation!"

After the explosion on the beach in Gaza on Friday, <u>Hamas</u> said it was abandoning its 16-month cease-fire with Israel, though Israeli officials insist that <u>Hamas</u> had started firing its own Qassams toward Israel a week before.

Human Rights Watch, which has been investigating the Israeli shelling in Gaza on Friday, said of the deaths, "The evidence we have gathered strongly suggests Israeli artillery fire was to blame." It called on Israel to open an independent investigation rather than relying on its own military.

An American expert working with Human Rights Watch, Marc Garlasco, is a former Pentagon official who did bomb damage assessment for the American military in Kosovo and worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

He said that he had visited the beach the day after the explosion, and that the crater size, the shrapnel and the location of injuries on the bodies all pointed to "a shell dropping from the sky, not explosives under the sand."

In an interview in Gaza, he said he had found shrapnel "consistent with a 155-mm. Israeli shell fired from a M109 howitzer," including one piece stamped "155mm."

Defense Minister Peretz and other Israeli military officials offered a different analysis.

They contended that the explosion on the beach occurred between 4:57 p.m. and 5:10 p.m. They based that on an array of films, not specifically identified but shown at the news conference in Tel Aviv. One film taken from seaward showed what the officials called normal activity on that stretch of beach, with the time stamped as late as 4:57. A later film stamped at 5:15 showed an ambulance arriving from a hospital about five minutes away.

Brig. Gen. Hezi Levy, Israel's surgeon general and one of the investigators, said that they had accounted for all but one of the shells fired that day, and that none of them had exploded during this time. He said the one unaccounted-for artillery shell was fired "much" before 4:57. Later, another military official specified that that shell was launched at 4:30.

"There is no chance that this shell caused such damage," the general said.

The news conference, however, did make clear that shelling had occurred near that time and place. The last shell fell, according to a photograph of the site marked with the artillery hits, at 4:48, several hundred yards north of the site of the deaths.

General Levy said that four of those injured were taken to Israeli hospitals and that the single piece of shrapnel extracted from one of them did not match any munitions used that day.

The officials said they also reviewed other recent bombardments in the area and ruled out the possibility that an Israeli shell had landed there earlierand might have been set off by the Palestinian family.

Mr. Peretz and the others refused to speculate on what could have caused the explosion, though military officials have contended that *Hamas* may have planted land mines against Israeli commandos.

Mr. Peretz did not rule out the possibility of allowing outside experts review Israel's evidence, as Human Rights Watch demanded. But the army's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, said he did not see the need.

"What we are doing is very, very, very professional," he told reporters. "We don't need the assistance of anyone."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Victims from a house in Gaza that was hit yesterday by an Israeli missile. A rocket maker was also killed. (Photo by Khalil Hamra/Associated Press)(pg. A6)Chart: "Comparing Rockets"A Palestinian van hit by an Israeli missile on Tuesday was carrying Katyusha rockets.KatyushaRange: up to 28 miles

length: 17 feetThere are two known variations of the Katyusha used against the Israelis -- the 240-millimeter, above, which was test-fired by Hezbollah in August 2005, and the 122-millimeter, fired from the Gaza Strip in March 2006.QasssamRange: 2-6 miles

length: 6 feetQassam are handmade rockets with shorter range and less accuracy than the factory-made Katyusha.(Sources by Military Periscope

GlobalSecurity.org

Jane's

Israel Defense Forces)(pg. A6)

Load-Date: June 14, 2006



DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)
September 17, 2006 Sunday
SECOND EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 472 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

TOKYO

Typhoon slams into Japanese island chain

A strong typhoon battered Japan's southern Ryukyu island chain on Saturday, and two people died after heavy downpours triggered a landslide, a news report said.

Typhoon Shanshan, with maximum sustained winds of 110 mph, was forecast to continue north toward Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu, where it could make landfall as early as Monday, Japan's Meteorological Agency said.

Heavy rain triggered landslides that killed two people on Kyushu on Saturday as the typhoon approached, Kyodo News service reported.

The storm forced the suspension of dozens of flights and disrupted shipping in the region, public broadcaster NHK reported. Taiwan issued a maritime alert Friday for ships off its eastern and southern coasts as the typhoon passed.

BAIKONUR, KAZAKHSTAN

Russian rocket to take tourist to space station

Engineers mounted a Russian Soyuz rocket on top of its launch pad in the middle of the Kazakh steppe Saturday and began final preparations for blastoff to the international space station in two days.

Joining Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin and U.S. astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria on Monday will be the world's first <u>female</u> space tourist, Anousheh Ansari. Ansari is an Iranian-American entrepreneur who is paying an estimated \$20 million to be only the fourth amateur astronaut to visit the orbiting station.

BANGKOK, THAILAND

Blasts in south follow peace rally

A series of bomb blasts ripped through three department stores Saturday night in Thailand's restive south, killing four people and wounding dozens, police said.

DIGEST

The attacks in the region's main commercial center of Hat Yai came just hours after the military staged a peace rally in the south, the site of a Muslim insurgency, where it expressed hope that people would work with authorities to end the violence.

Authorities quickly blamed separatist insurgents for the attacks. Since 2004, they have waged a bloody campaign that has killed at least 1,700 people -- most civilians.

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

Abbas to meet with Bush, Palestinian says

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will meet President George W. Bush in New York this week and will probably seek to promote his planned coalition with *Hamas*, a Palestinian official said Saturday.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the meeting with Bush would take place Wednesday on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. The White House would not confirm the meeting, and it was not clear whether Bush's schedule in New York had been set. The two men last met in October 2005 in Washington.

Abbas, a moderate who leads the Fatah Party, and the militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u>, which currently rules alone, agreed last week to form a national unity government that would strive to establish a Palestinian state alongside Israel -- implying recognition of the Jewish state.

Graphic

PHOTO

PHOTO - River water gushes over a levee after a typhoon brought heavy rainfall in Karatsu, in southwestern Japan, on Saturday. The storm forced the suspension of dozens of flights and disrupted shipping in the region, according to reports. Kyodo News/The Associated Press

Load-Date: September 17, 2006



<u>Israelis kill Islamic Jihad leader in West Bank: Hani Awijan's group blamed</u> for attacks that have killed 71

Ottawa Citizen
July 30, 2006 Sunday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 484 words

Byline: Ali Daraghmeh, The Associated Press

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank

Body

NABLUS, West Bank - Israeli troops killed a top leader of the radical Islamic Jihad in a West Bank raid yesterday, the group said, and the Israelis pressed ahead with their offensive in the Gaza Strip.

Islamic Jihad said the leader of its militant wing in Nablus, Hani Awijan, 29, was killed by Israeli undercover troops. They came to arrest him while he was playing soccer with friends and relatives, the group said. Another Islamic Jihad militant was also killed.

The army confirmed soldiers operated in Nablus and said a militant was killed in an exchange of fire.

Israel Radio said Mr. Awijan was responsible for a series of attacks on Israelis. Over the past 17 months, Islamic Jihad has been responsible for all 12 suicide bombing attacks in Israel, killing 71 people.

Islamic Jihad announced Mr. Awijan's death from mosque loudspeakers. As news of the raid spread through Nablus, large crowds gathered. Militants burned tires in the streets and called for a general strike in the city. Shops were quickly closed.

While most attention is on the Israel-Lebanon conflict and the monthlong Israeli offensive in Gaza, Israeli forces carry out nightly arrest raids in the West Bank, searching for suspected militants. Often more than 20 are detained in a single night.

Israel moved tanks and troops into Gaza and started an intensive campaign of airstrikes after <u>Hamas</u>-linked militants tunnelled under the border and attacked an Israeli army post at a crossing point, killing two soldiers and capturing a third, Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19.

Palestinian officials said they have not received a response to their demand that Israel guarantee that it will free <u>women</u>, children and long-serving Palestinian prisoners before Cpl. Shalit is released.

Dr. Salah Bardawil, a senior <u>Hamas</u> official, said Israel's refusal to guarantee the release of prisoners before the release of Cpl. Shalit had created a stalemate.

Israelis kill Islamic Jihad leader in West Bank: Hani Awijan's group blamed for attacks that have killed 71

Early yesterday, Israeli tanks moved back into Gaza a day after completing a two-day raid in the northern part of the seaside strip in which 30 Palestinians were killed. Most of the dead were armed militants, but some were civilians, including an elderly woman and a child.

Late yesterday, residents reported Israeli tanks moving east of Gaza City, a frequent area of Israeli operations, to try to stop Palestinian militants from firing rockets at Israeli communities.

In airstrikes early today, Israeli aircraft destroyed a house belonging to a militant in Gaza City, residents said. Israel warned the occupants to leave, and the house was empty. Another target was the house of a militant leader in the town of Beit Hanoun. Eight people were wounded in the attacks, three seriously, hospital officials said.

Also, Israeli aircraft fired missiles near the southern town or Rafah, knocking out electricity. The Israelis said they were aiming at a site where Palestinians were tunneling under the Gaza-Egypt border.

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



Captured Israeli 'in Egypt for swap'

The Australian (Australia)
September 6, 2006 Wednesday
All-round First Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 495 words

Byline: Abraham Rabinovich, Jerusalem

Body

MATP

<u>HAMAS</u> has transferred the captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to Egypt in anticipation of his exchange for 800 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli hands, according to the Arabic-language newspaper al-Khayat, published in London.

The report received apparent confirmation, in slightly different form, from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who told a Bahrain newspaper that a deal for Corporal Shalit's release had been reached and that the soldier "will be transferred" to Egypt, at which time the number of Palestinian prisoners to be released by Israel will be announced.

Corporal Shalit's capture two months ago by militants who tunnelled into Israel from the Gaza Strip triggered severe Israeli reprisals that have taken the lives of about 250 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, knocked out part of its electricity supply and imposed severe economic sanctions. In addition, leading *Hamas* legislators on the West Bank have been imprisoned.

Al-Khayat, a widely respected publication, said Israel had refused to release prisoners "with blood on their hands" as part of the deal, which means anyone involved in executing or planning fatal terror attacks.

It has also refused to release Marwan Barghouti, a leading Fatah figure seen as the person most likely to inherit Mr Abbas's role as leader of the Fatah movement and possibly as head of the Palestinian Authority.

The al-Khayat report, which cited Palestinian sources, said the deal also included Palestinian agreement to a temporary truce, which presumably means a halt in the firing of rockets into Israel from the Gaza Strip, and Israeli agreement to lift the restrictions it has imposed since Corporal Shalit's capture.

A senior Israeli minister told Israel Radio he was unaware of any such deal. Israeli defence sources declined to comment.

The militants holding Corporal Shalit, who turned 20 in captivity, have demanded the release of all Palestinian <u>women</u> prisoners, as well as juveniles and men who have been in prison for 20 years or longer. They also sought the release of men in leadership positions who do not fall into those categories, such as Barghouti.

Captured Israeli 'in Egypt for swap'

Meanwhile, Israel has accepted the offer of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's help in obtaining the release of two soldiers captured by Hezbollah in a raid from Lebanon on July 12 that triggered the month-long war.

Israel demands the unconditional release of sergeants Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, who were seized on Israeli territory. However, it is understood that they will not be released unless Israel also releases prisoners. Any deal reached will be between Israel and the Lebanese Government.

Hezbollah is particularly keen for the return of Samir Kuntar, who has been held by Israel for 28 years for clubbing to death a four-year-old girl and shooting her father in a raid. It is not clear whether Israel will agree to his release. It was primarily to obtain Kuntar's release that Hezbollah staged the raid to seize soldiers for an exchange.

Load-Date: September 5, 2006



No more of behind-closed-doors dealings with Hicks; Letters to the Editor>letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

Canberra Times (Australia)

July 1, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. B06 **Length:** 501 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

"The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that President Bush overstepped his authority in ordering military war crimes trials for Guantanamo Bay detainees" (New York Times, June 29).

The ruling states clearly that the proposed trials by military tribunals are illegal under United States law and international Geneva conventions.

For four years, John Howard, Alexander Downer and Philip Ruddock have asserted the military tribunals are legal, humane, and appropriate for one of our citizens, David Hicks. Not even Australia's "best friends", Bush and his mob, can assert this any more. What say you now, parliamentarians? Judy Bamberger, O'Connor Just when you think arrogance and stupidity are becoming their defining characteristics, the Americans' system of checks and balances kicks in to snuff out an administration's misanthropy.

Hopefully now, David Hicks won't be found guilty of secret charges by a secret panel and given a secret sentence.

Let's hear in full what he is accused of. No more of the behind-closed-doors arrangements that our Foreign Minister has managed to pull off with the British to keep Hicks in purgatory for the political convenience of the incumbent Australian and US federal governments.

Jody Bailey, Kahibah, NSW Palestinian pain Palestinian fighters have recently attacked an Israeli army post, including a watchtower, and abducted one barely adult soldier.

Later they demanded the release of Palestinian children and <u>women</u> from Israeli political detention in exchange for the release of the youth.

Israel's response is to smash the Gaza ghetto, including its infrastructure, and to round up the democratically elected politicians they don't like.

Like always, when Israel plays out its overwhelming occupation power, the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice does nothing but to ask for moderation and continues her travels, drumming up support for the "war on terror", but not for the "war on our terror".

No more of behind-closed-doors dealings with Hicks Letters to the Editor>letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

Moral high priests Tony Blair, John Howard and Alexander Downer are no- where to be seen or heard. Has the Israeli Government, have we, has anyone learnt anything from the world- destabilising history of outrageous injustice inflicted first on Jews and now on Palestinians, the latter of which we continue to condone?

Jochen Zeil, Hackett That Israel is not interested in peace or a Palestinian state is quite evident from its dismissal of the agreement and its provocations to end the ceasefire that <u>Hamas</u> has observed for 17 months ("<u>Hamas</u> deal recognises two-state solution," June 29, p15).

First Israel kills the Palestinian head of security forces Jamal Abu Samdhana (June 8), then shells the Gaza beach killing members of the Ghaliya family.

The Israeli air force then kills three children in a crowded street (June 20).

Israel rained 5000 shells on Gaza in the past month alone (Tanya Reinhart, Yediot Aharanot, June 21).

Having incited the conflagration and destroyed the ceasefire, Israel can revert to its old slogan of "no one to talk with".

Narendra Mohan Kommalapati, Spence

Load-Date: June 30, 2006