

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

Job Number: 223444996

Documents (100)

1. Israeli siege leaves Gaza town battered: Aid blockade 'reprehensible:' UN envoy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

2. Gaza is a prison again

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

3. Children of the intifada: The lost generation Young Palestinians are violent, radical and short of hope

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

4. World Journal

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

5. At least one Palestinian woman was killed when Israeli forces opened fire on a group near a Gaza mosque.

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

6. WORLD BRIEFS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

7. At least one Palestinian woman was killed when Israeli forces opened fire on a group near a Gaza mosque.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

8. Israeli repairs near holy site spark Islamic outrage: Dome of the rock. Tensions threaten revival of peace talks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

9. Five die after sewage dam bursts

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

10. World Report

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

11. HOW CAN THIS BE JUSTIFIED? FOREIGN SECRETARY'S FURY AT ISRAELI TANK ATTACK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

12. World Digest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

13. World Report

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

14. Maybe they are just conveniently forgetting A critical quest: to offer hope where there is only despair

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

15. 33 WOMEN ARRESTED AFTER PROTESTS IN IRAN

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

16. Fury at Israel 's Gaza killings

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

17. In Gaza, wealth is a golden memory

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

18. Nation & world

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

19. <u>Blame game played as Gaza buries its dead: UN meets in closed session as Palestinians, Israelis trade</u> accusations over slain family

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

20. In Gaza, wealth is a golden memory

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

21. Visit includes rocket blast UN official sees Israeli - Palestinian turmoil

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

22. Israel loosens restrictions on Palestinians to aid Abbas

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

23. Blockade helps Gaza militants, says report

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

24. History offers little chance for Arab democracy; Regional, Tribal Influences Still Dominate

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

25. America the terrible

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

26. Top of the World

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

27. Madam speaker, keep your mouth shut

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

28. <u>Mideast can find peace if U.S. acts, Ellison says The Minnesota Democrat and first Muslim congressman</u> said he returned from the region impressed with the desire for reconciliation at every stop.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

29. BBC correspondent kidnapped in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

30. Briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

31. A Palestinian woman was killed and another 10 were reported wounded when Israeli forces opened fire on a group outside a Gaza mosque

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

32. World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

33. Rockets Fray Nerves in Israeli 'Bull's-Eye' City

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

34. Abduction signals troubling trend in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

35. Anxiety is way of life in Israeli border town

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

36. Israeli border town lives in fear of falling rockets

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

37. The only place left to turn is Islam' Disheartened by 'democracy project,' Arab Muslims seek new source of

hope

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

38. Deciding which 256 will go free Israeli ministry whittles down list of Palestinian prisoners, drawing criticism

'from all sides'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

39. Scandal distracts Israel from conflict: Sordid details involving President Moshe Katsav made public

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

40. Sewage flood kills five: Scores missing in Gaza Strip village

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

41. Burka issue goes deeper

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

42. ISRAELI SOLDIER LEFT BEHIND IN GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

43. Human shields Women marchers gunned down in Battle of Beit

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

44. Uri Dan's Famous Phrase On Language

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

45. Years of Strife and Lost Hope Scar Young Palestinian Lives

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

46. 'Am I dreaming?'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

47. WITH CAIR, COMPROMISE COMPLICATED

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

48. In Short

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

49. <u>Details of alleged sex crimes released: Attorney-general seeks eviction of president said to have forced two</u> female employees to have intercourse

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

50. <u>Book Festival: Reviews: MARGARET ATWOOD: JUSTIN CARTWRIGHT: VAL McDERMID & DENISE</u>
MINA: NICK COHEN Poetry drawn from the heart - and from the margins of history

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

51. INTERNATIONAL: Israeli tank kills 18 members of family

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by



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

Sep 30, 2007

52. Israeli group seeks Gaza 'war crimes' inquiry

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

53. Israel faces all-out conflict with Palestinians Call for suicide attacks after 18 civilians die in shelling, reports

Tim Butcher

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

54. Send in the Browns

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

55. How Gaza gets guns (and some butter, too)

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

56. Israel approves list of prisoners for release

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

57. Israel braced for revenge attacks after dawn barrage kills family

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

58. Disease hits another farm

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

59. How can Blair possibly be given this job?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

60. <u>Gazans fear rise of new Islamic zealots Groups attack schools and cafes to enforce a 'Talibanisation' that</u> threatens yet more instability

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

61. World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

62. Militants demand exchange for Israeli

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

63. Suharto cash back scheme

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

64. International Briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

65. <u>Israel thwarting peace talks: Jordan: King says excavation work in Jerusalem threatens one of Islam's</u> holiest shrines

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

66. INTERNATIONAL: N. Wales MP condemns troop killing of women

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

67. Comment & Debate: A brutal taste of the future: The assault on Beit Hanoun is a terrifying example of what lies in store for Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

68. The chance to jettison a reckless policy that is plainly not working LEADING ARTICLE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

69. Six days of war, 40 years of pain MIDDLE EAST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

70. Inching Westward in the Maghreb Reforms in North Africa

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

71. Inside Today

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

72. Six days of war, 40 years of pain MIDDLE EAST



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

73. Round the World in Eighty Seconds

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

74. Letter: End the Gaza siege

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

75. CONTINUATION: Murder, kidnap and chaos: violent Gaza approaches 'tipping point'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

76. Another 'sewage tsunami' looms in Gaza: agency

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

77. Unfriendly Views on U.S. -Backed Arabic TV

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

78. Comment & Debate: Internal conflict and paralysis is corroding our credibility: Israel 's occupation is the main reason for today's misery. But Palestinians still need to take control of their own future

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

79. GAZA RAID A ROARING SUCCESS AS CAPTIVE LION FREED

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

80. Israel is braced for next attack a year after war with Hezbollah

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

81. Letters to the Editor

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

82. Troubled by crisis in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

83. Saudi Royals Mask A Jihad Agenda

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

84. Blair's call for elections is a ruse

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

85. Guardian Weekly: The roundup

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

86. 2 women candidates: The likeness ends there Politicus

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

87. Five killed after sewage floods village in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

88. Opinion: Moderate is a word that many claim and all too few deserve

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

News

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

89. Gaza under seige

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

90. War over, but fight goes on

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

91. War over, but fight goes on

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

92. U.N. Official Touring Israel Is Near Area Hit by Rocket

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

93. Militants Seize, Then Release, U.S. Teacher In West Bank

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

94. In short

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

95. Ticking Time Bomb

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

96. Stranded Palestinians start hunger strike

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

97. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

98. Israel kills 4 Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2007

99. McCain camp apologizes for anti-LDS remarks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2007

100. Young people's music? I'd rather field-strip an AK47

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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



<u>Israeli siege leaves Gaza town battered: Aid blockade 'reprehensible:' UN</u> envoy

Ottawa Citizen November 8, 2006 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A11

Length: 382 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell, The Times, London

Dateline: BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip

Body

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip - Israeli tanks withdrew from Beit Hanoun in Gaza yesterday after a six-day siege, revealing the scale of destruction during a raid in which more than 50 Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed.

Palestinian agencies condemned the destruction of homes, orchards, water pipes and electricity cables during the raid, which was intended to curb militant rocket attacks.

Although most of the dead were gunmen, witnesses accused Israeli troops of killing as many as 15 civilians, including one man who was shot dead after being interrogated and released with a note granting him safe passage.

When outsiders gained access yesterday, they found the town's historic Nasr mosque almost flattened, except for one minaret. It was a legacy of last week's two-day standoff, in which 70 besieged Palestinian gunmen were freed by a *Hamas women*'s march.

Women lined up at water trucks, afraid that the remaining water supply had been contaminated by sewage.

The raid left a residue of bitterness, even as Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, of <u>Hamas</u>, and President Mahmoud Abbas of the moderate Fatah party resumed talks to create a national unity government.

Karen AbuZayd, the commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, said her staff had been unable to deliver emergency relief until Saturday, the fourth day of Israel's offensive.

"I think it is reprehensible," Ms. AbuZayd said. "We are here as a humanitarian agency. There are certain laws of war, there are certain things that should be respected."

Other agencies said they were granted limited access earlier during the week-long operation in the town of 43,000.

Naziq al Kafarnah, the mayor of Beit Hanoun, said the town had suffered its worst destruction since the 1967 Six Day War. He put the damage at \$10 million U.S.

The Israeli army insisted that its operation had targeted "terrorist organizations and terrorist infrastructure only, while making every effort to avoid harming civilians."

Israeli siege leaves Gaza town battered: Aid blockade 'reprehensible:' UN envoy

It said that units "targeted and hit" nine cells that were firing crude, but potentially deadly, Qassam rockets into Israel, killing dozens of armed gunmen. It also uncovered rocket-launchers, anti-tank missile launchers, grenades, explosive devices, Kalashnikov assault rifles, ammunition and observation equipment.

Load-Date: November 8, 2006

End of Document



Gaza is a prison again

Canberra Times (Australia)

December 9, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. B07 Length: 1109 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

MAYBE they are just conveniently forgetting other periods in Gaza's turbulent and blood- stained history but most Gazans will tell you that 2006 is the worst year they can remember.

In Gaza's City's deserted gold market, people are not even coming to sell their jewellery any more.

"We just sit and drink tea," said Yasser Moteer, 35, who runs a jewellery stall. "It's worse than any time in the 20 years I've been here.

It's crazy."

The gold-selling began soon after the international and Israeli boycott of the <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian Authority started to plunge Gaza's economy into collapse last March.

Certainly, the 1.3million people of this ancient coastal strip of territory, a mere 360sqkm, can never have experienced as intense a swing of hope to despair as they have in little more than 12 months.

Ariel Sharon's decision to withdraw Israel's settlers and troops in August 2005 made many Palestinians here hope for a better future.

It was not just the sudden freedom to travel from north to south without the endless delays at the hated Abu Houli checkpoint, or that children in the southern town of Khan Younis could run west through the ruins of the Jewish settlement of Neve Dekalim and plunge into the Mediterranean, or that families could again cross the southern border at Rafah and reunite with their relatives in Egypt. It was the sense that for the first time in five dark, stifling and dangerous years, Gaza could breathe, psychologically, and just maybe, economically.

As 2006 nears its close, it is easy to see how cruelly those hopes have been mocked by what has happened this year.

Since <u>Hamas</u> and other Gaza militants seized the Israeli corporal Gilad Shalit, and killed two of his comrades in late June, shells, drones and machinegun-fire from Israeli forces have killed some 400 Palestinians, including civilians, **women** and children, among them, in a conflict much of which was overshadowed by the war in Lebanon.

For five months, electricity was cut to eight hours a day, damaging water supplies, after Israeli bombing.

Gaza is a prison again

Reaching a peak in July, the use of sonic booms, often deliberately timed as children were going to school, created misery and fear.

A far lower but significant number of civilians, also including children, have been killed or wounded in the sporadic fighting between Fatah and <u>Hamas</u>, the two dominant factions in Palestinian politics, or in battles between extended families.

For the immediate survivors of the Israeli shells that killed 17 members of the Athamneh family as they tried to flee their home in Beit Hanoun, the bereavement is, if anything, harder to bear now, more than three weeks since it happened.

In late afternoon sunshine on Sunday, in the now eerily peaceful alley where the carnage was perpetrated, Hayat Athamneh, 56, a strong woman who lost three adult sons, all fathers themselves, sat with their still devastated and injured brother Amjad, 31, and his wife, who lost their own son Mahmoud, 10.

"Now I feel it," said Hayat, covering her eyes as they fill with tears."It wasn't so bad at the beginning.

There were a lot of people around.

Now there is nobody."

As she reeled off the list of Palestinian and foreign dignitaries who had visited the site, her daughter-in-law Tahani, 35, said, "They all came. But nothing happened."

Tahani talks about the three surviving Athmaneh members, two of them children, who lost limbs in the attack.

Arriving to join them, her brother- in-law Majdi Athamneh, who lost his 12-year-old son, Saad, says that not only do the extended family fear to go back to their shelled house because of the structural damage, but they no longer think they should live together as they had for so many years. "When so many members of one family were killed, it is better to make sure it doesn't happen again and live apart," he said.

Eight kilometres away in Gaza City, Adeeb Zarhouk, 44, is a man used to hard work and 4am starts to support his wife Majda, 44, and their seven children in the 20 years he was employed in Israel as a freelance metalworker and electrician, and then for five working for an Israeli company in the now flattened Erez industrial zone of Gaza.

Each day, he hopes for a request to install a TV satellite dish or do another odd job. "But the phone hasn't rung for two weeks," he says.

"Nobody has any money to do these things " Zarhouk is part of the 64 per cent increase in "deep poverty" among Palestinian refugees in the last year.

He is naturally cheerful but, as his wife prepares a three-shekel (90c) family breakfast of beans, felafal and a few tomatoes, he says, "When I'm at home by myself I start crying.

When your son asks you for half a shekel and you don't have it ..." He gets up to wash tears from his eyes.

Then he says that although as a refugee he earned \$240 a month on a three-month United Nations Relief and Works Agency job program, he now owes \$540 in rent and the family eats meat only when his 20-year-old policeman son has an irregular 1500-shekel handout in lieu of his salary as a PA policeman.

Who does Zarhouk, who voted Fatah, in the last election blame? "I blame democracy," he says with a flash of sarcasm. "The whole world wanted us to have democracy and said how fair had been our election.

The problem is they didn't like our results."

The world's boycott of the PA since those elections ended salaries for the PA employees on whose Gaza's economy largely depends.

Gaza is a prison again

The highly professional, if desperately under-equipped, health service is suffering. In her bed at Shifa hospital, Intisar al Saqqa is waiting for the drug Taxoter which doctors at Shifa said she needs to treat a breast cancer which has spread to her vital organs. "Every week, they say it will come on Monday," says her mother, Hadra, 62. "But it doesn't. Inshallah, it will come soon." Her daughter says, "I don't blame anybody."

The agreement Condoleezza Rice persuaded Israel to sign a year ago to free the passage of goods and people into and out of Gaza has not been implemented, as a UN report pointed out. The UN's Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Gaza's access to the outside world was "extremely limited" and that commercial trade is "negligible" diplomatese for saying Gaza is a prison again.

Israel refuses to take the blame, saying the boycott and closures result from security anxieties and from the refusal of *Hamas* to modify its stances on recognition and violence, and refusing, so far, to release the Israeli corporal.

Now, with talks between <u>Hamas</u> and Mahmoud Abbas apparently past collapse, there is little hope, and plenty to do for the non-government organisations and charities that are trying to keep Gaza alive.

The Independent

Load-Date: December 8, 2006

End of Document



<u>Children of the intifada: The lost generation; Young Palestinians are violent, radical and short of hope</u>

The International Herald Tribune

March 12, 2007 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 1935 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank

Body

Their worried parents call them the lost generation of Palestine: its most radical, most accepting of violence and most despairing.

They are the children of the second intifada, which began in 2000, growing up in a territory riven by infighting, seared by violence, occupied by Israel, largely cut off from the world and segmented by barriers and checkpoints.

To hear these young people talk is to listen in on budding nihilism and a loss of hope.

"Ever since we were little, we see guns and tanks, and little kids wanting little guns to fight against Israel," said Raed Debie, 24, a student at An Najah University in Nablus.

Issa Khalil, 25, broke in, agitated. "We never see anything good in our lives," he said. He was arrested for throwing stones in the first intifada, the civil disobedience that began in the late 1980s and led to the 1993 Oslo accords with Israel. He was arrested again in the second uprising as the agreement faltered.

"And for what?" he asked. "I wasted 14 years of my life; we all did. For five years I haven't left Nablus. Here there's unemployment and no peace; it retreats, we go backward."

While generations of young Palestinians have grown up stateless, seething at Israel as the visible agent of oppression, this generation is uniquely stymied.

Israeli checkpoints, barriers and closures, installed to protect Israelis from Palestinian suicide bombers, have lowered these young people's horizons, shrunk their Palestine and taken away informal interaction with outsiders, let alone with ordinary Israelis.

The security measures have become tighter since the election a year ago of the Islamist group <u>Hamas</u>, which preaches eternal "resistance" and rejects Israel's right to permanent existence.

During most of the 1980s and '90s, as many as 150,000 Palestinians came into Israel daily to work, study and shop. Now, the only Israelis whom Palestinians see are armed soldiers and settlers. The West Bank is cut into three parts by checkpoints; Gazan men under 30 are virtually unable to leave their tiny, crowded territory. Few talk of peace.

Children of the intifada: The lost generation Young Palestinians are violent, radical and short of hope

Many Israelis agree that the current generation of young Palestinians has been radicalized, but say it is the product of Palestinian political and religious leaders who have promoted violence and terrorism against Israel.

Palestine is an overwhelmingly youthful place 56.4 percent of Palestinians are under 19 and in Gaza 75.6 percent of the population is under 30, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

Opinion polls show a generation more supportive of armed struggle and terrorism than its parents, according to Waleed Ladadweh of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research.

"We're pushed all the time to be more political, more militant, more religious, more extreme," said Shadi el-Haj, 20, a student at An Najah. "We want to be Palestinians, like the generation of the first intifada. All our problems start with 'I'm Fatah, I'm *Hamas*.' It wasn't like that before."

During the first intifada the young were a symbol of the struggle for statehood, leaders of a popular uprising. But in the brutal struggle of the second intifada, which has been taken over by the militias, "now the youth are irrelevant," said Nader Said, a political scientist at Ramallah's Birzeit University.

More importantly, this generation has lost faith in political solutions.

"They haven't lived one moment in a period of real hope for a real state," Said said. "With this internal fighting, there is more and more a feeling that we don't deserve a state, which kills the morale of the young."

Some 58 percent of those under 30, the center's polls show, expect a more violent struggle with Israel over the next 5 to 10 years and only 22 percent believe that there will be a negotiated solution. Some 48 percent believe such an agreement is impossible.

There are no comparable figures from the late 1980s, when the first intifada began. But in 2000, according to the center, only 32 percent of Palestinians between 18 and 30 believed there would be conflict and violence with Israel in the next 5 to 10 years. Some 21 percent thought there would be more peace.

In 2000 only 7 percent of all Palestinians identified themselves as favoring *Hamas*. Forty-six percent favored Fatah. But today, even after a difficult year of *Hamas* rule, the two factions are roughly equal.

With such prospects, young Palestinians talk more and more about emigration. Almost 50 percent of Palestinians between 18 and 30 would emigrate if they could, according to Said.

Zakariya Zubeidi is imbued with what he sees as the heroism of the first intifada, built on the conviction that sacrifice would bring a state and a better future. Now he runs the Al Aksa Brigades in Jenin and is wanted by Israel.

"It was always our choice to be fuel for the struggle," he said. "But our problem now is that the car burns the youth as fuel but doesn't move. There's a problem in the engine, in the head. These kids are willing to be fuel, but many have been burned as waste."

Zubeidi was a hero of the first intifada. "When I was younger I thought, if I die, that's natural, it's for a cause," he said. "And today I think differently. To die? For what? For these people who can't agree? That's what this generation fears. It's lost, and its sacrifices are meaningless. Is the Palestinian dream dying? In these circumstances, yes."

The Hothouse of Gaza

In another part of the refugee camp, four black-clad fighters gathered in self-conscious secrecy, members of the Abu Rish brigades, a Fatah offshoot that has moved close to *Hamas*.

Raed, 30, was arrested in the first intifada, when he was 16. He felt like a hero, then, but the political result, the Oslo accords, "were useless and benefited Israel," he said. "No one can resist with stones or build a nation without violence."

Children of the intifada: The lost generation Young Palestinians are violent, radical and short of hope

Like his comrades, he says he is fighting for his children's future, but he has small hopes for them, and large fears.

"<u>Hamas</u> and Fatah are so divided, the goal of Palestine disappears," he said. "I talk about willing my children to be martyrs for Allah, but I honestly wish for them to be safe and healthy, that's all."

There is bravado there, but also frustration. None of the fighters, who agreed to talk if their last names were unpublished, believe a Palestinian state will be established; none can imagine living next to Israel. All want to leave and start again, somewhere.

Gaza is a poor, chaotic place of 1.5 million people, 70 percent of them refugees or their descendants. Younger, more conservative and more religious than the West Bank, Gaza is the heartland of *Hamas*.

With the economy of Gaza shutting down, much of the work for young people is either in the swollen security forces or in the armed militias or gangs, some of which engage more in racketeering than in fighting.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, with considerable financial help from Iran and Syria, are known at least to pay their own.

Hassan, 21, ran out of money before finishing university, but says: "I look at the graduates here, and their diplomas are useless. That's why I'm in the resistance."

Mirvat Massoud was 18, the first child in her family to go to a university, when she decided last November to blow herself up. The Israeli Army had taken over Beit Hanun, looking for militants firing rockets into Israel.

Inspired by a 2004 suicide attack carried out by her cousin, Nabil, for Fatah's Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, Mirvat volunteered to become a suicide bomber. The brigades declined, saying that one "martyr" in a family was enough, then told her father, Amin, a Fatah member.

"I spoke to her of course," said the father, agitated, moving his hands through the empty air. "I said, 'Your education will be jihad. Going to school is jihad.' I don't know what drove her too much faith inside her, I don't know."

The wall above her desk is still covered with "martyr posters" from the dead of Jabaliya camp, and her parents knew she was becoming more religious. She was enraged by reports of a van of schoolchildren hit by shrapnel in Beit Hanun and she slipped away to volunteer again, for Islamic Jihad.

She died, lightly wounding two Israelis.

Far to the north, in Jenin, Suhaila Badawi, 20, knows every detail of Mirvat's story. She sees her both as familiar and as a model, a symbol of bravery for young Palestinian <u>women</u>. "I wouldn't commit such an act, but I understand her completely and I admire her," Badawi said. "She was a Palestinian like me. I don't think she was misled."

Khader Fayyad, 46, lives in Beit Hanun and works as an ambulance driver, dispatched to every horror.

"I call these kids the destroyed generation," Fayyad said. "Nobody pays attention to this generation, except to recruit them, and it's very dangerous." He is proud of 16-year-old Ayman, the brightest of his sons. But he feels unable to provide him a valuable future.

"Resistance and politics must go together," Fayyad said. "Yasser Arafat knew how to use one for the other. Now, there is no politics, no talks, so the sacrifices of the youth are empty."

Ayman, however, like most of his generation, cannot imagine living in peace next to an Israel that has ripped up his town. "Israel should leave this land," he said angrily, then repeats what he's taught, that all of Palestine belongs to Muslims. "The Jews should go back to where they came from. They have no place here."

Yet Fayyad believes that this generation is still malleable. "You can influence them through realistic solutions," he said. "If you delivered a real, two-state solution, believe me, they would go into the streets and dance. But if nothing changes, believe me also, they are lost lost to all of us."

Children of the intifada: The lost generation Young Palestinians are violent, radical and short of hope

The Youngest Ones

In Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp, in an apartment along the rutted main road unpaved after the halt of American aid to the Palestinian Authority, Najwa and Taher el-Assar brood about their three children, Mustafa, 6, Ahmed, 5, and newborn Salma.

"The boys have become so violent in the way they think," she said. "In a way, they're no longer children."

She described how she and her husband watched the news last summer of the shelling on a Gaza beach that left a family dead, a tragedy Israel denied causing but could not explain.

"Then, days later, Mustafa says, 'I want to be fat, mommy.' And why? 'Because I want to put on a suicide belt and not have the Israelis see it.' I was shocked," Assar said.

"But it's in the news, the environment, the sound of the Apaches and the F-16s. It all affects them, and they get nervous. Ahmed is very violent with his brother, he has no patience."

For the Id festival, the boys asked for toy Kalashnikovs and Uzis, and they know all about Qassam rockets.

Najwa said softly: "I feel there is no way I can protect them or hide them. When I delivered Salma I thought, 'Oh my God, a third child in this life.' It haunts me.

"I think, 'What if? What if a rocket hits the house? What if the Israelis have another 'accident'? What if Mustafa is 19 and attracted to a group of militants and I don't know and I hear on TV that this person went to Israel and exploded himself?"

Taher said: "They can't live as normal children. When a kid realizes a parent can't supply security and safety, what is the point of these parents?"

Mustafa and Ahmed played with new umbrellas, one printed with Disney characters and one with cats and dogs. They ran in and out of the sitting room.

Then they came in, conspiratorial. Watch, they insisted, then pressed the buttons on the umbrellas, which expanded suddenly and flew into the air. "Qassams!" they shouted gleefully. "Qassams!"

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End of Document



World Journal

The Telegraph-Journal (New Brunswick)

December 14, 2006 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

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Body

Bill will open door to native rights complaints

OTTAWA - Native people are expected to make hundreds of discrimination claims if a bill tabled today is passed. The Conservatives want to repeal a section of the Human Rights Act that has blocked native complaints in the past. Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice says it's an injustice he wants to correct. But national native groups won't support the bill. The Native <u>Women</u>'s Association of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations say human rights must be protected, but they say Prentice failed to consult native people and never responded to their calls for a crucial transition period.

Politics

PM invites media to party on wrong date

OTTAWA - The prime minister's tumultuous relationship with the national media is taking on a comic twist this holiday season. Stephen Harper is inviting members of the parliamentary press gallery to a yuletide reception at his official residence on Monday, Dec. 19. One problem: there is no Monday, Dec. 19 this year. Officials in Harper's office said the erroneous date on the invitation was unintentional. The event is actually being held on Tuesday, the 19th. The holiday get-together comes after a year of less-than-cordial relations between the rookie prime minister and the journalists who cover him full time.

Health

Conjoined twins going home

VANCOUVER - Twin girls born joined at the head in Vancouver last month are healthy enough to be going home. Dr. Brian Lupton of B.C. <u>Women</u>'s Hospital says Tatiana and Krista will be going to Vernon with their mother, Felicia Simms, as soon as today. The babies share parts of their brains and will return to hospital in the spring for further tests, but it's not clear if they can be separated.

Justice

Women linked to murder ask for help

OTTAWA - Two Canadian <u>women</u> named by Mexican officials as suspects in the grisly slayings of Dominic and Nancy Ianiero are asking Prime Minister Stephen Harper to help clear their names. Speaking at a news conference Wednesday in Ottawa, Cheryl Everall and Kimberly Kim asked Harper to renegotiate the protocols under the mutual

World Journal

legal assistance treaty. Everall said such intervention would allow Canadian officials to investigate on Mexican soil. The lanieros were found with their throats slashed in a blood-soaked hotel room at a resort near Cancun. Everall and Kim, who were on vacation at the resort, have been named as suspects by Mexican officials.

War

Iraqis unveil new security plan

BAGHDAD - A new round of car bombings and other violence struck Iraq on Wednesday, with 55 people killed or found dead as the Iraqi government unveiled a plan to assume responsibility for security in Baghdad by early next year. According to a close aide to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, 10 Iraqi divisions are prepared to take over from the Americans across Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq by March 2007, under the supervision of the multinational forces. By the end of June, Iraqis will take over security for all provinces and coalition forces will move outside cities, the aide said.

Palestine

Gunmen kill Hamas commander

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip - Palestinian gunmen ambushed a <u>Hamas</u> official outside a Gaza courthouse Wednesday, forcing him to his knees and killing him in an attack that dampened already fading hopes for creating a national unity government and renewing peace talks with Israel. The shooting, which pushed the governing <u>Hamas</u> and rival Fatah party closer to civil war, was the latest in a wave of bloodshed that began Tuesday when unknown assailants gunned down the three young sons of a Fatah-allied intelligence officer in Gaza City.

Justice

Assisted suicide doctor to be paroled

ANSING, Mich. - A frail Jack Kevorkian will be paroled in June after promising he won't assist in any more suicides, a prison spokesman said Wednesday. Kevorkian is serving 10 to 25 years for second-degree murder in the 1998 poisoning of Thomas Youk, 52, of Oakland County. Youk had Lou Gehrig's disease. Kevorkian, who claimed to have assisted in at least 130 deaths in the 1990s, called it a mercy killing. Kevorkian has always been eligible for parole on June 1, 2007.

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At least one Palestinian woman was killed when Israeli forces opened fire on a group near a Gaza mosque.

Guardian.com

November 3, 2006

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theguardian

Length: 608 words

Highlight: At least one Palestinian woman was killed and another 10 were reported wounded when Israeli forces

today opened fire on a group preparing to act as a human shield for militants in a Gaza mosque.

Body

At least one Palestinian woman was killed and another 10 were reported wounded when Israeli forces today opened fire on a group preparing to act as a human shield for militants in a Gaza mosque.

Dozens of <u>women</u> were gathering outside the mosque in Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip this morning after an appeal on a local radio station. More than 30 gunmen had taken refuge in the building after the Israeli army began its largest Gaza offensive in months in an attempt to stop militants launching rocket attacks on nearby Jewish settlements over the border.

Television pictures showed at least 50 <u>women</u> making their way along a pavement when shots could be heard ringing out. They started to flee in terror and at least two <u>women</u> were left lying on the ground.

Witnesses said one woman, aged about 40, was killed, and 10 others were wounded. Some reports said a second woman had died. The Israeli army said troops spotted two militants hiding in the crowd of **women** and opened fire.

A large group of <u>women</u> protesters went on to gather outside the mosque. In the resulting confusion all the militants managed to escape, some reportedly wearing robes supplied by the **women**.

A 22-year-old Palestinian man was also killed in the northern town, which troops seized on Wednesday. More than 20 Palestinians, most of them militants, have been killed since the offensive began.

Israeli tanks and armoured personnel carriers surrounded the mosque when militants took refuge there. Overnight, the two sides exchanged fire. Troops also threw stun and smoke grenades into the mosque to pressure the gunmen to surrender. Witnesses said an Israeli army bulldozer knocked down an outer wall of the mosque, causing the ceiling to collapse.

The Israeli army said the gunmen inside the mosque were able to take advantage of the <u>women</u>'s demonstration to escape because there weren't enough infantrymen to block the protesters from approaching the building, and troops didn't want to shoot into the crowd.

At least one Palestinian woman was killed when Israeli forces opened fire on a group near a Gaza mosque.

However, live ammunition was fired in the course of the demonstration, wounding a Palestinian cameraman and a number of *women*. Hospital officials reported that many of the *women* were shot in the foot.

The Palestinian prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, of <u>Hamas</u> "saluted the <u>women</u> of Palestine ... who led the protest to break the siege of Beit Hanoun". He urged the UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, to witness first-hand "the massacres of the Palestinian people", and appealed to the Arab world to "stop the ongoing bloodshed".

A spokesman for <u>Hamas</u> militants said 32 gunmen who had taken cover in the mosque escaped with the help of the **women**.

Residents said Beit Hanoun, a town of 30,000 people, was effectively under full Israeli control, with a curfew imposed.

Loudspeakers across Gaza called on people to come to demonstrations after Friday prayers to express solidarity with Beit Hanoun. By late morning, two rallies were already in progress in Beit Hanoun, and militants in the crowds were firing at soldiers, the Israeli army said.

The Israeli army said it targeted Beit Hanoun because it was a major site for launching rocket attacks. But Israeli officials have said the takeover of Beit Hanoun was expected to last only a few days and did not signal the start of a wider military offensive in Gaza.

Militants, however, continued to fire rockets at Israeli border communities. Two Israelis were slightly wounded and a house was damaged in the latest attacks.

In a separate operation last night, an Israeli air strike on a car in Gaza City killed three <u>Hamas</u> fighters, including a local militant commander, witnesses said. An Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed the strike.

Load-Date: November 3, 2006

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WORLD BRIEFS

Herald Sun (Australia)

March 17, 2007 Saturday

FIRST Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 26

Length: 416 words

Body

Child sold

HYDERABAD -- A poor Pakistani couple has given away their newborn to a childless couple because they could not pay the hospital bill for the birth.

Mohammad Hanif and his wife, Hakimzadi, gave away their five-day-old son for the \$95 bill.

"We already have six children while three others died because we could not care for them.

"At least this child will be taken care of," Hakimzadi said at her home in Tando Adam village, 200km north of Karachi. "It is our child and we can do what we want with it."

No comfort for women

TOKYO -- Japan's Cabinet said yesterday there had been no evidence to establish that military or government authorities were involved in forcing <u>women</u> into World War II brothels. The statement backs recent comments by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Hostility greets deal

JERUSALEM -- Israeli leaders yesterday criticised the new Palestinian unity government, saying the <u>Hamas</u>-Fatah coalition did not meet international conditions, including recognising the Jewish state's right to exist.

<u>Hamas</u> Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh said he hoped the Government, due to be approved today would "launch a new era" for the Palestinians after months of infighting.

But Ephraim Sneh, Israel's Deputy Defence Minister, said Israel would boycott the coalition.

Pressure on coup boss

PORT VILA -- Foreign ministers from South Pacific nations yesterday told Fiji's military regime to speed up plans to restore democracy, calling for fresh elections within two years.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer was among ministers from the 16-member Pacific Islands Forum who gathered in Vanuatu to pressure Fiji to hold elections before 2010, the time-frame set by coup leader Frank Bainimarama.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mercy killers free

PERIGUEUX -- A French court handed down a one-year suspended jail sentence yesterday to a doctor who prescribed a fatal overdose to a dying cancer patient.

The court found Laurence Tramois, 35, guilty of poisoning but cleared nurse Chantal Chanel, 40, who administered the fatal dose.

Pigeons follow nose

LONDON -- German scientists believe tiny iron structures in pigeons' beaks allow them to analyse Earth's magnetic field much like a compass.

Through the signals picked up, the birds can work out where they are and set out on the best course home, the Daily Mail reported.

Sweet smell of law

AHMADABAD -- Police in this western Indian city are working with designers to provide 8000 officers with specially scented, lightweight uniforms to keep them sweet-smelling and sweat free.

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End of Document



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Guardian.com

November 3, 2006

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theguardian

Length: 610 words

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At least one Palestinian woman was killed when Israeli forces opened fire on a group near a Gaza mosque.

However, live ammunition was fired in the course of the demonstration, wounding a Palestinian cameraman and a number of *women*. Hospital officials reported that many of the *women* were shot in the foot.

The Palestinian prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, of <u>Hamas</u> "saluted the <u>women</u> of Palestine ... who led the protest to break the siege of Beit Hanoun". He urged the UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, to witness first-hand "the massacres of the Palestinian people", and appealed to the Arab world to "stop the ongoing bloodshed".

A spokesman for <u>Hamas</u> militants said 32 gunmen who had taken cover in the mosque escaped with the help of the **women**.

Residents said Beit Hanoun, a town of 30,000 people, was effectively under full Israeli control, with a curfew imposed.

Loudspeakers across Gaza called on people to come to demonstrations after Friday prayers to express solidarity with Beit Hanoun. By late morning, two rallies were already in progress in Beit Hanoun, and militants in the crowds were firing at soldiers, the Israeli army said.

The Israeli army said it targeted Beit Hanoun because it was a major site for launching rocket attacks. But Israeli officials have said the takeover of Beit Hanoun was expected to last only a few days and did not signal the start of a wider military offensive in Gaza.

Militants, however, continued to fire rockets at Israeli border communities. Two Israelis were slightly wounded and a house was damaged in the latest attacks.

In a separate operation last night, an Israeli air strike on a car in Gaza City killed three <u>Hamas</u> fighters, including a local militant commander, witnesses said. An Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed the strike.

Load-Date: November 3, 2006



<u>Israeli repairs near holy site spark Islamic outrage: Dome of the rock.</u> Tensions threaten revival of peace talks

The Gazette (Montreal)
February 7, 2007 Wednesday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A16

Length: 378 words

Byline: MATTHEW FISHER, CanWest News Service

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Jordan's King Abdullah accused Israel yesterday of "an attack on our holy Muslim sites" by beginning excavation work near Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock and warned this was causing "a dramatic escalation" in tensions that could prevent the revival of Middle East peace talks between Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the United States.

Israeli archeologists vigorously denied the Dome of the Rock would be harmed, showing journalists repairs to a wood foot bridge that were 50 metres from the Dome, which is Islam's third- holiest site and where Muslims believe Mohammed ascended to heaven. The bridge has been used by Jewish <u>women</u> going to pray at the Western Wall, which is Judaism's holiest site.

The Dome of the Rock, or the Temple Mount, as it is known by Jews, has long been a flashpoint for bitter disputes between Israel and the Palestinians.

It was a visit there in September 2000 by Ariel Sharon that sparked the second intefadeh, a violent Palestinian uprising that lasted several years.

Eleven Palestinian youths were arrested near the work site yesterday as hundreds of Israeli police cordoned off the area around the site and refused to allow Muslims males under the age of 45 to enter the Al Agsa Mosque to pray.

King Abdullah's strong words were considered significant because he is regarded as a moderate Arab leader and because by treaty with Israel, Jordan's Hashemite monarchy has been designated custodian of Jerusalem's Muslim holy sites.

The fresh controversy over the Dome of the Rock erupted as it was announced Israel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice would meet on Feb. 19 to try to restart Middle East peace talks that have foundered for several years.

The Palestinian president, who leads Fatah, condemned the Israeli excavations in Jerusalem when he arrived in Islam's holiest city of Mecca on Tuesday for two days of crucial peace talks with <u>Hamas'</u> exiled leader, Khaled Meshal. The meeting called by Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah was aimed at ending a rising tide of violence by Fatah

Israeli repairs near holy site spark Islamic outrage: Dome of the rock. Tensions threaten revival of peace talks

and <u>Hamas</u> factions in Gaza and at forming a national unity government that includes the two warring parties, who have killed more than 70 people in recurring violence since November.

Load-Date: February 7, 2007



Five die after sewage dam bursts

Aberdeen Press and Journal March 28, 2007 Wednesday

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Section: Pg. 16 Length: 423 words

Body

An Earth embankment around a sewage reservoir in the Gaza Strip collapsed yesterday, spewing a river of waste and mud that killed five people and forced residents to flee the village of Umm Naser.

A Palestinian official blamed it on shoddy infrastructure and UN officials said they had been warning of a catastrophe for more than two years.

Efforts to build a new waste treatment plant which would have resolved the problem were repeatedly hampered by fighting between Israel and the Palestinians.

However, building a new plant did not appear to be affected by the year-old sanctions on the Palestinian Authority, brought in by the international community after the election victory by militant Moslem group *Hamas*.

Two <u>women</u> in their 70s, two toddlers and a teenage girl died in the sudden flood, and 25 people were injured. At least 25 houses were completely submerged.

Fadel Kawash, head of the Palestinian Water Authority, said the level of sewage in the pool had increased over the past few days, creeping up the earth embankments around the pool until one collapsed, "causing the sewage to pour towards the village".

A 2004 United Nations report warned the sewage facility was at maximum capacity and flooding was inevitable unless a new plant was constructed.

Stuart Shepard, of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said that, since then, international funding for a new plant had been secured but construction had not been able to go ahead because of the high security risks in the area. Militants routinely fire rockets at Israel from the dunes near the plant and Israel responds with artillery fire.

<u>Hamas</u> spokesman Fawzi Barhoum blamed the international sanctions for the condition of Gaza's infrastructure, but Mr Shepard said the project was not affected by them.

It emerged yesterday that the Israeli and Palestinian leaders will now meet every two weeks to pave the way for a final settlement to the Middle East conflict - a small sign of momentum for the latest US push to restart peace efforts.

Visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced the planned fortnightly meetings at the end of her visit to the region, her fourth in as many months.

Five die after sewage dam bursts

"The Israelis and Palestinians are taking the initial step on the path to peace, and the American role will include helping them to overcome obstacles, develop new ideas, and rally international support for their efforts," she said.

She spoke after three days of shuttling between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Load-Date: March 29, 2007



Windsor Star (Ontario)

June 8, 2007 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. C2; World Report

Length: 1198 words

Byline: Compiled from Star News Services

Body

NORTH AMERICA

GIRL MISSING FOR YEAR FOUND UNDER STAIRS

WASHINGTON - A girl aged 15 who had been missing for a year was found "pale but alive" locked in a cupboard under the stairs at a house in Connecticut.

Police said the owner of the house, Adam Gault, 41, a dog trainer, knew the parents of Danielle Cramer.

Gault is under investigation for having inappropriate relationships with her and other girls.

Police feared the girl was dead and made the discovery by accident on Wednesday, when they arrived to search the house in West Hartford and take DNA samples from Gault, who had been a suspect from the beginning.

An officer noticed a dresser blocking a door. Inside the space, he found Danielle, who was pale and thin but showed no obvious external injuries.

Gault was charged with unlawful restraint, reckless endangerment and custodial interference.

BRAIN SWELLING HALTS CONJOINED TWIN SURGERY

WASHINGTON - Surgeons were forced to halt a delicate and high-risk procedure to separate twin girls joined at the head because of unexpected brain swelling, doctors said Thursday.

Three-year-old Anastasia and Tatiana Dogaru, whose parents are from Romania, were described as "medically stable" at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, after a first round of surgery Wednesday to begin separating their skulls.

But doctors were hesitant to go further until they determined the cause of the swelling in the dominant twin, Anastasia, which was discovered after neurosurgeons took out a section of skull to expose the brain tissue.

"They felt that it would not be safe to cut into the brain tissue or the surrounding blood vessels in any way, without first understanding the cause of the swelling and the low blood pressure," chief medical officer Nathan Levitan told a news conference.

"As a result, they decided not to continue with surgery at that time," he said, adding that an MRI and angiogram would be studied to determine the next step.

BORAT DRAWS ANOTHER LAWSUIT IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK - The hit movie and lawsuit magnet Borat has drawn yet another court action, this time from a man filmed running away from the fictional Kazakh television reporter on the streets of New York City.

Last year's Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan was driven by comedian Sacha Baron Cohen's improvised encounters with ordinary Americans who become his unsuspecting comic foils.

A man anonymously identified as John Doe sued 20th Century Fox, a unit of News Corp., in federal court in Manhattan last week over the scene in which he is seen "fleeing in apparent terror, screaming for Mr. Cohen to 'go away," court documents say.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages and says the filmmakers used the plaintiff's likeness without his consent, causing emotional damage that he continues to suffer.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIAN GROUP TEED OFF AT 'CANE TOAD GOLF'

SYDNEY - An Australian local council has earned the ire of animal welfare groups for promoting the pleasures of "cane toad golf."

Australia's leading animal protection agency, the RSPCA, slammed the Townsville Council in far north Queensland for encouraging locals to tee off on a cane toad, regarded as a noxious pest Down Under.

"It's definitely not appropriate," RSPCA spokesman Michael Beattie told the Townsville Bulletin newspaper.

"We accept that they are a menace and they need to be eradicated. However, hitting them with golf clubs is inhumane and totally ineffective.

"What's next? Are you going to take the golf clubs to cats, or flying foxes or frogs?" he said.

DRIVER CHARGED IN AUSTRALIAN TRAIN CRASH

MELBOURNE - An Australian whose truck smashed into a train and killed 11 people in the country's worst rail disaster in 30 years has been formally charged, police said Thursday.

Victoria state police said Christian Scholl, 48, was charged at a bedside court hearing in hospital with one count of culpable driving arising from Tuesday's crash.

They said more charges were expected to be laid over the accident, when Scholl's fully-laden truck plowed into the passenger train at a level crossing near Kerang, in rural Victoria.

Eleven people died and dozens were injured in the crash.

MIDEAST

IRAN EVACUEES RETURN HOME AS STORM ABATES

TEHRAN - Tens of thousands of Iranians who fled the worst tropical storm to hit the region in decades began returning to their homes on the coasts on Thursday as the bad weather moved inland and lost force.

Cyclone Gonu hit Iran's southern coast late on Wednesday after swirling across the Strait of Hormuz from Oman, packing winds of 200 kilometres an hour, damaging property and cutting off roads.

Two people were reported dead and 50 injured by the storm, according to the head of Iran's emergency service Farzad Panahi, quoted by the Mehr news agency.

FATAH-HAMAS CLASH KILLS SECURITY OFFICER

GAZA CITY - One Palestinian security officer was killed and another dozen people injured Thursday in a flare-up in fighting between rival Fatah and *Hamas* gunmen.

The violence, the worst since a truce began nearly three weeks ago, erupted west of Rafah, in the southern part of the increasingly impoverished and radicalized Gaza Strip, before spreading downtown where <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah gunmen set up checkpoints and took up positions on rooftops.

Fatah said Thursday's clash, which came two days after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah said the community was on the brink of civil war, erupted when gunmen from the Islamist <u>Hamas</u> group confronted one of its local leaders at his home. The man's brother was killed.

At least 12 other Palestinians were wounded, including at least six from Fatah, four from <u>Hamas</u> and two bystanders, as the fighting spread, Palestinian hospital officials said.

AFRICA

CRASH KILLS 29 WHEN MINI-BUS ROLLS INTO RAVINE

CONAKRY - Twenty-nine people were killed when a mini-bus veered off the road and tumbled down a ravine in southeast of the Guinean capital Conakry, police said Thursday.

"The vehicle rolled down into the ravine. Thirty-two people were on board and 29 died," a police officer said by telephone from Nzerekore, some 800 kilometres southeast of Conakry.

ASIA

MURDER TRIAL HALTED OVER BADMINTON GAME

KUALA LUMPUR - A high-profile murder trial in Malaysia was delayed after the chief prosecutor was spotted playing badminton with the judge, the attorney-general said in comments confirmed by his office on Thursday.

The trial was supposed to have begun Monday with two police officers and a top political analyst accused over the murder of the latter's former lover, a Mongolian.

But when the hearing started, the lead prosecutor unexpectedly asked for a delay, saying he had only been handed the case the day before.

Attorney-General Abdul Gani Patail said he ordered the change because the previous lead prosecutor, Salehuddin Saidin, had been seen playing badminton with the trial judge.

FIVE SHOT DEAD AT MALAYSIAN WEDDING

KUALA LUMPUR - An Indonesian man surrendered to Malaysian police early Thursday after allegedly shooting dead five people during a wedding reception, state media said. Nine others were wounded in the Wednesday night incident at an inland settlement in Sarawak state on Borneo island, Bernama news agency reported.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Miguel Vidal, Reuters; TOTS STAR IN TRADITIONAL DRAGON DANCE: <u>Women</u> dance with four-year-old children on their shoulders during the Coca celebration Thursday in Redondela in rural North-eastern Spain. The tradition of dancing with daughters on the shoulders takes its origins from a local legend, believed to date from the Middle Ages, about two <u>women</u> being saved from a dragon by dancing with their daughters on their shoulders. The children are dressed in traditional costumes called Penlas.;

Colour Photo: Adam Gault;

Colour Photo: Sacha Baron Cohen;

Load-Date: June 8, 2007



HOW CAN THIS BE JUSTIFIED?; FOREIGN SECRETARY'S FURY AT ISRAELI TANK ATTACK

The Mirror

November 9, 2006 Thursday

Ulster Edition

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Length: 391 words

Byline: BY JON CLEMENTS

Body

AN anguished Palestinian mother cradles her badly injured baby boy after an Israeli tank assault which killed at least 18 men, <u>women</u> and children.

The early morning shelling of homes in northern Gaza, which also left more than 60 civilians injured, sparked furious condemnation worldwide.

Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said: "It's hard to see what this action was meant to achieve and how it can be justified."

<u>Hamas</u> vowed revenge. Speaking in Damascus exiled leader Khaled Meshal said: "Our response will be by deeds not words. There must be a roaring reaction so that we can avenge all those victims."

And Ghazi Hamad, spokesman for Palestine's <u>Hamas</u>-led government, added: "Israel should be wiped from the face of the Earth. It's an animal state that recognises no human worth. It's a cancer that should be eradicated."

Seven children and four <u>women</u> were among those killed in Beit Hanoun when shells ripped through seven houses in the town and caused carnage in the streets. Witness Asma al-Athamna, 14, who suffered shrapnel wounds, said: "We were awoken by shells hitting the house of my uncle next door.

"Then our windows were blasted away. We fled only to be hunted outside. The shells killed my mother and sister and wounded all my siblings."

Resident Rahwi Hamad, 35, added: "We took dismembered bodies from the houses. We saw legs, hands, parts of heads stuck to the wall, it was by house and Meshal yesterday disgusting. There was a stench of blood and flesh."

HOW CAN THIS BE JUSTIFIED? FOREIGN SECRETARY'S FURY AT ISRAELI TANK ATTACK

Attaf Hamad, 22, said: "We saw legs, we saw heads, we saw hands scattered in the street. I saw people coming out of a house covered in blood. I screamed to wake up the neighbours."

To halt missile attacks on its territory, Israel had launched a week-long offensive on the town which killed more than 60 Palestinians and an Israeli soldier.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office said he "voiced regret" over the civilian deaths. An inquiry has been ordered but officials refused to comment on reports the tanks had missed their target by half a mile.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas denounced the action as "a horrible and ugly massacre" and it was also condemned by the European Commission, Italy, France and Jordan.

Gunmen later opened fire at the European Union office in Gaza City and youths threw stones at the building in apparent retaliation.

jon.clements@mirror.co.uk

Graphic

GRIEF: Woman by house and Meshal yesterday Pictures: REUTERS/AFP

Load-Date: November 9, 2006



World Digest

The Toronto Star
October 21, 2006 Saturday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A11

Length: 432 words

Body

Iran

President threatens supporters of Israel

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday threatened any country that backs Israel, and said the United States and its allies had "imposed a group of terrorists" on the region with their support of the Jewish state.

"It is in your own interest to distance yourself from these criminals. ... This is an ultimatum. Don't complain tomorrow," he told Israel's allies during a speech at a pro-Palestinian rally in Tehran.

Ahmadinejad's comments came a day after Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Iran would have "a price to pay" if it does not back down from its nuclear ambitions - hinting broadly that Israel might be forced to take action.

United States

Man, 20, charged after 'dirty bomb' threats

A 20-year-old Wisconsin grocery store clerk who authorities say amused himself by posting prank Internet warnings of terrorist attacks against National Football League stadiums was arrested yesterday on federal charges that could bring five years behind bars.

Jake Brahm was accused of writing that radioactive "dirty bombs" would be detonated this weekend at seven football stadiums. He admitted posting the same threat about 40 times on various websites between September and Wednesday, authorities said.

Somalia

Women banned from swimming at beach

An Islamic court has banned women from swimming at the main beach in Mogadishu.

Sheikh Farah Ali Hussein, chair of a northern Mogadishu Islamic court, said yesterday the ban applies only to the northern Mogadishu Leedo beach, where families usually go on weekends to play and relax. "We stopped <u>women</u> from swimming because it is against the teaching of Islam for <u>women</u> to mingle with men, especially while they are swimming," Hussein said.

Gaza

World Digest

Palestinians shoot at prime minister's car

Palestinian gunmen opened fire yesterday on <u>Hamas</u> Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh's convoy, destroying one vehicle in a burst of flames.

Nobody was injured, and Haniyeh was believed to have been about 400 metres away from the shooting.

<u>Hamas</u> officials accused gunmen affiliated with rival Fatah of carrying out the attack. Fatah, of which Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is a member, denied involvement.

Sudan

Agency suspends refugee operation

The United Nations refugee agency said yesterday it was suspending its operation helping Sudanese refugees return from neighbouring Uganda after receiving reports that at least 38 civilians were killed in attacks in southern Sudan.

Agency spokesman Ron Redmond said it will monitor the situation closely before resuming the repatriation convoys.

From the Star's wire services

Load-Date: October 21, 2006



Windsor Star (Ontario)

January 12, 2007 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. C2; World Report

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Byline: Compiled from Star News Services

Body

OCEANIA

MUSLIMS HAVE MORE RIGHT TO AUSTRALIA: TOP CLERIC

SYDNEY - Australia's top Islamic cleric has ignited fresh outrage in his adopted homeland by claiming Muslims have more right to live there than the descendants of convicts, media reported Thursday.

On Egyptian television, Sheik Taj Aldin al-Hilali called Anglo-Saxons the world's biggest liars and blamed the media for trying to bring him down for his controversial comment that scantily-clad **women** invited sexual attack.

"It is a calculated conspiracy and terrorizing our Islam(ic) community. They started with me first in order to bring (the) Islamic community to its knees," he said in translated remarks.

Hilali sparked a national outcry in October when he delivered a sermon containing the incendiary statement, prompting calls for his deportation and dividing Australia's 300,000-strong Muslim community.

While Hilali claimed his comments were taken out of context at the time, he defended them on Today in Cairo and said Muslims had more right to live in Australia than ancestors of the convicts sent here from England.

"They are the biggest liars, the western people, especially the English people," he said.

MIDEAST

FATAH STAGES RALLY, SHOW OF STRENGTH

RAMALLAH, West Bank - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told a large rally of his Fatah movement Thursday that he won't allow fighting with their <u>Hamas</u> rivals to continue and called on opposing factions to respect each other.

Thousands of Fatah supporters waved the movement's yellow flags and chanted slogans against the Islamic <u>Hamas</u> group and its Iranian backers. Several Fatah activists briefly carried Abbas on their shoulders. "Go, go, until liberation," they chanted. Others fired in the air.

The rally in the West Bank city of Ramallah was organized as a show of Fatah's strength against <u>Hamas</u> -- which is powerful in the Gaza Strip -- but Abbas aides said the moderate Palestinian leader would also give coalition talks with <u>Hamas</u> another chance.

Negotiations on bringing Fatah into the <u>Hamas</u>-led cabinet are to resume soon and continue for two weeks, said Rafiq Husseini, a senior Abbas aide.

If the talks fail, he said, Abbas would proceed with his plan to call early elections.

KUWAIT JAILS FRAUDSTER FOR 250 YEARS, COULD GET MORE

KUWAIT CITY - A Jordanian national accused of stealing one million dollars while posing as a policeman has been jailed for 250 years by a Kuwaiti court, local media reported Thursday.

Al-Rai newspaper said the man, identified only as Hamdan, was arrested in February last year and has been on trial for the past several months on 73 separate charges.

So far Hamdan has been found guilty of around 60 charges and the court is expected to issue yet more jail terms if he is convicted of the remaining offences, the daily said.

Police said that Hamdan targeted mainly Asian victims while posing as an undercover policeman and forced his victims to surrender all their belongings, including ATM cards.

The charges against him included cheating dozens of people, stealing a total of a million dollars, 350 cell phones and also dozens of computers. Each case is being examined by the court separately.

Hamdan denied all the charges.

The jail sentences must be confirmed by the emirate's appeals and supreme courts before they become final.

ACCIDENT KILLS 15 AFTER BUS, TRUCK COLLIDE

TEHRAN - Fifteen people were killed and 13 injured on Thursday when a bus collided with a truck on a road in western Iran, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The early morning accident was on a road linking the towns of Malayer in Hamedan province and Arak in Markazi province.

"The cause of the accident was the truck veering from its lane to the left side because of sleepiness and tiredness," local police official Colonel Habib Kamalvand said.

The bus driver was among the dead, he added.

NORTH AMERICA

4 SHOT AT INDIANA BUSINESS THAT EMPLOYS DISABLED

INDIANAPOLIS - A man shot and wounded four co-workers Thursday at a factory that employs disabled people, telling police he did it "over respect," authorities said.

Two men and two women were taken to hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries, Lt. Douglas Scheffel said.

Jason Burnam, 24, was arrested inside the company cafeteria, where he was standing with a .380-calibre handgun next to a vending machine, police Chief Michael Spears said. Burnam told officers he targeted the victims and said "it was over respect," Scheffel said. Police did not elaborate.

LAB-LIKE RATS SWIM INTO TOILETS OF TUCSON HOMES

TUCSON, Ariz. - Forget snakes on a plane. How about rats in the toilet.

Residents of a neighbourhood next to the University of Arizona say small white rats have been swimming through sewer pipes and into their toilets.

Laura Hagen Fairbanks, spokeswoman for the county's Wastewater Management Department, said she doesn't know where the rodents come from, though they are the kind researchers use in labs.

University representatives note that the same type of rats are sold in pet stores as food for snakes and other animals.

George Humphrey, spokesman for the Arizona Health Sciences Center, said university researchers follow strict guidelines for their lab specimens. Lab rats are euthanized, then double-bagged in biowaste plastic bags before they are taken to Phoenix and cremated.

"There would be no evidence that these are connected to us, and I wouldn't want that to become an urban myth," Humphrey said.

EUROPE

EXHIBITION ON SEX SLAVERY UNDER NAZIS TO OPEN

BERLIN - An exhibition on sexual slavery under the Nazis will open Sunday at the former German concentration camp for *women* Ravensbrueck, organizers said.

The Foundation of Brandenburg Memorials, which operates museums at the former camps, said in a statement Thursday that the forced prostitution system in the camps was a "little known phenomenon."

"The <u>female</u> prisoners who were forced to do sex work remained silent after 1945 about their experiences as well as about the brothel users -- male, and above all German, prisoners who were allowed by the SS to visit the brothels under a rewards system," the foundation said.

Forced Sex Work in Nazi Concentration Camps covers a system that ran in 10 camps between 1942 and 1945. Most of the *women* involved were prisoners at Ravensbrueck, about 100 kilometres north of Berlin.

GERMAN JEWISH LEADER CRITICAL OF HITLER COMEDY

BERLIN - A new German comedy film about Adolf Hitler treads on dangerous ground and could inadvertently lead to increased anti-Semitism, said a top Jewish leader.

Stephan Kramer, general secretary of Germany's Central Council of Jews, said Mein Fuehrer could generate empathy for the former Nazi dictator by its portrayal of him as a comic figure who had a bad childhood.

"It gets people to suffer with him, to say 'this poor guy," said Kramer, who said Wednesday he has seen large parts of the film already.

In the film, director Dani Levy, a Swiss-born Jew who lives in Berlin, portrays Hitler as a drug addict who plays with a toy battleship in the bathtub, dresses his dog in a Nazi uniform and takes acting tips from a Jewish concentration camp inmate.

Levy has said that the movie, whose full title is Mein Fuehrer: The Truly Truest Truth about Adolf Hitler, is meant to explain for himself how it was possible for Germans to follow Hitler, ultimately dragging the nation into war and the Holocaust.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Natalia Kolesnikova, AFP; Getty Images; IT'S YOUR MOVE: An assistant moves chess pieces made of ice Thursday in central Moscow during a video-linked match opposing Russian and British teams. The pieces are made of ice and both teams, playing on giant boards in Pushkinskaya Square in Moscow and Trafalgar Square in London, were given a time limit of just 30 seconds for each move, as the sculptures melt. The game, in which Russian and British chessmasters Anatoly Karpov and Nigel Short faced off alongside celebrities and budding chess talents, ended in a draw.; Colour

Photo: Sheik Taj Aldin al-Hilali;

Colour Photo: Mein Fuehrer

Load-Date: January 12, 2007



Maybe they are just conveniently forgetting; A critical quest: to offer hope where there is only despair

The Independent (London)

December 5, 2006 Tuesday

Fourth Edition

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Section: CHRISTMAS APPEAL; Pg. 2

Length: 1259 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE in Gaza

Body

Maybe they are just conveniently forgetting other periods in Gaza's turbulent and blood-stained history, but most Gazans will tell you that 2006 is the worst year they can remember.

In Gaza City's deserted gold souk, people are not even coming to sell their jewellery any more. "We just sit and drink tea," said Yasser Moteer, 35, who runs a jewellery stall. "It's worse than any time in the 20 years I've been here. It's crazy."

The gold-selling started soon after the international and Israeli boycott of the <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian Authority started to plunge Gaza's economy into collapse last March. But having long ceased to buy here, the poor now have nothing left to sell.

Certainly, the 1.3 million population of this ancient coastal strip of territory, a mere 225 square miles, can never have experienced as intense a swing of hope to despair as they have in little more than 12 months. Ariel Sharon's decision to withdraw Israel's settlers and troops in August 2005, unilateral and circumscribed in both its genesis and its implementation as it was, made many Palestinians here, almost despite themselves, hope for a better future.

It was not just the sudden freedom to travel from north to south without the endless delays at the hated Abu Houli checkpoint, or that children in the southern town of Khan Younis could run west through what were now the ruins of the Jewish settlement of Neve Dekalim and plunge into a Mediterranean they had only ever dreamt about. It was the sense that for the first time in five dark, stifling and dangerous years, Gaza could breathe, psychologically, and just maybe, economically.

As 2006 nears its close and The Independent launches its Christmas appeal partly focused on Gaza, it is easy to see how cruelly those hopes have been mocked by what has happened this year.

Since <u>Hamas</u> and other Gaza militants seized the Israeli corporal, Gilad Shalit, and killed two of his comrades in late June, shells, drones and machine gun-fire from Israeli forces have killed some 400 Palestinians, civilians,

Maybe they are just conveniently forgetting A critical quest: to offer hope where there is only despair

<u>women</u> and children among them, in an operation Israel stated was to free Cpl Shalit and stop the Qassam rockets being fired from Gaza.

For five long months, electricity was cut to eight hours a day, damaging water supplies, after a surgically accurate bombing condemned by Israelis as well as foreign human rights groups as collective punishment in breach of humanitarian law.

Reaching a peak in July, the use of sonic booms, often deliberately timed as children were going to school, created misery and fear. As if that was not enough, a far lower but significant number of civilians, also including children, have been killed or wounded in the sporadic fighting between Fatah and *Hamas*, the two dominant factions in Palestinian politics, or in clan battles.

For the immediate survivors of the Israeli shells that killed 17 members of the Athamneh family as they tried to flee their home in Beit Hanoun as it was attacked, the bereavement is, if anything, harder to bear now that more than three weeks have elapsed since it happened. In late afternoon sunshine on Sunday, in the now eerily peaceful alley where the carnage was perpetrated, Hayat Athamneh, 56, a strong woman who lost three adult sons, all fathers themselves, sat with their still devastated and injured brother Amjad, 31, and his wife, who lost their own son Mahmoud, 10. "Now I feel it," said Hayat, covering her eyes as they fill with tears. "It wasn't so bad at the beginning. There were a lot of people around. Now there is nobody."

As she reeled off the list of Palestinian and foreign dignitaries who had visited the site, her daughter-in-law Tahani, 35, said: "They all came. But nothing happened." Tahani talks about the three surviving Athamneh members, two of them children, who lost limbs in the attack.

"We have to worry about the ones who lost arms and legs now and will see the others who haven't. We have to look after them and then worry about where we are going to live."

Arriving to join them, her brother-in-law Majdi Athamneh, who lost his 12-year-old son Saad, says that not only do the extended family fear to go back to their shelled house because of the structural damage, but they no longer think they should live together as they did for so many years.

"When so many members of one family were killed, it is better to make sure it doesn't happen again and live apart," he said.

Five miles away in Gaza City, Adeeb Zarhouk, 44, is a man used to hard work and 4am starts to support his wife Majda, 44, and their seven children in the 20 years he was employed in Israel as a freelance metalworker and electrician, and then for five working for an Israeli company in the now flattened Erez industrial zone on the northern edge of Gaza. But this morning he apologises for being asleep when we call.

Each day, he hopes for a request to install a TV satellite or do another odd job. "But the phone hasn't rung for two weeks," he says. "Nobody has any money to do these things." Mr Zarhouk is part of the 64 per cent increase in "deep poverty" among Palestinian refugees in the past year.

He is naturally cheerful but, as his wife prepares a three-shekel (36p) family breakfast of beans, felafal and a few tomatoes, he says: "When I'm at home by myself I start crying. When your son asks you for half a shekel and you do not have it???"

Mr Zarhouk gets up to wash the tears from his eyes. Then he says that although as a refugee he earned \$240 (£120) a month on a three-month UNRWA job programme, he now owes \$540 in rent and that the family eat meat only when his 20-year-old policeman son has an irregular 1,500-shekel handout in lieu of his salary as a policeman.

Who does Mr Zarhouk, who voted Fatah in the last election, blame? "I blame democracy," he says with a flash of sarcasm. "The whole world wanted us to have democracy and said how fair had been our election. The problem is they didn't like our results."

Maybe they are just conveniently forgetting A critical quest: to offer hope where there is only despair

The world's boycott since those elections did not only end salaries for the PA employees on whom Gaza's economy disproportionately depends. The health service, in many ways highly professional but desperately under-equipped, is also suffering. In her bed at Shifa Hospital, Intisar al Saqqa is waiting for the drug Taxoter which doctors said she needs to treat a breast cancer which has spread to her lung and her liver. "Every week, they say it will come on Monday," says her mother, Hadra, 62. "But it doesn't. Inshallah, it will come soon." Her daughter says: "I don't blame anybody. I just want this [the political problems beyond her control] to end."

The EU-sponsored Temporary International Mechanism was supposed to get a full range of drugs and badly needed new equipment to Gaza long before now - but because of its own bureaucratic delays has failed to do so.

Similarly, a year after Condoleezza Rice brokered an agreement to open up Gaza's borders, a UN report said last week that Gaza's access to the outside world was "extremely limited" and that commercial trade was "negligible".

That is diplomatese for saying Gaza is - the word every Palestinian uses - a prison again. Israel refuses to take the blame, saying the boycott and closures result directly from security anxieties and from the refusal of <u>Hamas</u> to modify its stances on recognition and violence.

The power is back on and a fragile ceasefire holding.

But with Fatah-<u>Hamas</u> talks collapsed, there is little political hope in sight; and plenty to do for the NGOs and charities - like Merlin and the Welfare Association - which are trying to keep Gaza alive.

Load-Date: December 5, 2006



33 WOMEN ARRESTED AFTER PROTESTS IN IRAN

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 6, 2007 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD; WORLD BRIEFS; Pg. A-3

Length: 763 words

Body

TEHRAN, Iran -- Iranian authorities arrested 33 <u>women</u> on Sunday after protests outside a court where five of the <u>women</u> were being tried for leading a campaign to gain more legal rights for <u>women</u>, newspapers reported yesterday.

The five <u>women</u> were put on trial after they organized a demonstration for <u>women</u>'s rights in June, the ILNA news agency reported. The agency said the <u>women</u> had been charged with endangering national security, propagating against the government and taking part in illegal gatherings.

The arrests Sunday were part of a crackdown against <u>female</u> activists and protests in general since President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad came to power in 2005.

The daily newspaper Etemad Melli reported yesterday that the 33 <u>women</u> were taken to the notorious Evin prison, which has the largest number of political prisoners in the country and where many prisoners say they have been tortured.

Gorbachev hurt in fall

MOSCOW -- Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev injured his leg in a fall, forcing him to cancel a planned visit to Denmark, his aide said yesterday.

Mr. Gorbachev, 76, slipped and fell at his cottage outside Moscow on Saturday, straining his leg, said his aide, Vadim Polyakov. He said Mr. Gorbachev had been taken to a hospital but was back home, adding it was "nothing serious."

The injury prompted Mr. Gorbachev, who led the Soviet Union from 1985 until its collapse in 1991, to call off a visit to Denmark, where he was to have appeared with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore today to talk to Danish business leaders.

Poppy harvest increases

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A "cancer of insurgency" in southern Afghanistan could drive the 2007 opium poppy harvest to record levels, the U.N. drug agency chief said yesterday.

33 WOMEN ARRESTED AFTER PROTESTS IN IRAN

The U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime predicted that last year's harvest record would be broken by an increase in 15 provinces, including Helmand -- the world's largest poppy-growing region and the scene of a growing number of attacks by Taliban fighters who use opium to fund their insurgency.

Antonio Maria Costa, UNODC executive director, said the increase in the south was a result of security problems. Many southern regions have no government presence, and farmers act with impunity. Taliban fighters protect opium growers and transport and tax the crop, he said.

Last year, opium cultivation rose an alarming 59 percent, deepening fears that Afghanistan is rapidly becoming a narco-state.

Hamas bans anthology

RAMALLAH, West Bank -- The <u>Hamas</u>-run Education Ministry has ordered an anthology of Palestinian folk tales pulled from school libraries, reportedly over mild sexual innuendo, the most direct attempt by the Islamic militants to impose their beliefs on Palestinian society.

The book ban angered and worried many Palestinians, who have feared that <u>Hamas</u> would use last year's election victory to remake the Palestinian territories according to its hard-line interpretation of Islam.

The 400-page anthology of 45 folk tales narrated by Palestinian <u>women</u> was first published in English in 1989 by the University of California at Berkeley. It was put together by Sharif Kanaana, a novelist and anthropology professor at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University, and by Ibrahim Muhawi, a teacher of Arabic literature and the theory of translation.

Mr. Kanaana said yesterday he believes "The Little Bird," a story in a chapter titled "Sexual Awakening and Courtship," was among the reasons the book was banned because it mentions private parts.

Journalist falls to death

MOSCOW -- A military correspondent for Russia's top business daily died after falling from a fifth-story window, and some media speculated yesterday that he might have been killed for his critical reporting.

Ivan Safronov, the military affairs writer for Kommersant, died Friday in the fall from a window in the stairwell of his apartment building in Moscow, according to officials. His body was found by neighbors shortly afterward.

Mr. Safronov, who had served as a colonel in the Russian Space Forces before joining Kommersant in 1997, frequently angered authorities with his critical reporting and was repeatedly questioned by the Federal Security Service, the main KGB successor agency, which suspected him of divulging state secrets.

No charges were ever filed because Mr. Safronov was able to prove his reports were based on open sources, Kommersant said.

With prosecutors investigating the death, Kommersant and some other media suggested foul play. Mr. Safronov's colleagues and relatives have described him as a strong, cheerful person who would be extremely unlikely to kill himself.

Graphic

PHOTO: Mikhail Gorbachev

33 WOMEN ARRESTED AFTER PROTESTS IN IRAN

Load-Date: March 6, 2007



Fury at Israel's Gaza killings

The Australian (Australia)

November 9, 2006 Thursday

NSW Metro Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 722 words

Byline: Correspondents in Beit Hanoun, Gaza Strip

Body

AFP

EIGHTEEN Palestinians, including <u>women</u> and children, were killed as they slept yesterday when Israeli tank shells slammed into their Gaza homes in an attack condemned by the international community.

The deaths in the town of Beit Hanoun, with another five Palestinians killed in a pre-dawn raid in the occupied West Bank and another in a Gaza refugee camp, prompted moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to accuse Israel of destroying the chances for peace, and brought calls from <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah for suicide attacks in Israel.

While Israeli leaders offered regret for the "tragedy" and humanitarian assistance for the wounded, the international community called for a halt to Israel's Gaza offensive, which has killed more than 300 Palestinians since the capture of Israeli tank corporal Gilad Shalit on June 25.

But while Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz ordered a halt to all artillery fire in the coastal strip pending an inquiry into the deaths, a senior official said the four-month offensive against militants firing rockets into Israel would continue.

"Israeli fire killed 18 people, including <u>women</u> and children," said Khaled Radi, a Palestinian health ministry spokesman. Among the dead were two boys and two girls, as well as four <u>women</u>. Eleven of the dead were from the same family, while another 40 people were wounded by the shells that slammed into a row of five apartment blocks in Beit Hanoun.

"I ran away and saw a second shell strike the houses. A shell fell on people who had run out into the street," said Ataf Ahmed, 22, following the attack, a day after Israel ended a ground assault in Beit Hanoun.

Another Palestinian was killed in the nearby refugee camp of Jabaliya and five others, including four militants, were killed in a pre-dawn Israeli raid near the flashpoint city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank.

In a joint statement last night, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Mr Peretz expressed "regret over the deaths of Palestinian civilians in Beit Hanoun" and "offered the Palestinian Authority urgent humanitarian assistance and immediate medical care for the wounded".

Fury at Israel 's Gaza killings

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said: "Israel does everything to avoid hitting innocent civilian populations during operations, unfortunately tragedies sometimes happen. We are sorry."

But an army officer said artillery had been trained on an area used by Palestinian militants to fire rockets on the Jewish state. Twelve such projectiles had exploded in Israel over the past 24 hours and about 50 in the past week, the officer said.

Yesterday's deaths, coupled with 64 Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip over the previous seven days, bring to more than 80 the number killed in Israeli attacks on Palestinian territory over the past week.

<u>Hamas</u> chief Khaled Mashaal said the truce had been abandoned and warned that attacks would resume on the Israeli state.

"The armed struggle is free to resume and the resistance will be dictated by local circumstances," Mr Mashaal said in Damascus. "Our response will be by deeds, not words."

A spokesman for Mr Abbas's Fatah party also called for a resumption of suicide attacks, nearly two years after factions agreed to abide by an informal truce in such bombings inside the Jewish state. The Israeli police said they had placed their forces on alert following the threats.

<u>Hamas</u> Prime Minister Ismail Haniya joined Mr Abbas's condemnation and declared talks on forming a unity cabinet -- seen as key to reversing an international boycott of his Government -- temporarily suspended.

Mr Abbas condemned Israel's "terrible massacre" and together with Mr Haniyah demanded an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to stop the slaughter.

"You (the Israelis) do not want peace at all. You have destroyed all chances of peace and you should bear all the responsibility," Mr Abbas said.

The Israeli attack was condemned throughout the world.

UN special envoy for the Middle East Alvaro de Soto called on Israel "to call off these and other military operations without delay" and on the Palestinian side to "cease all attacks against Israeli targets".

The European Union called the attack a "profoundly shocking event".

"Israel has a right to defend itself, but not at the price of the lives of the innocent," EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said.

Load-Date: November 9, 2006



In Gaza, wealth is a golden memory

The Australian (Australia)
September 6, 2007 Thursday
All-round First Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 13

Length: 460 words

Byline: Martin Chulov, Middle East correspondent

Body

THE gold dealers of Gaza appear to have dealt themselves out of business.

In the past 20 months, nearly all Gaza's gold has been sold to outsiders by families scrambling to make ends meet. Jewellers estimate that up to 20 tonnes of gold, family jewels and heirlooms have left the impoverished strip -- never to return.

The massive withdrawal has largely been carried out in tiny packages of memories: rings, bracelets and necklaces, all bound for the bazaars of Dubai and Istanbul.

Gaza's 50-odd jewellers have taken the packages themselves, or shipped them abroad. They say there is next to no gold left in Gazan family homes and no bullion left in the remnants of the treasury. "I would say 90 per cent of it has gone," said Majid Basal, a dealer in the only gold market. "Nearly everyone has sold the gold they gathered over the years.

"In this shop alone, we shipped out 250kg a day several times over the past year. And I know that most of the dealers along here have done the same."

Gold has long been important in both Arabic and Islamic culture. Husbands are all but obliged to give their brides a sum of the precious metal when they marry and again at significant moments within their marriage.

"It's like an insurance policy for the wives," Mr Basal said.

Dealers say most selling customers over the past two years have been matriarchs and new brides, many of whom wept as they offloaded their treasure.

"No one has really wanted to sell us their prized belongings," said Rafiq Darwiche, a jeweller for 30 years, "but what choice did they have?"

Since the election of <u>Hamas</u> in January 2005, Gaza's commercial crossings have largely remained closed and most of its government workers have received less than half their normal salaries. The private sector has also been squeezed, with exports rarely allowed out of the strip.

In Gaza, wealth is a golden memory

The trickle turned to a total blockade in June when <u>Hamas</u> ousted their rivals, Fatah, from a power-sharing government that was formed only months earlier. Since then, no exports, or people, have left the Gaza Strip and only basic food and medicine have been allowed in.

Imports of gold to replenish supplies are impossible until the blockade lifts. Even then, customers would be unlikely to have the means to restock. "It's never been worse than it is now," Mr Basal said. "We are lucky if we make 50 shekel (\$14) a week.

"Two things happened at the same time, which made this situation worse," he continued. "Firstly, gold prices went up, which encouraged people to sell. And secondly, the economy stagnated."

Another dealer, Hussein Jabbour, said he had not made a sale in three weeks. "People are still coming in, mainly **women** looking for wedding gifts," he said. "But they can't afford anything. Everyone is broke."

Load-Date: September 5, 2007



Nation & world

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia) November 9, 2006, Thursday

Copyright 2006 Charleston Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. P3A

Length: 810 words

Body

Manufacturer recalls

millions of pain relief pills

WASHINGTON - A major manufacturer of store-brand acetaminophen recalled 11 million bottles of the pain-relieving pills today after discovering some were contaminated with metal fragments.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or illness.

Perrigo Co. said it discovered the metal bits during quality-control checks.

The recall affects bottles containing various amounts of 500-milligram caplets.

Perrigo bills itself as the world's largest manufacturer of store-brand nonprescription drugs. The Allegan, Mich., company did not disclose the chains for which it manufactures the store-brand acetaminophen.

Eatery offers reward

for cleaning up signs

CHARLESTON, S.C. - With the election season over, campaign signs are now worth their weight in spinach dip.

So says the Southeast restaurant chain Sticky Fingers, which is offering a free appetizer to anyone who cleans up the campaign clutter and brings in a sign.

"Just think of those leftover campaign signs as oversized, roadside gift certificates," said Sticky Fingers co-owner Jeff Goldstein. "It's an easy way to help take care of our neighborhoods."

The ribs restaurant will offer coupons for a free appetizer through next Wednesday.

Fraternity disbanded amid hazing allegations

ORLANDO, Fla. - One of University of Central Florida's oldest fraternities has been disbanded by its national headquarters following allegations of hazing involving heavy drinking and pledges wearing **women**'s underwear.

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter will be closed immediately, said Brandon Weghorst, a spokesman for the Evanston, Ill.-based fraternity.

Nation & world

"Our board does not feel it's worth the effort to rehabilitate the group," Weghorst said Wednesday. He said as many as two-thirds of the chapter's approximately 90 members may have been involved.

Ky. soldiers who posed

-ude will face sanctions

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - <u>Female</u> Kentucky National Guard soldiers who allegedly posed nude for pictures before being sent to Iraq will face nonjudicial, administrative sanctions rather than courts-martial, the Army said.

Administrative sanctions can include measures such as docking soldiers' pay or confining them to barracks. Adams said he could not release details because of federal privacy restrictions.

The Courier-Journal reported in September that it had obtained a compact disc containing 232 photographs of at least a half-dozen nude and seminude <u>women</u> posing with military rifles and covering their breasts with American flag decals.

Pa. couple returns dog

adopted after hurricane

PHILADELPHIA - Rocket, a dog that survived Hurricane Katrina and ended up in a Pennsylvania home, is back with its owner in New Orleans after a custody fight that went to court.

The suburban Philadelphia couple who adopted the chow-Finnish spitz mix returned the dog to previous owner Sheila Combs, lawyers for both sides said Wednesday.

Lynne and Joseph Welsh took in the now 2-year-old dog a year ago and renamed him Rusty. Similar animal custody battles have cropped up in states including Florida and Maryland over pets left behind during the Aug. 29, 2005, storm and the mass evacuations afterward.

COMPILED FROM WIRE REPORTS

Campus police and administrators are investigating the Oct. 26 incident as possible hazing.

A caller had notified police of screaming, sobbing and moaning coming from the house, according to police reports. Police said they found pledges crawling on their hands and knees and wearing items such as diapers and <u>women</u>'s underwear, three men were taken to a hospital, and the house smelled of beer, urine and vomit.

Hamas, Fatah discuss

forming government

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - <u>Hamas</u> has resumed negotiations on forming a national unity government with the rival Fatah movement, a Fatah official said today, a day after the Islamic militant group suspended talks to protest a deadly Israeli artillery barrage in Gaza.

President Mahmoud Abbas spoke by telephone with <u>Hamas</u>' exiled leader, Khaled Mashaal. Although the men did not reach an agreement, officials said they were encouraged the rivals were speaking.

"The phone call reflects the positive spirit prevailing in Gaza," said Nabil Abu Rdeneh, a top presidential aide.

Court overturns acquittal

in killing of journalist

MOSCOW - The Supreme Court on today overturned the acquittal of three suspects in the killing of U.S. journalist Paul Klebnikov, a court spokesman said.

Nation & world

The court, acting on an appeal by prosecutors, ordered a new trial with a new judge, said court spokesman Pavel Odintsov.

Klebnikov, 41, who was editor of Forbes magazine's Russian edition, was gunned down on a Moscow street in July 2004.

Two men went on trial on charges of carrying out the killing on behalf of a Chechen separatist who was the subject of a critical book written by Klebnikov, but they and another man on trial on related charges were acquitted by a jury.

Load-Date: November 10, 2006



Blame game played as Gaza buries its dead: UN meets in closed session as Palestinians, Israelis trade accusations over slain family

Ottawa Citizen November 10, 2006 Friday EARLY Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 685 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak in Beit Hanoun, Gaza Strip and Bill Varner at the United Nations, The Associated Press and

Bloomberg News

Body

As <u>women</u> collapsed in grief and Palestinians called for revenge as they jammed a cemetery yesterday for the funeral of 18 civilians killed in an errant Israeli artillery attack, the powerful UN Security Council met in New York to decide what to do about the situation and Israel said it would keep attacking Gaza as long as Palestinian rocket barrages persist.

At the United Nations, the Security Council met in open session at the request of Qatar, the Arab representative on the panel. A closed session was to follow to consider an Arab-sponsored draft resolution condemning the Israeli "massacre" in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, and calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and for UN observers to be sent to the region to supervise the truce.

French Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said the UN should consider backing an "independent" probe into the artillery barrage on Beit Hanoun, where the dead included seven children.

Israeli and U.S. envoys rejected the criticism, saying <u>Hamas</u>, which controls the Palestinian Authority and is classified as a terrorist organization by Israel, the U.S. and European Union, is to blame for the violence in Gaza.

Amid the anguish in Gaza, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called his main political rival, <u>Hamas</u>'s supreme leader Khaled Mashaal -- a move that could help prevent the Islamic militant group from renewing attacks on Israel and pave the way for a moderate Palestinian government.

The shells landed Wednesday as residents were sleeping in Beit Hanoun, and witnesses said many were killed as they fled their homes in panic.

The 18 dead was the highest Palestinian civilian toll in a single incident since the current conflict erupted in September 2000.

The highest toll of Israeli civilians was 29 killed in a Palestinian suicide bombing at a Passover gathering in March 2002.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said the artillery was meant to hit an orange grove from which troops saw rockets fired seconds earlier, but instead hit homes in Beit Hanoun, about 457 metres away.

Blame game played as Gaza buries its dead: UN meets in closed session as Palestinians, Israelis trade accusations over slain family

The Israeli army said yesterday that an investigation indicated the casualties were caused by a technical failure in the fire control system of an artillery battery, the first official military confirmation that army shellfire was responsible.

The statement said the army has suspended artillery fire into Gaza pending a further technical and operational investigation.

Mr. Olmert, however, said Israel will keep targeting Palestinian rocket squads in Gaza despite the risk of inadvertently hitting civilians. He indicated Israel would keep up airstrikes even as the artillery falls silent.

"The military will continue as long as there will be Qassam shooting," he said, using the name for <u>Hamas</u>'s homemade rockets.

"We will take precautions in order to avoid unnecessary mistakes," he added.

"We will do everything in our power to avoid it. I think it would not be serious to promise that it may not happen. It may happen."

At the UN, several diplomats from the U.S. and other Security Council nations expressed concern at the contents of the Qatar resolution, noting that it makes no mention of Palestinian rocket attacks into Israel.

France and Britain proposed several amendments to the draft yesterday, council diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the talks were closed.

Diplomats were to meet again this morning to assess when to put the draft in a final form that could be put to a vote.

The bodies arrived at the cemetery in Beit Hanoun a convoy of 18 ambulances, which drove from the hospital through the artillery-scarred cluster of apartment buildings.

Cries of "God is greater than Israel and America," punctuated by gunshots, rang out as the dead were carried out on stretchers.

"I will avenge, I will avenge!" screamed one of the victims' relatives as he fired his weapon, voicing a common sentiment among the mourners.

All the dead belonged to the al-Athamnas, a prominent family that includes several doctors and professionals. Relatives said they had fled during the recent Israeli offensive, returning home after Israeli ground forces pulled out on Tuesday.

Load-Date: November 10, 2006



In Gaza, wealth is a golden memory

The Australian (Australia)
September 6, 2007 Thursday
All-round Country Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 13

Length: 459 words

Byline: Martin Chulov, Middle East correspondent

Body

THE gold dealers of Gaza appear to have dealt themselves out of business.

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The massive exodus has largely been carried out in tiny packages of memories: rings, bracelets and necklaces, all bound for the bazaars of Dubai and Istanbul.

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"No one has really wanted to sell us their prized belongings," said Rafiq Darwiche, a jeweller for 30 years, "but what choice did they have?"

Since the election of <u>Hamas</u> in January 2005, Gaza's commercial crossings have largely remained closed and most of its government workers have received less than half their normal salaries. The private sector has also been squeezed, with exports rarely allowed out of the strip.

In Gaza, wealth is a golden memory

The trickle turned to a total blockade in June when <u>Hamas</u> ousted their rivals, Fatah, from a power-sharing government that was formed only months earlier. Since then, no exports, or people, have left the Gaza Strip and only basic food and medicine have been allowed in.

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"Two things happened at the same time, which made this situation worse," he continued. "Firstly, gold prices went up, which encouraged people to sell. And secondly, the economy stagnated."

Another dealer, Hussein Jabbour, said he had not made a sale in three weeks. "People are still coming in, mainly **women** looking for wedding gifts," he said. "But they can't afford anything. Everyone is broke."

Load-Date: September 5, 2007



Visit includes rocket blast; UN official sees Israeli-Palestinian turmoil

The International Herald Tribune November 22, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 475 words **Byline:** Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The United Nations' top human rights official, Louise Arbour, visited a southern Israeli town on the frontline of the conflict with the Palestinians, and received a firsthand taste of the turmoil Tuesday.

During a stop by Arbour in Sderot, the town frequently hit by Palestinian rockets coming out of the Gaza Strip, a rocket crashed less than a kilometer from her convoy, slamming into a chicken-processing factory and critically wounding an Israeli man.

Arbour traveled to the scene, where angry Israeli workers hurled stones and insults at her and her convoy, accusing her organization of bias in favor of the Palestinians. Arbour left for another part of town, and met residents who told her about living with the persistent rocket fire in Sderot.

"Israel has a responsibility to defend its citizens, but has to do so only by legal means," Arbour, the UN's high commissioner for human rights, told reporters. "It has to do so in line with international law, including international humanitarian law."

A day earlier, Arbour visited the Gaza town of Beit Hanun, which was hit hard during an Israeli military incursion earlier this month directed against Palestinian rockets. The Israeli operation left dozens dead, including militants and civilians. Nineteen family members who lived in the same compound were killed by Israeli artillery on Nov. 8.

Arbour said that on Monday she met Palestinian <u>women</u> and children who felt "terribly exposed, terribly vulnerable, extremely afraid, very abandoned, and I have a sense there is the same thing here" in Sderot.

In the hours before Arbour visited Sderot, the Israeli military carried out a predawn raid in Gaza City, killing a wanted *Hamas* militant and an elderly woman, Palestinian medical workers said.

The Israeli forces, which included numerous armored vehicles, surrounded the house of the <u>Hamas</u> militant, Ayman Hassanin, 26.

Using loudspeakers, soldiers demanded that he surrender. But Palestinian gunmen began converging on the area, and a heavy shootout soon erupted in the neighborhood.

Hassanin was killed, along with Saadia Herez, 70, according to the Palestinian medical workers.

Visit includes rocket blast UN official sees Israeli - Palestinian turmoil

Israeli forces were also operating in two places in the northern Gaza Strip, trying to suppress rocket fire. An Israeli airstrike in Beit Hanun wounded more than 10 Palestinians, according to Palestinian medical workers.

Despite the Israeli presence, the Palestinians still managed five rocket launches on Tuesday, the Israeli military said.

Also in Gaza, two Italians working for the International Committee of the Red Cross were seized from their vehicle by Palestinians in the southern town of Khan Yunis, according to Palestinian security officials. No group claimed responsibility.

Palestinian militants in Gaza have kidnapped more than two dozen Westerners, most of them aid workers and journalists, in recent years.

Load-Date: November 22, 2006



Israel loosens restrictions on Palestinians to aid Abbas

Ottawa Citizen

December 26, 2006 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 1122 words

Byline: Ron Bousso, Agence France-Presse; with files from The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert yesterday ordered an "immediate easing of restrictions" on Palestinians, including the removal of dozens of roadblocks across the occupied West Bank, one of several gestures aimed at boosting moderate President Mahmoud Abbas in his bitter struggle with rival faction *Hamas*.

He approved streamlining checkpoints and removing roadblocks "to strengthen moderate elements," according to a statement from his office.

Mr. Olmert has already offered \$100 million in frozen tax income to Mr. Abbas and indicated he might release some Palestinian prisoners.

He gave the green light for the measures following a four-hour meeting with Defence Minister Amir Peretz and the heads of the defence establishment, who drew up a plan under which "a series of easing measures will be given to the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza."

Several "immediate" steps will be taken, including the easing of traffic of goods into the Palestinian territories and issuing more entry permits into Israel, the statement said.

At a second stage, "roadblocks and barriers at dozens of points across the West Bank will be removed."

"The prime minister said only the political echelon will approve the implementation of the second stage depending on developments in the coming days," it said.

Speaking earlier before the parliament's powerful foreign affairs and defence committee, Mr. Peretz said that Israel would dismantle 59 barricades and roadblocks in the West Bank in two phases -- 24 at first, and the rest later.

Palestinians travelling across the West Bank are forced daily to go through dozens of checkpoints erected by the Israeli army and yesterday welcomed the decision. Although hundreds of roadblocks will remain, "we still consider this a step in lifting the internal closure in the West Bank," said Saeb Erekat, a top Abbas aide.

Yesterday's announcement followed a promise made by Mr. Olmert during a weekend meeting with Mr. Abbas of "immediate and concrete steps" to improve humanitarian conditions for the Palestinians. It was the first meeting between Israeli and Palestinian leaders in more than a year.

Israel loosens restrictions on Palestinians to aid Abbas

Mr. Peretz also told the press conference that certain Palestinian prisoners held in Israel may be released to mark Christmas and the Muslim feast of Eid Al-Adha next week.

The release of prisoners, Mr. Peretz said, would be in line with Israel's policy each year of freeing prisoners to mark the two festivals, and could also accelerate the release of an Israeli soldier captured by armed Palestinians on June 25. "This humanitarian gesture should not delay the release of Gilad Shalit and I hope on the contrary it will speed up" the soldier's release, the defence minister said. "They are humane gestures and ... are designed to create a positive dynamic ... Improving the Palestinians' standard of living is part of Israel's security concept."

A senior official at the prime minister's office said, however, that no decision had been taken on the issue during yesterday's discussions.

According to Olmert aides, between 20 and 30 prisoners will be released around Eid Al-Adha, marking a reversal of stated Israeli policy not to free Palestinians in Israeli jails before Cpl. Shalit is released.

A senior Israeli official said Israel's prison service and the Shin Beth internal security service were drawing up a list of Palestinian prisoners, mostly **women** and minors, who could be released immediately.

The Israeli prison service says about 8,800 Palestinians are being held in Israeli jails on security charges, including 300 minors and 100 **women**.

Gen. Yair Naveh, military commander of the West Bank region, declared his opposition to the latest measures even before Mr. Peretz announced them. "Dismantling the barricades will obstruct my fight against terrorism ... These barricades limit and prevent the freedom of movement of people being sought," Gen. Naveh said in comments published by the Haaretz newspaper yesterday.

The announced measures are seen as an attempt by Israel to bolster Mr. Abbas and his Fatah movement in the face of a bitter power struggle with the radical <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian government, and offered a faint hope for the renewal of the Middle East peace process which has been stalled since January 2001.

The Israeli government also voted unanimously Sunday to transfer up to \$100 million in customs duties to the Abbas-led Palestinian Authority.

Israel has been withholding the money since <u>Hamas</u>, which refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist and to renounce violence, came to power.

Yesterday, trouble was also brewing on the Gaza front, with militants firing rockets at Israel daily despite a ceasefire. Four rockets exploded harmlessly in Israel yesterday, and two mortar bombs landed near an army base at the vital Karni cargo crossing between Israel and Gaza, the military said.

Israel yesterday instructed its UN ambassador to lodge a complaint with the Security Council over the rocket fire, a government statement said.

Hardline politicians have been clamouring for Israeli retaliation, but so far Mr. Olmert has declined to respond.

In other developments, Jordan invited Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of <u>Hamas</u> for talks in Amman, the Jordanian capital, a Palestinian official said yesterday. Palestinian government spokesman Ghazi Hamad said Mr. Haniyeh was expected to go to Jordan this week, and Mr. Abbas would also attend.

Jordan's government confirmed it invited the two, but gave no date for a meeting.

Talks between Mr. Haniyeh and Mr. Abbas over a joint government have broken down, and there have been clashes between armed forces loyal to the rival movements. Jordan has offered to mediate in the past.

Israel loosens restrictions on Palestinians to aid Abbas

Mr. Abbas arrived yesterday in Amman and was to see Jordan's Prime Minister Maaruf Bakhit and Foreign Minister Abdel Ilah al-Khatib in the evening "to brief them on the latest developments on the Palestinian scene," said Atallah Khairy, the Palestinian Authority's representative in the Jordanian capital said.

Mr. Khairy said Mr. Abbas would also visit Egypt today for talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

Also yesterday, Israel expelled a Palestinian prisoner from the West Bank to Gaza, officials in Gaza said. The prisoner, Abdullah Saadi, 26, lived in Jenin in the northern West Bank. He belongs to the military wing of Fatah.

The Israeli military said Mr. Saadi posed an "imminent danger" to security in the West Bank and was being held without trial in administrative detention. He asked to be sent to Gaza instead, and the military agreed.

In 2002, Israel expelled 27 West Bank Palestinians to Gaza, charging some were involved in planning suicide bombings. Palestinians and human rights groups have complained about the practice.

Load-Date: December 26, 2006



Blockade helps Gaza militants, says report

The Guardian - Final Edition
July 6, 2007 Friday

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Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 18

Length: 485 words

Byline: Conal Urquhart, Jerusalem

Body

Israel's latest blockade of Gaza is threatening to destroy the territory's commercial sector and drive more people into the hands of extremists, according to a report published yesterday.

In the last three weeks, 75% of Gaza's factories have closed because they are not allowed to import raw material or export finished products, forcing thousands of families to rely on food aid to survive.

The report by Gisha, an Israeli human rights organisation, concludes that the increase in poverty and dependency will lead to a further radicalisation of Gaza's population which will cause further violence and attacks on foreigners, such as the kidnapping of Alan Johnston, the BBC correspondent freed early on Wednesday after almost four months in captivity. Johnston, who is expected to return home to Scotland on Saturday, spent his first full day of freedom yesterday visiting Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, right, to thank him for his efforts in securing his freedom.

The Gaza he left behind is choking under the near total suspension of movement of goods. Gaza's residents depend entirely on Israel for their exports and imports. Israel controls all the crossing points between Gaza and Israel and has a veto on the operation of the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt.

Israel has reduced the flow of goods into Gaza to a bare minimum and stopped goods from leaving since <u>Hamas</u> wrested control of Gaza from Fatah and the Palestinian Authority last month. But Gazan militants are also exacerbating the problem by firing rockets at the crossing terminals which halts the little movement of goods that is taking place.

Sari Bashi, director of Gisha, said the impoverishment of Gaza was strengthening extremists at the expense of moderates. "Israel is attempting to achieve political objectives by exerting pressure on 1.4 million <u>women</u>, men and children, whose suffering is supposed to bring about the change it wants - toppling <u>Hamas</u> control in Gaza," she said.

"In reality, a policy of collective punishment is being imposed upon 1.4 million people, in violation of international humanitarian law and contradictory to Israel's interest. Destroying Gaza's economy only exacerbates dependence on extreme elements."

Israel is determined to avoid accusations of causing a humanitarian crisis in Gaza so is allowing basic food products ,which are distributed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa).

Blockade helps Gaza militants, says report

An Israeli military official involved in Gaza policy described Israel's policy as "no development, no progress, no humanitarian crisis".

In a further blow to the Gazan economy Unrwa and the UN Development Programme will announce today the suspension of all construction projects because Israel will not allow the import of cement. The projects are worth about \$80m (£40m) and employ hundreds of people. The works include the construction of homes, health centres and sewage works.

guardian.co.uk/israel >=

Load-Date: July 6, 2007



History offers little chance for Arab democracy; Regional, Tribal Influences Still Dominate

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

July 9, 2007 Monday

National Edition

Copyright 2007 National Post All Rights Reserved **Section:** NEWS; Pg. A14; Matthew Fisher

Length: 745 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, National Post

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -In an absorbing discourse last week, one of Israel's greatest thinkers, Shlomo Avineri, sketched out the bleak history of democracy in the Middle East and what he called Palestine.

This history explained why the 74-year old Polish-born intellectual is deeply skeptical that it will take root any time soon except, curiously, perhaps in Iran, which at the moment is threatening Israel with nuclear annihilation.

After noting that Iran is not, of course, Arab, and that the ideas of the current government repel him, Avineri told a small group of foreign journalists that Iran can nevertheless be defined as a "civil society" because it holds elections including presidential runoffs, that <u>women</u> can drive, vote and sit in a parliament that is not controlled by the president.

This is not true of the Arab League. Big or small, monarchy or republic, not one of its 21 states has taken many step towards democracy except Lebanon, which has what might be described as a non-functioning party system.

Why, Avineri asked rhetorically, has there been monumental political change in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and eastern Europe over the past 20 years while the Middle East has been immune to the trend?

"This is not because of Islam. That is a total red herring," the usually soft-spoken emeritus professor of political science at Hebrew University thundered scornfully.

"Turkey has industrialized, is democratic and has an Islamic-based party. Bangladesh and Indonesia are more-or-less free countries. In Iran there is Islamic representation and there are political debates."

What is absent in the Middle East is a history of democracy. There has been no inspirational figure such as Ataturk, who forged modern democratic Turkey out of the ruins of the Ottoman Empire. As a result there have been no democratic building blocks for Arab nations to copy.

"Those countries in eastern Europe that became democratic such as the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary, had had long democratic traditions before communism," Avineri said. "There was no such democratization in Russian because it had had a long history of authoritarian regimes."

History offers little chance for Arab democracy; Regional, Tribal Influences Still Dominate

Instead of democracy, what Arab countries have are pre-modern institutions where tribal and regional allegiances are paramount, the British-educated academic said, citing the example of Iraq. "There was a history of Sunni hegemony because the British put them in power," he said. After Saddam was overthrown the Shia-majority used the country's first elections to come to power, but neither Iraq's majority nor its minority knew how to behave in a democracy with chaos and carnage being the grim result.

Something similar has taken place more recently in Gaza and the West Bank. After <u>Hamas</u> defeated Fatah in elections in January, 2007, the first response of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who leads Fatah, was to take over some of the security services. <u>Hamas</u> countered by creating a rival militia known as Executive Force.

"Abu Mazen [Abbas] says he doesn't want a civil war. That is not an abstract idea. If you look at the history of Palestine, what you have is a failure of nation-building."

As was seen again when BBC journalist Alan Johnston was freed after 114 days as a hostage when <u>Hamas</u> fighters surrounded members of another Gaza faction that had kidnapped him, their differences were "settled through the barrel of a gun."

As part of his 75-minute tutorial, Avineri detailed how the Arab Revolt against Britain and Palestine's Jews that lasted from 1936 to 1939 had fizzled out because of internal divisions that resulted in Arabs killing more of their own than Britons or Jews. Similar problems surfaced again when during the war that created Israel in 1947 and 1948 because, unlike the Jews, the Arabs continued to operate as region-based clans rather than under a unified command.

The direction the Jewish and Arab communities who share what was British Palestine were to take on governance was already apparent in the 1930s, Avineri said.

Because it was a Mandate and not a colony, the British allowed some institutions of self-government.

"At the time there were 120,000 Jews in Palestine and they held an Assembly of Jews," chuckling at the fact that it had 17 different parties. "What the Arabs did was the opposite. They set up a High Committee of notables who were never elected."

Such deeply rooted historical attitudes are crucial to understanding why achieving democracy in the Middle East is so problematic and so unlikely.

Graphic

Color Photo: Caren Firouz, Reuters; Iran, where Islamic fashion shows go on despite religious conservatism, remains the best hope for democracy in the Middle East, says an Israeli political expert.;

Load-Date: July 9, 2007



America the terrible

University Wire
October 5, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Rocky Mountain Collegian via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 1006 words

Byline: By Trevor Sides, Rocky Mountain Collegian; SOURCE: Colorado State U.

Dateline: FORT COLLINS, Colo.

Body

Good intentions are a flash-flood on dry prairies. The prairie needs water, but when the rain comes in the wrong fashion, the results are ruinous.

A couple of weeks ago, the town hall meeting "Islam in America: Hope not Hate" at Lory Student Center left me with the same impression.

I know Dr. Lori Peek, Kathy Gockel and Imam Mahdi Bray were trying to help fix the mess our world is in. But like flash-floods on a parched prairie, so were the answers these activists put forth.

Due to time and space, I will focus on the main tenets each so passionately espoused.

Peek used FBI statistics to speak out against the prejudice and hate crimes that have plagued Muslim Americans post-9/11. Bias and disdain based purely on skin color or religion is backward at best and destructive at worst, and there I agree with Peek.

In 2000, only 28 anti-Muslim hate-crime incidents were reported; that figured jumped to 481 in 2001. Yuck. But over the next three years, the number of anti-Muslim hate crimes plummeted to 155, 149, and 156, respectively.

This doesn't mean that race should be the only factor involved in spotting potential terror threats in, say, an airport. The Transportation Security Administration has a 30-point checklist for spotting questionable behavior. But doesn't it make sense to keep half an eye out for male Muslims from Middle Eastern countries?

As for Ms. Gockel, her bleeding-heart plea to "put ourselves in others' shoes" was completely na've. She asked us to think about Iraqis and how they're probably wondering why North Korea or Pakistan or India weren't invaded - because they, too, have nuclear weapons programs.

Of course, Gockel assumes she's speaking for all Iraqis - a big flaw (I have an uncle who spent six months in Iraq; many of the Iraqis are thrilled that we came). But I don't think any North Koreans were involved in the 9/11 attacks, and India and Pakistan are too self-absorbed to care about anything except Kashmir and their own arms race.

Gockel also pleaded for us to sympathize with terrorist groups <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah. She believes their status as terrorists isn't fair because they offer social services to the poor in their communities. Good for them. Soviet Russia

America the terrible

and Nazi Germany also offered social services, and communist Cuba provides social services for their poor. Does that vindicate those repressive and backwards regimes as well?

<u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah also use <u>women</u> and children to deter their heinous, Western enemies. Thus, civilian casualties have risen in that region - another major concern of Gockel's. But instead of condemning the terrorists who use civilians as battle-field shields and suicide bombers, Gockel sees fit to rail against U.S. security policy and warfare.

Amidst much "trembling for our nation," Bray used his platform to vent against President Bush's labeling of militant Islamists as "Islamo-fascists." Bray noted that Bush should retake some poli-sci classes and that "nothing in the tenets of Islam" promotes fascism.

Something Peek didn't tell the audience, though, was that the number of anti-Jewish hate crimes was ridiculously higher than anti-Muslim hate crimes. In 2001, anti-Jewish hate crimes more than doubled anti-Muslim hate crimes; between 2002 and 2004, anti-Jewish hate crimes averaged around 780 more incidents than anti-Muslim hate crimes.

Peek used the hate-crime stats to show that Muslim Americans are living without much of their freedoms. Based on that logic, Jewish Americans live with no freedom at all.

She also views racial profiling as essentially racist and a blatant attempt to strip Muslim Americans of their liberties.

Who flew planes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon? Middle Eastern, Islamic men. Who bombed the U.S.S. Cole? Middle Eastern, Islamic men. Who tried to blow up the WTC in 1993? Middle Eastern, Islamic men. In his Aug. 18 editorial in the Chicago Tribune, Jonah Goldberg stated that "roughly 99 percent of jihadi terrorists are of either Middle Eastern or South Asian descent and 100 percent of them are Muslim."

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America the terrible

Load-Date: October 5, 2006



Top of the World

thespec.com

June 30, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A04

Length: 782 words

Byline: The Hamilton Spectator

Body

U.S. coalition and Afghan troops raided three compounds in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, killing four suspected militants and detaining 16 others, while clashes and air strikes in the south left 17 more militants dead, officials said. The raid in the eastern Nangarhar province targeted compounds suspected "of harbouring Taliban and foreign fighters," the U.S.-led coalition said. Troops found rocket-propelled grenade launchers and several grenades, which were removed and destroyed, a coalition spokesman said. Malek Zaman, an elder of the village where the raid took place, denied that the four were militants, saying those killed and taken away were innocent civilians who were not involved in the insurgency against Afghan and foreign troops. Two of the slain men were uncles of the weeping boy, whose father was among those detained.

The premier of Nunavut has apologized for using offensive language about a <u>female</u> member of a territorial delegation at an official dinner in Goose Bay, Labrador. Premier Paul Okalik's remark was overheard by another woman. When she confronted him, he repeated the offensive words. Okalik, who days before had spoken out against violence against <u>women</u> in Nunavut, has written to both <u>women</u> and apologized on CBC North radio.

UNESCO has expressed concern over development at Tibet's Potala palace, above, former home of the Dalai Lama, and five other Chinese World Heritage sites, and has urged corrective measures, a specialist with the group said yesterday. In a move so far unreported in China, the United Nations group singled out two Chinese sites on the World Heritage List for "examination" and four more for "noting," Feng Jing, the World Heritage Committee's Asia specialist, wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Chinese media reported prominently on the addition of two Chinese sites to the list this week, bringing the country's total to 35. A listing can vastly increase a site's attractiveness to tourists.

It was not clear exactly what the designations meant, but sites can eventually be removed from the list if UNESCO's concerns are not met. Feng said no Chinese sites were considered for placement on the group's in danger list, a more serious step toward delisting. Listed for noting were the Potala complex, which also includes two other sites in Tibet's capital, Lhasa, and Beijing's ancient imperial palace, summer palace and Temple of Heaven. The old town in the southwestern city of Lijiang was listed for examination, along with the protected areas surrounding Yunnan province's Three Parallel Rivers, on which dams are being built.

Dorothy Bartley holds a bottle of vodka in front of her restaurant in Kennebunkport as the Maine resort prepares for a visit to the Bush family's summer retreat by Russian President Vladimir Putin. Tomorrow, the Russian leader and U.S. President George W. Bush open a two-day summit aimed at repairing deteriorating relations between the two

Top of the World

countries. An international poll released this week found that half the U.S. respondents had little or no trust in either leader's conduct of foreign affairs. In Britain, Canada and Germany, Bush is less trusted on foreign policy than Putin.

Men are growing beards to show devotion to Islam, <u>women</u> are lowering hemlines, coffee shop debates on politics have fallen silent: Gazans are adjusting to <u>Hamas</u> rule. The changes are largely pre-emptive since <u>Hamas</u> has avoided a heavy-handed religious crackdown and assured Gazans the movement is not setting up a harsh Islamic regime, akin to Taliban rule in Afghanistan. At Gaza City's PLO flag shop, you can buy key chains showing Ismail Haniyeh, the politician who <u>Hamas</u> insists is still the Palestinian prime minister even though he was fired after the Gaza takeover.

Lisa Nowak's lawyer says the former astronaut did not wear diapers during her 1,500-kilometre road trip from Texas to Florida to confront a romantic rival. The diaper detail, contained in a police report, became fodder for late-night TV comics and talk radio. But Donald Lykkebak told a hearing in Orlando that was the "biggest lie" in what he calls a "preposterous tale." The lawyer says the toddler-size diapers found in the car were several years old. Nowak, 44, is charged with attempted kidnapping, battery and burglary with assault.

Toronto's CN Tower launched an innovative system of illumination Thursday night. The programmable LED system can produce millions of colours and effects but uses less energy than former conventional lighting systems. The tower will be lit nightly from sunset to 1 a.m. with a standard theme honouring Canada's colours, red and white. A short effect at the top of each hour will change from time to time.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press File Photo , CHINA; Photo: Rahmat Gul, the Associated Press , AFGHANISTAN; Photo: Mike Cassese, Reuters , CANADA; Photo: Gerald Herbert, the Associated Press , UNITED STATES; Photo: Khalil Hamra, the Associated Press , GAZA STRIP; Photo: NUNAVUT; Photo: Associated Press File Photo , FLORIDA

Load-Date: June 30, 2007



Madam speaker, keep your mouth shut

University Wire
April 9, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 The Gamecock via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 432 words

Byline: By Jacob Davis, The Gamecock; SOURCE: U. South Carolina

Dateline: COLUMBIA, S.C.

Body

When Nancy Pelosi was elected speaker of the House, it was hailed as a victory for women.

Finally, admirers said, here was a woman who could do it all. I mean, good grief, she was sworn in as speaker with her grandchildren on her knee.

Well, last week Pelosi dealt one of the most critical blows to **women** and the nation in recent memory.

You see, it all started with a little trip to Syria.

Yes, Syria, partner in terror with Iran, leader of Lebanon's puppet regime, and general financers of repression and mayhem everywhere.

Pelosi traveled to Syria, an aggressive terrorist nation, against the wishes of the White House, which sets foreign policy, and proceeded to deliver line-after-line of claptrap that the terrorist leadership ate up.

She did all this while prostrating herself before terrorist architect and misogynistic pig, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

She legitimized Syria's terrorist actions by declaring, "The road to peace leads through Damascus."

As she chatted up al-Assad, she also managed to further embarrass not only herself and her nation, but our allies, specifically Israel.

During her meeting with Syrian officials she repeatedly claimed to be delivering peace overtures from the Israeli government.

But as the Israeli government has angrily pointed out, Pelosi is in no way authorized to speak to brutal terrorist states such as Syria on their behalf.

The only message she delivered was that she's a gutless embarrassment to the nation, and that she will bow to even the most heinous foes to score cheap political points.

What's worse, Pelosi's actions have de-legitimized the few moderates in the Syrian government when she visited their current hard-line leaders.

Madam speaker, keep your mouth shut

The Reform Party of Syria has issued a statement saying Pelosi's actions have set them back "decades."

I want to thank her for providing our enemies abroad with a healthy supply of verbal ammunition to hurl at us, to complement the very real physical ammunition our troops engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan face every day.

But don't take my word for it, take the terrorists word for it.

Members of Islamic Jihad, *Hamas* and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade all spoke to ynetnews.com about Pelosi's trip.

Abu Abdullah, a leader of *Hamas*' military wing in the Gaza Strip, said the willingness by some lawmakers to talk with Syria is proof of the importance of the resistance against the U.S.

"Pelosi's visit to Syria was very brave. She is a brave woman," said Jihad Jaara, a senior member of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades terror group.

Way to go Nancy. What a leader you are for **women** and our nation.

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Load-Date: April 9, 2007



Mideast can find peace if U.S. acts, Ellison says; The Minnesota Democrat and first Muslim congressman said he returned from the region impressed with the desire for reconciliation at every stop.

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

April 8, 2007 Sunday

Metro Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1B

Length: 755 words

Byline: Rochelle Olson, Staff Writer

Body

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, the only Muslim in Congress, says he returned from a high-level trip to the Middle East on Saturday with a strengthened belief in the possibility of peace if the United States is willing to provide leadership.

"If we fold our arms and turn our backs and say people have to meet conditions before we meet with them, things are going to get worse," he said in a telephone interview in a cab after he landed in Washington. "There is no doubt the United States is the world's leading power, and they know it."

Ellison, elected in November to a two-year term representing the Fifth District centered in Minneapolis, kept a low profile as he traveled to Israel, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia with a congressional delegation led by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "In all those places, I can feel the possibility for healing, for reconciliation and moving forward," he said.

The Bush administration has promoted Ellison's status as the first Muslim in Congress around the world, even though the freshman Democrat disagrees with many of the president's policies and often has preached the importance of negotiating with all sides.

"You don't need peace treaties with your friends," he said.

Ellison said he came away impressed by the warmth of Syrian <u>women</u> toward Pelosi, the intelligence of Lebanese parliamentary leader Saad Hariri, the leadership of Saudi King Abdullah and the candor of Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority.

When the delegation walked into the eighth-century Omayyad Mosque in Syria's capital, he said, the <u>women</u> inside turned and waved at Pelosi and followed her outside to be photographed with her. "The people felt like a world leader was demonstrating humanity toward them," he said.

The stop in Damascus was the most controversial because Pelosi, the third-highest ranking elected official behind the president and vice president, is the most senior U.S. leader to visit since Syrian-American relations faltered in 2003.

Mideast can find peace if U.S. acts, Ellison says The Minnesota Democrat and first Muslim congressman said he returned from the region impressed with the desire....

The Bush administration contends that Syria has allowed militant fighters safe passage into neighboring Iraq and meddled in Lebanese politics. Washington has been trying to isolate Syria diplomatically since 2005, when it withdrew its ambassador to protest the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Many Lebanese blamed Syria for the assassination, but officials in Damascus denied involvement.

The delegation also brought word from Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert that he is willing to talk peace provided Syria "close the borders" to Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u>. Ellison said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad also expressed a desire for peace but doesn't admit to helping those organizations. "He has his own explanations," Ellison said. "If he claims he's not doing these things, we need an American administration that's going to verify and to verify, we need to be talking to them."

According to Ellison, the delegation also relayed assurances from Olmert that Israel had no plans to attack Syria.

"He very clearly said he was worried that Syria might misinterpret some things that were happening in Israel, and he didn't want to end up in an accidental war with them," Ellison said.

When the U.S. delegation talked to Abbas in the West Bank about strengthening his position against <u>Hamas</u>, Ellison said the Palestinian leader told them that will be difficult because the United States puts conditions on money given to him while Iran recently delivered \$500 million to <u>Hamas</u>.

Ellison said King Abdullah personally invited him to return to Saudi Arabia, a trip he would like to make to see Mecca and Medina, the two holiest sites in Islam.

Since shortly before his election, Ellison has been planning a trip to Israel with the help of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas. He said the trip is tentatively being considered for August and will have a different focus - more "neighbor to neighbor," traveling with and meeting with regular people in the streets and cities. On this trip, he said, he felt he was well-received in Israel.

"What I admired in Israel was the very frank and widely diverse points of view that were expressed," Ellison said. "People there love a lively debate. And they had one."

Steve Hunegs, executive director of the JCRC, is looking forward to talking to Ellison about his trip. Ellison, the only member of the delegation who isn't a committee chairman, said he was there to listen and learn.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. Rochelle Olson - 612-673-1747

Graphic

PHOTO

Load-Date: April 10, 2007



BBC correspondent kidnapped in Gaza

hollywoodreporter.com March 13, 2007 Tuesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL INDEX; NEWS

Length: 486 words **Byline:** Mimi Turner

Body

LONDON -- Fears are mounting for the safety of BBC Gaza correspondent Alan Johnston after the pubcaster confirmed it has been unable to contact him amid Palestinian reports that he has been kidnapped.

The pubcaster issued a statement saying that it was "concerned" for Johnston's whereabouts after failing to contact him.

"We are currently unable to contact him and are concerned for his safety," the BBC said in a statement. "We are trying to gather as much information as possible."

Palestinian Interior minister Sayeed Sayyam said that Johnston's disappearance was "a criminal act," according to wire reports.

In an interview with BBC News, Johnston, the BBC's Gaza reporter for three years, was described as "a highly experienced and respected reporter," by BBC diplomatic correspondent Paul Adams.

Rushdi Abualouf, a senior BBC producer in Gaza, said no other staff were with Johnston when he was driving home from the BBC office in the coastal strip.

"We lost contact with him and we have a reason to believe he was kidnapped," Abualouf told Reuters.

"We have no information about the conditions of his captivity and we received no claim of responsibility by any group and we do not know the motives."

Johnston is believed to be the only Western journalist still based full time in the Gaza Strip. Most other journalists moved out of the impoverished territory last year as fighting between rival *Hamas* and Fatah factions intensified.

"(We) are concerned for his safety," the BBC said earlier in a statement.

BBC correspondent kidnapped in Gaza

"We're trying to gather as much information as possible. Alan is a highly experienced and respected reporter," the statement added.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are aware of (the) reports and are urgently looking into it."

Palestinian Interior Minister Saeed Seyam of *Hamas* described the kidnapping as a "criminal act."

"The security services will ... pursue the criminals and bring them to justice," he told reporters.

Security forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah declared a state of emergency and set up checkpoints in the streets to search for Johnston.

"(The kidnapping) is harmful to our national cause and to the civilized face of our people," Fatah said in a statement.

There have been a series of abductions of foreign journalists and aid workers in Gaza in the past year.

All have been released unharmed.

The last foreign journalist to be kidnapped was a Peruvian photographer working for the French news agency Agence France-Presse in early January.

The AFP photographer was released unharmed after nearly one week in captivity.

Last month three American women were abducted in the occupied West Bank and freed about an hour later.

Militants have abducted foreigners usually to try to put pressure on the Palestinian government to give them jobs or to press for the release of detained colleagues, including those inside prisons in Israel.

Additional reporting by Reuters.

Load-Date: March 18, 2007



Briefs

Philadelphia Daily News January 30, 2007 Tuesday

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 11

Length: 810 words

Body

Palestinian suicide bomber

kills 3 Israelis in beach town

EILAT, Israel - A Palestinian suicide bomber killed three Israelis at a bakery yesterday in the first such attack inside the country in nine months, and the two radical groups that claimed to have sent him said they were trying to end weeks of Palestinian infighting by taking aim at Israel instead.

The bombing was praised by the Palestinians' governing <u>Hamas</u> movement as legitimate resistance - a position that was sure to hurt efforts to end a crippling economic boycott imposed by the international community.

Israeli security chiefs met last night to discuss a response. "This is a grave incident, it's an escalation and we shall treat it as such," said Defense Minister Amir Peretz.

It was the first suicide bombing in this Red Sea resort of 50,000 at Israel's southern tip near the Jordanian and Egyptian borders. The town is a popular getaway for Israelis because it has been insulated from Israeli-Palestinian violence.

New U.S. commander sees

more attacks from Taliban

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHARANA, Afghanistan - The incoming commander of U.S. troops in Afghanistan said yesterday he expects Taliban militants to launch more suicide attacks this year than in 2006, when militants set off a record 139 such bombings.

Maj. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, said military leaders expect an increase in all kinds of attacks as the weather gets warmer.

"We're expecting an increase in the suicide bombers and some of the other tactics that they have believed are successful," he said. "So we expect to see that as well as the normal stand-off type attacks and harassing kind of attacks on Afghan government officials, Afghan nationals, security forces, as well as coalition forces."

Briefs

Rodriguez, who takes command from Maj. Gen. Benjamin Freakley on Friday, traveled to the eastern province of Paktika next to the Pakistan border yesterday to be briefed by military leaders and the provincial governor.

U.S. on sidelines as Iran,

Saudis work on Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon - In an unusual collaboration that could complicate American policy in the region, Iran and Saudi Arabia have been mediating an agreement to end Lebanon's violent political crisis, the *New York Times* reports.

Leaders of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed party trying to overthrow Lebanon's government, have recently visited the Saudi king in Riyadh, according to officials who attended the meeting. And Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi chief security adviser, has met with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Larijani, in Riyadh and Tehranto try to stop Lebanon's slide into civil war.

"The only hope is for the Iranians and Saudis to go further in easing the situation and bringing people back to the negotiating table," said Radwan Sayyed, an adviser to Prime Minister Fouad Siniora.

The Saudi-Iranian efforts have put Washington in an awkward position, since it is trying to reduce Iran's regional influence. But since a stable Lebanon is also an American priority, American officials have watched the efforts without interfering.

Another Palestinian truce

goes by the boards in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip- Palestinian infighting raged in the Gaza Strip this morning despite a cease-fire declaration by warring <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah factions aimed at ending factional clashes that have left more than 60 dead in the past two months.

Gunfire and explosions were audible in downtown Gaza City as gunmen from the rival factions ignored the cease-fire, reached at a midnight meeting between Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of <u>Hamas</u> and a representative of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah.

The truce was to have gone into effect at 3 a.m. local time.

Calling women 'birth machines'

gets Japan official a reprimand

TOKYO- Prime Minister Shinzo Abe rebuked Japan's health minister yesterday for calling <u>women</u> "birth machines," a remark that has caused an outcry in the country.

But Abe dismissed calls for the embattled minister to resign.

"I reprimanded him severely," Abe said, adding that he saw no reason for Health Minister Hakuo Yanagisawa to step down.

"From now on, I hope he will remain fully devoted in his job and obtain the people's understanding."

Abe's comments came just hours after a group of female lawmakers called for Yanagisawa's removal.

The health minister triggered outrage over the weekend by describing <u>women</u> as "birth machines" in a speech on the country's falling birthrate.

He later retracted the remarks.

Briefs

"The number of <u>women</u> between the ages of 15 and 50 is fixed. The number of birth machines (and) devices is fixed, so all we can ask is that they do their best per head," Yanagisawa was reported as saying in the speech Saturday.

The government has been scrambling to implement measures to persuade couples to have more children amid concerns about the country's shrinking population.

Daily News wire services

Load-Date: January 30, 2007



A Palestinian woman was killed and another 10 were reported wounded when Israeli forces opened fire on a group outside a Gaza mosque

Guardian.com

November 3, 2006

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Length: 430 words

Highlight: A Palestinian woman was killed and another 10 were reported wounded when Israeli forces today

opened fire on a group preparing to act as a human shield for militants in a Gaza mosque.

Body

A Palestinian woman was killed and another 10 were reported wounded when Israeli forces today opened fire on a group preparing to act as a human shield for militants in a Gaza mosque.

Dozens of <u>women</u> were gathering outside the mosque in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza Strip after an appeal on a local radio station. At least a dozen gunmen had taken refuge in the building after the Israeli army launched its largest Gaza offensive in months in an attempt to stop militants launching rocket attacks on nearby Jewish settlements over the border.

Television pictures showed at least 50 <u>women</u> making their way along a pavement when shots could be heard ringing out. They started to flee in terror and at least two <u>women</u> were left lying on the ground.

Witnesses said one woman, aged about 40, was killed, and 10 others were wounded. The Israeli army said troops spotted two militants hiding in the crowd of **women** and opened fire.

Israeli tanks and armoured personnel carriers surrounded the building when militants took refuge there after two days of fighting, the Israeli military and Palestinian security officials said. A large group of <u>women</u> protesters went on to gather outside the mosque. An unidentified number of militants escaped while the demonstration was going on, but some remained inside, the Israeli army and <u>Hamas</u> said.

A 22-year-old Palestinian man was also killed in the northern town, which troops seized on Wednesday. More than 20 Palestinians, most of them militants, have been killed since the offensive began.

Overnight, the two sides exchanged fire. Troops also threw stun and smoke grenades into the mosque to pressure the gunmen to surrender. Witnesses said an Israeli army bulldozer knocked down an outer wall of the mosque. It was not clear if there were any casualties inside.

Residents said Beit Hanoun, a town of 30,000 people, was effectively under full Israeli control, with a curfew imposed.

A Palestinian woman was killed and another 10 were reported wounded when Israeli forces opened fire on a group outside a Gaza mosque

The army said it targeted Beit Hanoun because it was a major staging ground for rocket attacks. But Israeli officials have said the takeover of Beit Hanoun was expected to last only a few days and did not signal the start of a wider-scale military offensive in Gaza.

Militants, however, continued to fire rockets at Israeli border communities, including two that landed on Friday. Two Israelis were slightly wounded and a house was damaged in the latest attacks.

In a separate operation last night, an Israeli air strike on a car in Gaza City killed three <u>Hamas</u> fighters, including a local militant commander, witnesses said. An Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed the strike.

Load-Date: November 3, 2006



World datelines

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

June 28, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 512 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

Body

China: Food plants closed

SHANGHAI -- After weeks of insisting that food here is largely safe, regulators in China said Tuesday that they had recently closed 180 food plants and that inspectors had uncovered more than 23,000 food safety violations.

The nationwide crackdown, which the government said began last December, also found that many small food makers were using industrial chemicals, banned dyes and other illegal ingredients in things like candy and seafood.

The announcement came as part of an overhaul of food safety regulations after a series of international food scares involving Chinese exports.

Israel: Gaza violence

JERUSALEM -- At least 11 Palestinian militants and two civilians were killed Wednesday during Israeli raids in Gaza in the deadliest day of fighting since the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> took control there nearly two weeks ago.

The new raids underscored that Israel intended to maintain military pressure on Gaza, amid widespread concern over *Hamas*' seizure of control there earlier this month when it drove out its rival, Fatah.

Kazakhstan: AIDS trial

ASTANA -- A court convicted 21 medical workers Wednesday for their roles in infecting scores of children with the virus that causes AIDS in a case that has outraged Kazakhstan.

The Shymkent district court gave suspended sentences to five senior health officials, including the district's chief medical officer, according to the ruling by Judge Ziyadinkhan Pirniyaz. Another 16 medical workers, including nurses and doctors in the city's hospital and clinics, meanwhile, were sentenced to prison sentences of up to five years.

The Central Asian nation has been shocked by the infections, which resulted when scores of children and 13 mothers contracted HIV through injections or blood transfusions at hospitals in Shymkent, a city 1,000 miles south of the capital, Astana.

Saudi Arabia: Virtue police woes

World datelines

RIYADH -- In a new blow to Saudi Arabia's powerful religious police, a member of the force has been implicated in the death of a man whose house was raided because he was suspected of possessing and consuming alcohol, an official statement said Wednesday.

The accusation against the unidentified agent of the Commission for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice is the second such charge of police brutality targeting the governmental body that enforces the kingdom's strict Islamic lifestyle.

The cases threaten to undermine the once unquestioned authority of the commission, whose officers patrol public places to ensure <u>women</u> are covered, sexes don't mingle, shops close five times a day for Muslim prayers and men go to mosques for worship. It has long been resented for intimidating people and interfering in the tiniest details of lives.

Tonga: Nation joins WTO

Tonga, the only monarchy in the Pacific and one of the globe's poorest countries, will become the 151st member of the World Trade Organization next month as it seeks to diversify its agriculture-dependent economy.

The move, announced by the WTO Wednesday, comes after more than a decade of membership negotiations.

Load-Date: June 28, 2007



Rockets Fray Nerves in Israeli 'Bull's-Eye' City

The New York Times
June 1, 2007 Friday
Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 1123 words

Byline: By ISABEL KERSHNER **Dateline:** SDEROT, Israel, May 29

Body

Kobi Cohen was 2 years old when a Qassam rocket fired by Palestinians from the Gaza Strip exploded 50 yards from him. Now 5, a skinny boy with an impish face, Kobi still shows signs of trauma. He had some therapy at the time, said his mother, Hanna Cohen, but she is not sure how effective it was.

"Even today he gets very angry about every little thing, and he shakes," Mrs. Cohen said.

Another of her six children, Maayan, a shy girl of 10, panicked a few months ago when a rocket attack caught her outside the house. Her mother had sent her across the road to invite a lonely neighbor to hear the Sabbath blessing over wine.

Then the "red alert" sounded over the citywide public address system -- the recorded voice of a woman calmly but urgently repeating "Color red, color red," the code for an incoming rocket, which is inevitably followed by a whistle and a terrifying boom.

Maayan sat on the grass screaming and could not move, her mother said. An ambulance was called, and the crew calmed her down.

After seven years of rocket fire, sometimes sporadic and sometimes intense, Sderot has turned into a city of fear. A working-class town whose outer limits lie less than a mile and a half from Gaza's border, Sderot is the bull's-eye for the relatively crude Qassams, whose warheads are stuffed with shrapnel.

With each attack, more of its 24,000 residents are added to the list of those treated for "charada," or severe anxiety or alarm in Hebrew.

Two weeks ago Palestinian militant factions, including <u>Hamas</u>, sharply stepped up the rocket fire from across the border, ending a tenuous six-month cease-fire. About 270 Qassam rockets have been launched at Israel since then, according to the Israeli Army, many landing in or around Sderot.

Israel has responded by pounding <u>Hamas</u> military compounds and outposts in Gaza and attacking groups it believes to be rocket-launching cells, mainly from the air.

Rockets Fray Nerves in Israeli 'Bull's-Eye' City

Ahmed Youssef, a senior <u>Hamas</u> official, recently described the homemade projectiles as fireworks, apparently because no more than two Israelis have been killed in the recent siege: a man and a woman, both in their 30s.

But psychologists and mental health workers here describe a population that has become paralyzed by the terror of the last red alert and the dread of the next one. The residents never become inured to the fear induced by each new attack or the randomness of the threat, the mental health specialists say.

"It's trauma upon trauma," said Tami Sagi, director of psychological services in Sderot. "I don't think enough research has been done to show the effect of such fear over such a long period of time."

Young Kobi's restlessness was compounded by the closing of his kindergarten by officials. He is also suffering from a bad toothache, but Mrs. Cohen has been waiting for the current round of hostilities to calm before taking him to the dentist.

"What if a red alert goes off in the middle?" she said, her features tight with tension. "And what am I supposed to do with the other children while I'm stuck there for two or three hours?"

Even taking a shower is stressful, Sderot's residents say. Rockets can strike anywhere, anytime, and with the water running, people cannot hear the alert and take shelter.

Although they live in a comfortable two-story house, the Cohens, like most families here, spend the nights like refugees. They spread mattresses on the floor of the living room every evening, afraid to sleep in the upstairs bedrooms in case a rocket comes smashing through the roof. Some of the Cohen children have taken to sleeping with friends in a bomb shelter across the road.

Everyone knows what happened Saturday evening, when a rocket destroyed the children's bedroom of an apartment nearby. The family, luckily, was out of town.

The police and ambulance crews in Sderot are prepared to rush to the scene when a rocket strikes. "People are shaking," said Yuri Malol, a volunteer paramedic with the ambulance service. "They can't move. They are crying, sweating and in a state of shock. It affects everybody -- young, old, men, <u>women</u>, children. There is no age for it."

While those with wounds are taken to a hospital, those suffering from charada are taken to the city trauma center, a neat, low building next to police headquarters. There, half a dozen beds are waiting, along with civilian medical workers and a team of soldiers from the medical corps.

Dr. Adriana Katz is the city's chief psychiatrist and runs the clinic. For many patients, she said, a glass of water and some kind words are enough to help them get over the immediate anxiety and reassure them that their reactions are normal. Some need sedation; a few require long-term treatment.

The aim, she said, is to prevent post-traumatic stress syndrome, a potentially chronic condition that can cripple lives. "But we can't talk of post-trauma yet," Dr. Katz said. "There is no 'post.' It's all the time. The 'post' isn't even on the horizon."

In the current siege, many schools have closed. Some that are equipped with fortified roofs and bomb shelters reopened Tuesday. At the Gil Elementary School, 49 pupils turned up, out of 200. The principal, Etti Azran, said she knew the location of every absent pupil. Seventy-six were out of town, and the rest were at home, their parents too scared to bring them, she said.

Several thousand residents have left town temporarily, and a few who had the means have gone for good.

The Cohens, who have put everything they have earned into their home, do not have the means. Shimon, the father, does agricultural work "in carrots and garlic" in a nearby kibbutz. Hanna earns the minimum wage escorting children on buses to school, and she cleans offices for extra cash.

Rockets Fray Nerves in Israeli 'Bull's-Eye' City

Shimon was born here and swears he will never leave. As a kind of statement, he said, he has just invested \$7,000 in renovations for the house. "I won't let *Hamas* dance on the rooftops because I've run away," he said, sitting out on the porch with the family as the evening drew in. Hanna and the children would readily move out, but they know that nobody would buy the house.

At 8:40 p.m. the red alert suddenly sounded across the city. Kobi and some of the girls were already in the bomb shelter across the road. Everyone else darted inside. The eldest boy, Haim, 16, hid in the downstairs bathroom.

Hanna crouched on the floor in the middle of the front room, trembling, her arms wrapped around her head. Shimon took up position near the window, waiting to hear the boom. Their youngest child, 2-year-old Adi, stood by the back wall in her pink pajamas, silent and wide-eyed.

The rocket landed with a thud. This time it was far away.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Children crowd into a shelter, too small for adults, during a night rocket attack by Palestinians on Sderot, an Israeli working-class border town. (Photo by Rina Castelnuovo for The New York Times) Map of Israel highlighting Sderot: Sderot has become a regular target of Palestinian-fired missiles.

Load-Date: June 1, 2007



Abduction signals troubling trend in Gaza

Christian Science Monitor
October 25, 2006, Wednesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 7

Length: 816 words

Byline: Ilene R. Prusher Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Highlight: Emilio Morenatti was kidnapped Tuesday, the third abduction of a foreign journalist in two months.

Body

A Spanish photojournalist was kidnapped at gunpoint in Gaza Tuesday, the latest in a worrying trend of abductions of foreigners - particularly, but not exclusively, journalists - in the Palestinian territories.

No group claimed responsibility for the abduction. But amid increasing lawlessness, economic deterioration, and internecine rivalries that have become a prevalent aspect of life in Gaza following January's election of a <u>Hamas</u>led government, the kidnapping is seen as a troubling signal of a Palestinian Authority (PA) unable to control radical elements or enforce law and order.

Moreover, this and other kidnappings, analysts say, are probably the product of tiny offshoot cells who could be acting independently of the main factions that have long defined Palestinian politics, and who are likely taking a page from the recent kidnapping feats of Hizbullah militants and Iraqi insurgents.

"There are some groups that are taking cues from Hizbullah, but also from the Iraq model as well," says Magnus Ranstorp, an expert on <u>Hamas</u> and other Middle Eastern militant groups at Swedish National Defense College. "Those currents are pulsating in all sorts of directions. We're moving in dangerous and uncharted territory when you have autonomous, independent groups that are learning from other conflict zones and taking advantage of the situation."

The Associated Press (AP) photographer, Emilio Morenatti, was leaving his apartment in Gaza Tuesday when militants grabbed him, shoved him into a white Volkswagen and drove off, according to an AP driver and translator.

Some of the details of the abduction bore similarities to the August kidnapping of two journalists for Fox TV, US reporter Steve Centanni and New Zealander cameraman Olaf Wiig, who were snatched at gunpoint from their vehicle. The two men, like Mr. Morenatti, had been staying in Gaza for several days at time.

After intensive campaigning by family members and colleagues, the two were released uninjured but told a harrowing story of their ordeal, including rough treatment and being moved from house to house. They were forced to make several videos, including one which aired on Al Jazeera and demanded the release of all Muslim <u>female</u> prisoners held by the US.

Those demands represented an unprecedented shift in direction for Palestinian militants - one that has a much more global agenda, rather than one focused solely on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Abduction signals troubling trend in Gaza

Dr. Ranstorp says whether Palestinian militants may actually be getting help from Al Qaeda-related groups - as Israeli intelligence officials have occasionally indicated - or simply gleaning inspiration from the international Islamic group founded by Osama bin Laden is a question that is almost irrelevant.

"I think it's more the state of mind," he says. "Yes, there will be people who will be sympathetic not just to Al Qaeda, but Hizbullah. The point is that they're improving and improvising. I don't think it really matters whether Al Qaeda is in Gaza or not. If the idea is attacking and killing Westerners, you don't need Al Qaeda to figure out how to do that."

Tuesday's kidnappers also had uncanny timing, Gaza sources noted. First, it was the start of the Eid el-Fitr holiday that comes at the end of Ramadan, a time when political activity generally comes to a halt and people prefer to be at home with their families. Moreover, the Palestinian Minister of the Interior, <u>Hamas</u>'s Sayeed Siam, just returned Tuesday from a trip abroad, and there was some speculation that the timing would have been particularly embarrassing for him.

"So far, we have no idea who it is, but whoever was behind this is a criminal and should be punished," says Khaled Abu Hilal, the interior ministry spokesman. "If it's a message, it's a terrible one and it's beyond the law. Its aim is to create more and more chaos and unstability for the Palestinians, and put more obstacles in front of the Palestinian government."

He blames the deterioration of conditions in Gaza on Israel, whose military operations have made it increasingly difficult for the Palestinian police to function. "The security situation is really difficult and the Israelis and their collaborators are directly responsible for this chaos and the anarchy, by destroying the bases and headquarters of the Palestinian police."

Tuesday, Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz said the army will carry out more military operations in Gaza to prevent Palestinian rocket attacks and arms smuggling from Egypt.

The army just completed a week-long operation along the Gaza-Egypt border corridor that was meant to find and blow up tunnels used by militants to smuggle arms. The army said it destroyed 15 tunnels during the operation, the first along the border since Israel withdrew from Gaza in September 2005.

- * Material from the Associated Press contributed to this report.
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Load-Date: October 25, 2006



Anxiety is way of life in Israeli border town

The International Herald Tribune
June 2, 2007 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2 Length: 1093 words

Byline: Isabel Kershner - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: SDEROT, Israel

Body

Kobi Cohen was 2 years old when a Qassam rocket fired by Palestinians from the Gaza Strip exploded 45 meters away from him. Now 5, a skinny boy with an impish face, Kobi still shows signs of trauma. He received some therapy, his mother, Hanna Cohen, said, but she is not sure how much it worked.

"Even today he gets very angry about every little thing and he shakes," said Cohen. The rocket exploded about 150 feet from her son.

Another of her six children, Maayan, a shy girl of 10, went into a panic a few months ago when a Qassam attack caught her near the house. Her mother had sent her across the road to invite a lonely neighbor to hear the Sabbath blessing over wine.

Then the "red alert" sounded over the citywide public address system - the recorded voice of a woman calmly but urgently repeating "Color Red, Color Red," the code for an incoming rocket, which is inevitably followed by a whistle and a terrifying boom.

Maayan sat on the grass screaming and could not move until an ambulance crew arrived and calmed her down.

After seven years of rocket fire, at times sporadic and at times intense, Sderot has turned into a city of fear. A working-class town that begins less than three kilometers, or about two miles, from the Gaza border, Sderot is the bull's-eye for the relatively crude Qassams, whose warheads are stuffed with shrapnel. With each attack, more of its 24,000 residents are added to the list of those treated for "harada," Hebrew for severe anxiety or alarm.

Two weeks ago, the Palestinian militant factions, including <u>Hamas</u>, sharply escalated the rocket fire from across the border, ending a tenuous six-month cease-fire. About 270 Qassams have been fired at Israel since then, according to the army, many of them landing in and around Sderot. Israel has responded by pounding <u>Hamas</u>'s military compounds and outposts in Gaza, as well as aiming at rocket-launching cells, mainly from the air.

Ahmed Youssef, a senior <u>Hamas</u> official, described the homemade projectiles as "fireworks," since the recent barrages killed "only" two Israelis, a man and a woman both in their 30s.

But psychologists and mental health workers here describe a population that has become paralyzed by the terror of the latest red alert and the dread of the next one. Even those born into it, like Kobi, never become inured to the fear induced by each new attack or the randomness of the threat, they say.

Anxiety is way of life in Israeli border town

"It's trauma upon trauma upon trauma," said Tami Sagi, director of psychological services in Sderot. "I don't think enough research has been done to show the effect of such fear over such a long period of time."

Kobi's current restlessness is compounded by the fact that officials closed his kindergarten two weeks ago. He is also suffering from a bad toothache, but Cohen has been waiting for the current round of hostilities to calm before taking him to the dentist.

"What if a red alert goes off in the middle?" she said, her features tight with tension. "And what am I supposed to do with the other kids while I'm stuck there for two or three hours?"

Even taking a shower is stressful. The Qassams can get you anywhere, anytime, Sderot residents say, and with the water running, you cannot hear the alert and take shelter.

Although they own a comfortable, two-story home, the Cohens, like most families in Sderot, are sleeping like refugees. They spread mattresses on the living room floor every night, afraid to sleep in the upstairs bedrooms in case a rocket comes smashing through the roof. Some of the Cohen children have taken to sleeping with neighborhood friends, packed like sardines on the floor of a stifling, windowless bomb shelter across the road. Everyone knows what happened last Saturday evening, when a rocket destroyed the children's bedroom of an apartment nearby. The family, luckily, was out of town.

Whenever a rocket lands in Sderot, the police and ambulance crews rush to the scene. "People are shaking, they can't move, they are crying, sweating, and in a state of shock," said Yuri Malol, a volunteer paramedic with the ambulance service. "It affects everybody - young, old, men, <u>women</u>, children. There is no age for it."

While the wounded are taken to the hospital, those suffering from harada are brought to the city trauma center, a neat, low building next to the police station. There, half a dozen beds are waiting along with a team of soldiers with medical training backing up a small, overstretched civilian staff.

Dr. Adriana Katz, a flamboyant woman with a husky smoker's voice, cropped gray hair, chunky bangles and rings, is the city's chief psychiatrist and runs the clinic. For many patients, she says, a glass of water and some kind words are enough, reassuring them that their reactions are completely normal. Some need sedation; a few require long-term treatment.

The aim, she said, is to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder from setting in, a potentially chronic condition that can cripple lives.

"But we can't talk of post-trauma yet," Katz said. "It's all the time. The 'post' isn't even on the horizon."

In quieter times, people try to get back to routine. "But I'm not sure that's possible after all these years," she said.

Some schools that are equipped with fortified roofs and bomb shelters re-opened Tuesday. At the Gil Elementary School, 49 out of 200 pupils turned up. Etti Azran, the principal, said she knew the location of every absent pupil. Seventy-six were out of town and the rest were at home, their parents too scared to bring them, she said.

Several thousand residents of Sderot have left the town temporarily, and a few who had the means have gone for good.

Shimon Cohen, Kobi's father, was born here and swears he will never leave. He has just invested \$7,000 in house renovations. "I won't let *Hamas* dance on the rooftops because I've run away," he said, sitting out on the porch with his family as the evening drew in. Hanna and the children would readily move out, but they know that nobody would buy the house.

At 8:40 p.m., the red alert suddenly sounded across the city. Kobi and some of the girls were already in the bomb shelter across the road. Everyone else darted inside. The eldest boy, Haim, 16, hid in the downstairs bathroom. Hanna crouched on the floor in the middle of the front room, trembling, her arms wrapped around her head. Shimon

Anxiety is way of life in Israeli border town

took up position near the window, waiting to hear the boom. The youngest, Adi, a 2-year-old girl in pink pyjamas, stood by the back wall, silent and wide-eyed.

The rocket landed with a dull thud. This time it was far away.

Load-Date: June 6, 2007



Israeli border town lives in fear of falling rockets

The International Herald Tribune
June 1, 2007 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 1091 words

Byline: Isabel Kershner - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: SDEROT, Israel

Body

Kobi Cohen was 2 years old when a Qassam rocket fired by Palestinians from the Gaza Strip exploded 45 meters away from him. Now 5, a skinny boy with an impish face, Kobi still shows signs of trauma. He received some therapy, his mother, Hanna Cohen, said, but she is not sure how much it worked.

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Another of her six children, Maayan, a shy girl of 10, went into panic a few months ago when a Qassam attack caught her outside the house. Her mother had sent her across the road to invite a lonely neighbor to hear the Sabbath blessing over wine.

Then the "red alert" sounded over the citywide public address system - the recorded voice of a woman calmly but urgently repeating "Color Red," the code for an incoming rocket, which is inevitably followed by a whistle and a terrifying boom.

Maayan sat on the grass screaming and could not move until an ambulance crew arrived and calmed her down.

After seven years of rocket fire, at times sporadic and at times intense, Sderot has turned into a city of fear. A working-class town that begins less than 2¬‡ kilometers from the Gaza border, Sderot is the bull's-eye for the relatively crude Qassams, whose warheads are stuffed with shrapnel. With each attack, more of its 24,000 residents are added to the list of those treated for "harada," Hebrew for severe anxiety or alarm.

Two weeks ago, the Palestinian militant factions, including <u>Hamas</u>, sharply escalated the rocket fire from across the border, ending a tenuous six-month cease-fire. Some 270 Qassams have been launched at Israel since then, according to the army, many of them landing in and around Sderot. Israel has responded by pounding <u>Hamas</u>'s military compounds and outposts in Gaza, as well as aiming at rocket-launching cells, mainly from the air.

Ahmed Youssef, a senior <u>Hamas</u> official, described the homemade projectiles as "fireworks," since the recent barrages have killed "only" two Israelis, a man and a woman both in their 30s.

But psychologists and mental health workers here describe a population that has become paralyzed by the terror of the last red alert and the dread of the next one. Even those born into it, like Kobi, never get inured to the fear induced by each new attack or the randomness of the threat, they say.

Israeli border town lives in fear of falling rockets

"It's trauma upon trauma," said Tami Sagi, director of psychological services in Sderot. "I don't think enough research has been done to show the effect of such fear over such a long period of time."

Kobi's current restlessness is compounded by the fact that officials closed his kindergarten two weeks ago. He is also suffering from a bad toothache, but Cohen has been waiting for the current round of hostilities to calm before taking him to the dentist.

"What if a red alert goes off in the middle?" she said, her features tight with tension. "And what am I supposed to do with the other kids while I'm stuck there for two or three hours?"

Even taking a shower is stressful. The Qassams can get you anywhere, anytime, Sderot residents say, and with the water running, you cannot hear the alert and take shelter.

Although they own a comfortable, two-story home, the Cohens, like most families in Sderot, are sleeping like refugees. They spread mattresses on the floor of the living room every night, afraid to sleep in the upstairs bedrooms in case a rocket comes smashing through the roof. Some of the Cohen children have taken to sleeping with neighborhood friends, packed like sardines on the floor of a stifling, windowless bomb shelter across the road. Everyone knows what happened last Saturday evening, when a rocket destroyed the children's bedroom of an apartment nearby. The family, luckily, was out of town.

Whenever a rocket lands in Sderot, the police and ambulance crews rush to the scene. "People are shaking, they can't move, they are crying, sweating, and in a state of shock," said Yuri Malol, a volunteer paramedic with the ambulance service. "It affects everybody - young, old, men, <u>women</u>, children. There is no age for it," he said.

While the wounded are taken to hospital, those suffering from harada are taken to the city trauma center, a neat, low building next to the police station. There, half-a-dozen beds are waiting along with a team of soldiers with medical training backing up a small, overstretched civilian staff.

Dr. Adriana Katz, a flamboyant woman with a husky smoker's voice, cropped gray hair, chunky bangles and rings, is the city's chief psychiatrist and runs the clinic. For many patients, she says, a glass of water and some kind words are enough, reassuring them that their reactions are completely normal. Some need sedation; a few require long-term treatment.

The aim, she said, is to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder from setting in, a potentially chronic condition that can cripple lives.

"But we can't talk of post-trauma yet," Katz said. "There is no 'post.' It's all the time. The 'post' isn't even on the horizon."

In quieter times, people try to get back to routine. "But I'm not sure that's possible after all these years," she said.

Some schools that are equipped with fortified roofs and bomb shelters re-opened Tuesday. At the Gil Elementary School, 49 pupils out of 200 turned up. Etti Azran, the principal, said she knew the location of every absent pupil. Seventy-six were out of town and the rest were at home, their parents too scared to bring them, she said.

Several thousand residents of Sderot have left the town temporarily, and a few who had the means have gone for good.

Shimon Cohen, the father of Kobi, was born here and swears he will never leave. As a kind of statement, he has just invested \$7,000 in house renovations. "I won't let *Hamas* dance on the rooftops because I've run away," he said, sitting out on the porch with his family as the evening drew in. Hanna and the children would readily move out, but they know that nobody would buy the house.

At 8.40 p.m., the red alert suddenly sounded across the city. Kobi and some of the girls were already in the bomb shelter across the road. Everyone else darted inside. The eldest boy, Haim, 16, hid in the downstairs toilet. Hanna crouched on the floor in the middle of the front room, trembling, her arms wrapped around her head. Shimon took

Israeli border town lives in fear of falling rockets

up position near the window, waiting to hear the boom. The youngest, Adi, a 2-year-old girl in pink pyjamas, stood by the back wall, silent and wide-eyed.

The rocket landed with a dull thud. This time it was far away.

Load-Date: June 1, 2007



'The only place left to turn is Islam'; Disheartened by 'democracy project,' Arab Muslims seek new source of hope

The Toronto Star

March 24, 2007 Saturday

Copyright 2007 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 1758 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: DAMASCUS

Body

For prominent Syrian career woman Luna Rajab, the moment of truth came last Ramadan at an evening social gathering of friends and colleagues.

Steeling herself to express outwardly what she had felt inside for many years, the 34-year-old architect stepped forward to reveal a decision that would earn the dismay of many of those closest to her, her mother and grandmother included.

Rajab's favourite motto had always been "say it with actions, not with words." And on this night, she said it all by covering her hair with that most Islamic of accessories - the hijab.

Never before had she worn the head scarf. Never before had anyone in her social circle, or even her own family. Today, she won't take it off. Rajab's hijab is here to stay.

The most cutting comment that night came from one of her best friends, who stared, jaws agape, like a witness to religious lobotomy: "But Luna, I thought you were open-minded."

Rajab ruminates sadly on that comment three months later over a glass of mint lemonade with the Toronto Star. We are in the hidden courtyard of Jabri House, one of a handful of grand and glorious Damascene homes that Rajab has dedicated her life to saving as an architect specializing in historical preservation.

She knows the decision to wear hijab placed her out of step with many in her circle. But taken in the context of the larger Arab world, she says, it is her friends who are out of step. Which is okay by her. Rajab does not believe in forcing anyone on the question of hijab. In a free world, it is a personal choice, she says. Yet Rajab takes comfort in the fact that by just about any standard one might care to apply, Islam is on the rise again in the Middle East.

Politically, socially, culturally, the process of Islamification has been underway for decades, despite the repressive efforts of Arab regimes that see an existential threat in the steady rise of political Islam.

For many, the process is happening almost by default, as the era of secular Arab nationalism loses the last of its legitimacy, its promise all but exhausted by decades of rampant corruption and failure to deliver benefits to the region. If anything, the process has been accelerated by the attacks of 9/11, or more specifically, by the response to that dark and bloody day.

'The only place left to turn is Islam' Disheartened by 'democracy project,' Arab Muslims seek new source of hope

Lebanese sociologist Abdo Kahi describes the drift toward Islamic identity as anything but ideological. "Ideology has logic, but the return to Islam is happening as an idea without logic. It is happening by default, without discussion, as a matter of the heart. What all human beings share is the universal desire for hope, security, justice, values - and one day perhaps, real democracy.

"And if you look to the Middle East of the 1950s, '60s and '70s, there was some hope these things would be delivered. But the Arab leaderships failed utterly - they only enriched themselves. And the U.S. failed utterly, protecting those corrupt regimes and at the same time ignoring the need to forcefully find a solution for the Palestinian question, which remains an open wound," said Kahi.

United Nations researchers three years ago pinpointed the dimensions of unrest in the 2004 Arab Human Development Report. Arriving just as the rationale for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq was rebranded from a hunt for weapons of mass destruction into a much larger scheme to implant Arab democracy, the UN's words appeared to point the way forward.

"The Arab world finds itself at an historical crossroads," the report's authors warned.

"Caught between oppression at home and violation from abroad, Arabs are increasingly excluded from determining their own future - freedom requires a system of good governance that rests upon effective popular representation and is accountable to the people, and that upholds the rule of law and ensures that an independent judiciary applies the law impartially."

But as a string of elections, some more democratic than others, hiccupped around the region, many Arab thinkers lost faith. What some describe as the "democracy hypocrisy" was laid bare one year ago with the surprise election of *Hamas* in Western-backed elections in the Palestinian territories.

Those who actually covered the campaign saw the Palestinian electorate embrace a deftly played <u>Hamas</u> election platform built as a war on corruption without so much as a mention of the word Israel.

Running under the banner of "Change and Reform," Islamic candidates tapped the Palestinian appetite for payback against the graft-addled Fatah movement that helped itself to decades of foreign aid under the late Yasser Arafat. Rather than a referendum of peace versus war, it was a contest of clean versus dirty. But the subtleties were lost on Israel and the international community. Shocked by the election of *Hamas*, the doors of engagement slammed shut.

Canada, at best a peripheral player in the international voices of Mideast mediation, was the first to announce a freeze on direct Palestinian aid, followed soon thereafter by the United States and European Union. The boycott effectively neutered the *Hamas* government even before it began.

Many Arab analysts, secular and otherwise, shake their heads at what they see as the shortsightedness of the decision to cut *Hamas* off at the knees.

"The Bush administration sees all Islamists as radicals and all radicals as terrorists and thus they all need to be eliminated. But this attempt to corner <u>Hamas</u> - clearly has backfired," said Ahmad Moussalli, a political scientist at the American University of Beirut.

"It sent a message to the entire Arab world that the promise of democracy is false. And it handed a gift to political Islam by keeping it outside the halls of power, thereby giving them an even greater aura of sanctity."

Lebanese sociologist Kahi said Arab disappointment is underscored today by the evident backtracking of the Bush administration, which has ceased to even speak the word democracy as it works to rally authoritarian Sunni Muslim leaderships to help contain the political disintegration of Iraq.

"Arab Muslims today see the George Bush project of democracy in the Middle East crashing to a halt," said Kahi. "The only results they can see are McDonald's, Madonna and bombs. There is nothing real in it for them. The only place left to turn is Islam."

'The only place left to turn is Islam' Disheartened by 'democracy project,' Arab Muslims seek new source of hope

Blanket rejection also feeds radicalism, said Moussalli, as the pole of political Islam wavers between moderation and radicalism. "The more venues are closed, the more moderates get forced to the margins. The radicals are a much smaller force than the moderates, but without a political future some people will resort to military activities to change what they consider to be an evil reality."

Joost Hiltermann, Middle East team leader of the independent policy think-tank the International Crisis Group, predicts that sooner or later the West will need to find a way to engage political Islam.

"The West ought to at least contemplate it because you can't just keep this stuff bottled up and continue to support repressive regimes. It won't work," he said.

"It is a simple question of historical experience. The era of Arab nationalism, of secular ideology, is about to die because it has proved itself capable of delivering nothing but repression, corruption and illiteracy," he said.

"There are only two ways for the West to contend with this. Either give a comparatively moderate Islamic group like the Muslim Brotherhood a chance to live up to their promises by having a chance to govern. Or conversely, they can undermine the Muslim Brotherhood by actually forcing the ruling governments in the Arab world to clean up their act by fighting corruption, governing properly and actually offering some freedoms to their people."

Back at Jabri House in Damascus, Luna Rajab laughs, realizing that two hours have flown by. She never intended to talk so much about so private a matter. Foremost, she says, wearing hijab is "something very personal, between me and God."

But there is more to it than that, far more. Rajab says the hijab is a statement born of frustration with how the Arab world has lost its moral compass. But it is a statement intended also for Westerners, many of whom she feels have far too easily allowed themselves to direct the anger over 9/11 at Islam itself, rather than the terrorists who claimed to act in its name.

But the overarching reason for wearing hijab, said Rajab, is to be a role model for other young Muslim women.

"I want to send the message that I am a professional and well-educated woman - I speak languages (French, English, Arabic), I am open-minded and I am respected in my field - and I also happen to be an observant Muslim woman. I engage fully in modern society, I love science, I read voraciously and there is absolutely no contradiction in being all these things and a good Muslim woman."

The conversation turns to the mutual friend who introduced us - a Syrian journalist, also Muslim, who was forced to give up an opportunity to work with a major foreign news organization some years ago by her eldest brother, a religious conservative. At issue was the brother's fear his sister would be exposed to foreign men. And he was so distraught at the prospect that he barged into the agency's Damascus office and demanded they retract their offer.

"Yes, in our family we educate our women," he snarled. "But when they grow up their job is to chop carrots."

Rajab nods knowingly at the anecdote. She knows also the journalist in question eventually went ahead and took the job in defiance of her brother.

"These attitudes exist, but they have nothing to do with the real Islam. Here in the Arab world there is a tendency to blame outsiders for all our problems. But to take this attitude is to admit you are powerless to change things," said Rajab.

"Well, I want to be a part of the change. If we study the era of the Prophet Muhammad we know <u>women</u> were strong participants in society. And then somewhere along the way we fell into decline, poverty, neglect and deterioration. Islamic values were scrambled and mixed up with tribal and traditional social habits. And out of this came men who want to lock away their <u>women</u> in the name of Islam."

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'The only place left to turn is Islam' Disheartened by 'democracy project,' Arab Muslims seek new source of hope

So she will count herself among those working toward "redefining the basis of real Islam. I want to help set our compass back to where it belongs.

"The important thing now is that we open our minds, read more, strive for knowledge. And in the end, there can be a renaissance of the open, inclusive, peaceful, science-loving Islam that appeals to me so much."

Mitch Potter is the Star's new

European bureau chief

Graphic

MITCH POTTER PHOTOMITCH POTTER PHOTO

Load-Date: March 24, 2007



<u>Deciding which 256 will go free; Israeli ministry whittles down list of</u> Palestinian prisoners, drawing criticism 'from all sides'

The Toronto Star

July 19, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA01

Length: 834 words

Byline: Oakland Ross, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

It cannot be an easy job, deciding who remains behind bars and who walks free, but somebody has got to do it.

In Israel, her name is Emi Palmor, she is the director of pardons in the Ministry of Justice, and she has had as much responsibility as anyone for determining the identities of 256 Palestinian inmates in Israeli jails who are scheduled to become free men, or *women*, tomorrow morning.

"We are criticized by all sides every time we do these gestures," Palmor told foreign journalists yesterday.

"The Palestinians complain if the releases don't go as they wish. Israeli citizens also complain."

By midday yesterday - a day after the Israeli government published the names of those who would be set free - the protests had already begun.

The Almagor Terror Victims Association, which represents Israeli victims of terror, appealed to the Supreme Court to delay the measure, first promised by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert last month during a regional summit in Egypt.

According to Palmor, the court will dismiss this and other possible appeals.

"These pleas have always been rejected by the Supreme Court," she said.

Palestinians greeted the amnesty warily. Some objected that mainly prisoners serving short sentences are being set free, while more prominent figures remain behind bars.

Others say the numbers are insufficient.

"Two-hundred-fifty prisoners are nothing," said Ziad Abu-Zayyad, a former member of the Palestinian legislative council. "It's a joke."

In all, some 10,000 Palestinians are imprisoned in Israeli jails.

Deciding which 256 will go free Israeli ministry whittles down list of Palestinian prisoners, drawing criticism 'from all sides'

Tomorrow's prisoner release is aimed at shoring up the fortunes of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who leads the moderate Fatah Palestinian political faction that holds power in the West Bank and is favoured by Israel.

Fatah was forced to withdraw from the Gaza Strip after five days of fierce fighting last month in which <u>Hamas</u>, a radical Islamist group that supports violent struggle against Israel, seized control of the small, overcrowded, and deeply impoverished territory.

By design, there are no *Hamas* militants among the 256 prisoners to be released tomorrow.

Close to 85 per cent of those on the list for freedom are Fatah members, while the rest have no known political affiliation or belong to one or another of several smaller Palestinian groups.

To be eligible for release, prisoners had to have at least a year remaining to serve in their sentences and have no "blood on their hands."

By "blood on their hands," the Israeli government means individuals who did not merely try to harm or kill someone but actually succeeded in doing so.

"The criterion is the unsuccessful terrorist attack," said Palmor. "If someone threw a stone just once that wounded someone, he will be with blood on his hands, and he will not be released."

Meanwhile, someone who plotted a far deadlier project - a car bomb, say - would be considered the lesser threat and might be eligible for the current amnesty, as long as the attack failed.

Palmor conceded the logic behind this distinction might not please everyone, but added the approach is dictated by the Israeli security services.

A central concern of Israelis who oppose even selective amnesty for political prisoners is that some of those released might resume terrorist activity.

According to the Almagor Terror Victims Association, 179 Israelis have been killed since 2000 by freed prisoners.

Palmor acknowledged the difficulty, but said such worries were taken into account by an inter-ministerial committee that gradually whittled the list of names from an initial pool of 1,123 eligible prisoners to just 256.

"The discussions were very thorough," she said.

According to Palmor's figures, the rate of recidivism for amnestied Palestinian security prisoners is far lower than for the criminal population at large.

Worldwide, she said, roughly 70 per cent of common criminals re-offend. In Israel, 66 per cent do.

But the corresponding figure for Palestinian detainees released under amnesty is between 16 and 17 per cent.

Of those to be released tomorrow, six are <u>women</u>, and 14 are minors. The prisoner with the most time remaining to serve is an inmate who was to be released in 2015.

One detainee who was to have been released will voluntarily remain behind bars, where he is receiving expensive medication for severe arthritis - treatment he could not hope to afford outside prison.

In ongoing efforts to boost Abbas and Fatah, Israel has turned over about \$100 million (U.S.) in tax revenues due the Palestinian Authority but that was previously withheld in protest against <u>Hamas</u>'s participation in the Palestinian government.

From now on, such funds will be transferred to the Palestinian Authority every month.

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Deciding which 256 will go free Israeli ministry whittles down list of Palestinian prisoners, drawing criticism 'from all sides'

Israel has also produced a list of 178 wanted Fatah militants whom its security forces will no longer pursue, provided they renounce violent activity.

Some observers caution, however, that such goodwill overtures could have the opposite of their intended effect if Palestinians perceive Fatah as Israel's colluders.

Graphic

Abid Katib getty images Relatives of Palestinians jailed in Israeli prisons during a protest calling for their release at the Red Cross headquarters in Gaza City Monday.

Load-Date: July 19, 2007



<u>Scandal distracts Israel from conflict: Sordid details involving President</u> *Moshe Katsav made public*

Windsor Star (Ontario)

January 31, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B2

Length: 468 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

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

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

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

A fresh truce which had begun only early Tuesday in Gaza was marred a few hours later when Fatah gunmen killed a *Hamas* commander with a bullet to the head near the Egyptian border.

But the latest ceasefire, which came after 30 deaths in five days, produced enough of a sense of confidence that many ordinary Gazans left their homes to look for food for the first time since fighting broke out again last Thursday.

Another positive development was that by late Tuesday the warring military wings of the presidential and parliamentary parts of the Palestinian government had exchanged 38 of the Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> members that they had kidnapped from each other since last week.

But an unknown number of hostages were still being held.

GROPED THEM

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

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

Scandal distracts Israel from conflict: Sordid details involving President Moshe Katsav made public

Allegations of sexual misconduct made against Katsav by eight other <u>women</u> have not resulted in charges. However, the Israeli president also faces separate charges of obstruction of justice and fraud.

In a dramatic nationally televised speech last week, Katsav vehemently denied the charges, shouting that he was the victim of a public lynching by the media and police.

Despite his claims of innocence, the Israeli media have begun to speculate that Katsav may be considering a plea bargain to do as little prison time as possible. If convicted on all counts, he could be jailed for as much as 16 years.

Israeli Attorney General Menachem Mazuz said he wanted Katsav out of his official residence because the <u>women</u> he allegedly attacked still worked there.

The Israeli Knesset voted Tuesday to begin impeachment proceedings against Katsav in two weeks time.

Graphic

Colour Photo: AFP/Getty Images File Photo; Moshe Katsav and his wife Gila;

Load-Date: January 31, 2007



Sewage flood kills five: Scores missing in Gaza Strip village

Windsor Star (Ontario)

March 28, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B8

Length: 446 words

Byline: Agence France-Presse

Dateline: UMM AL-NASR, Gaza Strip

Body

UMM AL-NASR, Gaza Strip - At least five Palestinians, including two toddlers, drowned in a "sewage tsunami" Tuesday when a water treatment reservoir burst, flooding a village in the northern Gaza Strip.

The deluge, triggered by the collapse of a septic system aid organizations had long warned was dangerously overburdened, submerged dozens of homes in the Bedouin farming village of Umm al-Nasr under a pool of foul-smelling effluent.

Three women, one more than 70 years old, and two boys aged one and two died in the flood.

At least 15 people were injured and scores more are still missing, according to Palestinian medics.

Village children clung to wooden doors floating on the putrid waters and rescuers paddled through the village in makeshift boats in search of victims. Frantic goats and cows, sustenance for the village of Bedouin shepherds, were also pulled to safety.

"We woke up at 10 this morning with sewage water pouring into our homes and covering everything," said resident Tawfir al-Bansh.

Umm al-Nasr Mayor Ziad Abu Thabet said 70 percent of the village's mostly ramshackle homes had been buried in raw sewage.

"The situation is very bad," he said.

By late afternoon, receding flood waters had left a malodorous muck that further hampered rescue efforts.

Palestinian television proclaimed a "sewage tsunami" had rocked Gaza. An adviser to President Mahmud Abbas declared the village a disaster area.

New Interior Minister Hani al-Qawasmeh rushed to the scene to inspect the damage, but angry villagers chased him off. They opened fire on his convoy and wounded two policemen, witnesses said.

Sewage flood kills five: Scores missing in Gaza Strip village

In Israel, Defence Minister Amir Peretz ordered the army to provide assistance to the victims if asked to do so by the Palestinian Authority.

The <u>Hamas</u> movement, the leading partner in the new Palestinian unity government, blamed the disaster on a foreign aid boycott slapped on the Palestinian Authority a year ago when the Islamist hardliners first came to power. Israel and the West consider <u>Hamas</u> a terrorist outfit.

As far back as January 2004, UN aid agencies in the Gaza Strip had warned that the north Gaza sewage treatment facility was operating far beyond its capacity and posed a grave danger to nearby residents.

Designed to serve just 50,000 people, the plant at that time was handling waste from 190,000 Gaza residents.

Excess sewage had already flooded around 110 acres, and 50 percent of children in Umm Al-Nasr had developed problems with their digestive systems, a UN report found.

"Unless action is taken to address this problem, water in this effluent lake will spill out over the holding basins into residential areas, and directly into homes," the report concluded.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Hatem Moussa, Associated Press; DIRTY JOB: A Palestinian man cleans his house Tuesday in the village of Umm al-Nasr, in the northern Gaza Strip. An earth embankment around a cesspool suddenly collapsed, spewing a river of sewage and mud that killed five people and forced villagers to flee. A local official blamed the disaster on shoddy infrastructure in the town of 3,000.;

Load-Date: March 28, 2007



Burka issue goes deeper

Nelson Daily News (British Columbia)

September 25, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 4

Length: 518 words

Byline: Roger Pratt, Nelson Daily News

Body

To the Editor:

Re: Burka debate

Curtis Nickason sees nothing wrong with <u>women</u> wearing the Burka, and that we should all stop harassing the Muslim culture and religion ("Burka debate troubling" NDN letters, September 19, 2007).

What Mr Nickason fails to observe is that most Muslim <u>women</u> who wear the veil are forced, or coerced, into wearing it by extremists, or by men who cannot tolerate <u>women</u>'s rights. In such countries as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Yemen <u>women</u> are forced to wear it. It is section 24:31 of the Koran that men use to enforce the veil on <u>women</u>. It states that <u>women</u> should cover their adornments and expose themselves only to certain relatives, and to their slave-girls.

Honour killings have been ongoing for a long time and are now spreading to the west, with about a dozen cases a year in Europe. In a recent case in the UK a man forced his 17-year-old daughter into a marriage. The marriage was brutal and abusive, so she filed for divorce. This was considered dishonouring the family, so she was murdered. In Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries it is the death penalty for a Muslim to convert to another religion and the death penalty if a non-Muslim man marries a Muslim woman. It is sad that Mr Nickason says that we must keep our mouths shut about these abuses, and we must respect these religious and cultural values.

This is the same kind of attitudes as the "peace activists" who want Canadian troops to immediately withdraw from Afghanistan. This is the same position taken by the federal NDP. Many people who have looked at the abusive way that the Taliban treated <u>women</u> are baffled that the "peace movement" and it would appear the NDP want these abusers back in power and once again abusing <u>women</u>, including closing all schools and refusing to let <u>women</u> work. The first wife of the Prophet Mohammed was a successful business woman who was fundamental in enabling him to found the new religion, so who are the Taliban to dictate that <u>women</u> cannot work?

The NDP used to pride itself on protecting and enforcing <u>women</u>'s rights, but under the current NDP regime, abused <u>women</u> around the world will not be helped, particularly in oppressive Muslim countries. Proof of this (other than Afghanistan) is the NDP's and "peace movement" support for the terrorist groups <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah.

Honour killings are an important part of the culture of the Palestinians, but are against the law in Israel. Two years ago Israel withdrew from Gaza, giving the Palestinians an opportunity to turn Gaza into another economic success

Burka issue goes deeper

story similar to Hong Kong or Singapore. Unfortunately, under <u>Hamas</u>, they chose violence and abuse as a way of life, and continue to call for the extermination of Israel and the ethnic cleansing and murder of millions of Jews.

The "peace movement" and the NDP remain silent on these issues. NDP leader Jack Layton and Southern Interior NDP MP Alex Atamanenko should be trying to encourage change in these religious beliefs and customs. Instead they seem to turn their backs on the millions of *women* who are fighting for change and for human rights.

Roger Pratt

Nelson, B.C.

Load-Date: October 1, 2007



ISRAELI SOLDIER LEFT BEHIND IN GAZA

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 30, 2007 Monday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2007 P.G. Publishing Co.

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

Length: 570 words

Body

JERUSALEM -- An embarrassed Israeli military confirmed yesterday that a soldier from an elite brigade was left behind by his comrades in the Gaza Strip last week, and that he was extricated only after they had returned to base.

Even worse, said the Israeli news service Ynet, which broke the story, his comrades had answered for him during a verbal head count before they returned to Israel. The soldier had fallen asleep during a rest break about 700 yards inside Gaza, as the Israelis were returning from an incursion near Khan Yunis.

When he awoke, he became frightened, fired tracer bullets into the air and waved a fluorescent lightstick to identify himself. Other soldiers then went to get him.

Stranded Palestinians

EREZ CROSSING, Gaza Strip -- More than 100 Palestinians stranded for weeks in Egypt after the <u>Hamas</u> takeover of the Gaza Strip began returning home yesterday, entering Israel and riding buses to a crossing point into northern Gaza.

The first three Palestinians crossed into Gaza through the Erez checkpoint late yesterday afternoon. The violent <u>Hamas</u> takeover of Gaza last month triggered the closure of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, which was run by Palestinian security officials with European supervision and Israeli security in the background.

New hostage deadline set

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Afghanistan's top political and religious leaders invoked Afghan and Islamic traditions of chivalry and hospitality yesteday in attempts to shame the Taliban into releasing 18 *female* South Korean captives.

A purported Taliban spokesman shrugged off the demands and instead set a new deadline for the hostages' lives, saying the hardline militants could kill one or all of the 22 captives if the government didn't release 23 militant prisoners by 3:30 a.m. EDT today. Several other deadlines have passed without killings.

Gay conjugal visits begun

MEXICO CITY -- Mexico City's prison system has begun allowing gay conjugal visits, bowing to a recommendation by the country's National Human Rights Commission, the commission announced yesterday.

ISRAELI SOLDIER LEFT BEHIND IN GAZA

The city's leftist government has taken a series of controversial stands in recent months on social issues like abortion, gay marriage and prostitution, despite opposition from conservatives and religious organizations.

Chavez blasts oil officials

CARACAS, Venezuela-- President Hugo Chavez yesterday accused former Venezuelan officials of allowing foreign oil companies to "rob" Venezuela's immense petroleum wealth, saying they should be charged with crimes.

Former executives at state-run oil company Petroleos de Venezuela, or PDVSA, permitted international companies to blatantly violate contracts by extracting billions of barrels of light, sweet oil without investing in technology required to produce heavy crude, Mr. Chavez said.

Freed doctor a hero

BANGALORE, India -- Mobbed by TV cameramen, journalists and supporters, a 27-year-old doctor flew home to a hero's welcome yesterday in southern India after being freed from jail in Australia when terror charges against him were dropped.

Mohammed Haneef was whisked from the airport to his family's home, where a celebratory feast was being held. Haneef's jailing had aroused waves of sympathy in his native India.

In an emotional TV interview earlier, Mr. Haneef said he had no knowledge of his relatives' alleged involvement in a failed British terror attack last month and would not have kept quiet if he had.

Load-Date: July 30, 2007



Human shields; Women marchers gunned down in Battle of Beit

Sunday Mail (South Australia)

November 5, 2006 Sunday

State Edition

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Length: 495 words

Byline: Jane Flanagan in Jerusalem

Body

TWO Palestinian <u>women</u> have been killed and 10 more wounded during bloody clashes between Israeli troops, protesters and militants.

Panic-stricken Palestinian <u>women</u> ran for cover as gunfire erupted around them in the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun on Friday.

Witnesses said the two <u>women</u> were shot by Israeli troops who fired on a crowd of unarmed Palestinian <u>women</u> gathering near an ancient mosque where Palestinian gunmen had taken refuge.

Israel insisted its soldiers used only sniper fire to pick off militants who were using the **women** as human shields.

This version of events was rejected by Palestinian victims who said they came under direct fire from heavy machineguns mounted on Israeli tanks. The crowd is believed to have numbered several hundred.

During the chaos, the gunmen inside the mosque escaped, the roof collapsed and the building was reduced to rubble.

Israeli warplanes were reported to have fired a missile at another mosque in the town last night.

Friday's violence came on the third day of a massive Israeli offensive - Operation Autumn Rains - into Gaza in which the northern town of Beit Hanoun was sealed off as troops hunted for militants who use it as a site for rocket attacks into Israel.

While the exact details of the <u>women</u>'s killings in what has become known as the Battle of Beit remained confused last night, the incident is bound to further fuel tensions in the region.

Palestinian politicians were already describing shooting at the women's march as a "war crime" and a "massacre".

Israeli special forces first entered the town in the early hours of Wednesday in search of militants. By late Thursday up to 60 armed gunmen were holed up in the 700-year-old mosque in the town centre. Tanks surrounded the building and loudspeakers broadcast messages for the gunmen to surrender.

As the gunmen fired at the troops, Israeli forces used tear gas in an attempt to force a surrender before demolishing the al-Nasir mosque's perimeter wall.

Human shields Women marchers gunned down in Battle of Beit

With the siege continuing overnight, <u>Hamas</u> radio called on local <u>women</u> to march on the town centre to support the gunmen - effectively by acting as human shields - and to help them escape. At dawn on Friday, several groups of <u>women</u> responded to the call.

Asma Hamed, 23, ventured out onto the streets and said she was hit almost immediately by gunfire. "I was shot from a tank 100m away," she said from Alawda Hospital, in Gaza.

By nightfall, the <u>women</u> were celebrated as heroes, an unusual role for them in a deeply conservative society that tends to keep them on the sidelines. Battling Israeli troops had always been men's business in Gaza.

Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of <u>Hamas</u> "saluted the <u>women</u> of Palestine . . . who led the protest to break the siege of Beit Hanoun".

An Israeli army spokesman said eight gunmen were spotted among the crowds of <u>women</u> and only after the gunmen opened fire was the order given for Israeli soldiers to fire.

In all, 35 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since Wednesday.

Load-Date: November 5, 2006



Uri Dan's Famous Phrase; On Language

The Forward February 16, 2007

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Section: Arts & Culture; Pg. B4

Length: 829 words

Byline:

Questions for Philologos can be sent to philologos @forward.com.

Body

Israel, as you may have heard, has a new justice minister, law professor Daniel Friedmann, who has replaced acting justice minister Tzipi Livni, who replaced former justice minister Haim Ramon, who was just convicted by a Jerusalem court of an obscene act for kissing a young *female* soldier against her will. Ramon had charged that he was the victim of a frame-up by elements in the police and judicial system opposed to reforms he wished to institute, a claim with which Friedmann, who is known for his strong criticism of Israel's judiciary, reportedly sympathized all of which led political commentator Yossi Verter to write in the pages of last week's daily Ha'aretz:

Paraphrasing Uri Dan's famous comment about Ariel Sharon, one wag declared yesterday: 'Whoever didn't want Ramon as justice minister got Daniel Friedmann.' Compared to Friedmann, Ramon was a puppy dog. He threatened a few reforms and occasionally went a little wild, but he did no real harm [to the judicial system]. Friedmann's potential to cause damage is incomparably greater.

This may lead you to ask these questions: Who was Uri Dan, and what was his comment about Ariel Sharon?

Dan, who died two months ago at the age of 71, was a well-known Israeli journalist and biographer of Sharon, to whom he was personally and politically close ever since being attached to his paratroop battalion as a young combat reporter in the 1956 Sinai Campaign. When, in 1972, Sharon, then a general, resigned from the army because he had been passed over for the position of chief of staff, Dan predicted in the newspaper Ma'ariv, Whoever doesn't want him [Sharon] as chief of staff will get him as defense minister. This prophecy was fulfilled nine years later, when Prime Minister Menachem Begin appointed Sharon minister of defense.

Sharon served as defense minister for only two years before he was ousted, after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, for alleged negligence in the massacre of Palestinians by a Christian militia in the Beirut refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. Dan, who defended Sharon's role in this incident, then made a second prediction, writing, Whoever doesn't want Sharon as defense minister will get him as prime minister. Although this time it took nearly twice as long for Dan's words to come true, in the year 2000 Sharon was elected prime minister.

Yet long before Sharon's electoral victory, Dan's first prediction had acquired proverbial status and was being copied in the form of the Hebrew expression Whoever doesn't want X will get Y, meaning, He who is unwilling to accept a lesser evil will end up having to accept a greater one. Thus, for example, in the 1980s, when the government of Yitzhak Shamir rejected overtures from King Hussein of Jordan to reach a peace agreement on

Uri Dan's Famous Phrase On Language

the basis of an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, a frequent criticism on the Israeli left was, Whoever doesn't want Hussein will get Arafat.

Needless to say, this, too, came to pass at the time of the 1993 Oslo agreement, as did the warning, issued by dovish detractors of Israel's handling of relations with Arafat in the years following Oslo, Whoever doesn't want Arafat will get <u>Hamas</u>. And, going one step further, veteran Israeli peace activist Uri Avnery darkly prognosticated last year, after Israel's decision to boycott the newly elected <u>Hamas</u> government of the Palestinian Authority: Whoever doesn't want <u>Hamas</u> will get Islamic Jihad.

Let us hope that Avnery at least, proves wrong. Meanwhile, the whoever doesn't [or didn't] want X will get Y formula continues to prosper. A few recent examples are:

Whoever didn't want him as chief of staff will get him as a literary character. (Israeli journalist Amos Harel writing about a new novel in which the hero is based on Dan Halutz, the recently resigned commander of Israel's army in last summer's war against Hezbollah.)

Whoever didn't want him in Ribu'a Kahol [The Blue Square, an Israeli supermarket chain] will get him in Supersol [another Israeli supermarket chain]. (The Hebrew business newspaper Globes on Matthew Bronfman, whose bid to buy The Blue Square was rejected.)

Whoever didn't want him at night will get him at six in the evening." (A remark made about Israeli talk-show moderator Gabi Gazit, reportedly in danger of being fired because of his high salary.)

Whoever didn't want us in Blich High School will get us in the Knesset. (The lawyer for Green Leaf, a promarijuana party that was barred by a court from running its own candidate in a high school election in Tel Aviv.)

It can be about anything. Not long ago, while having dinner at the house of friends, I witnessed the mother of the family trying to persuade her recalcitrant son to eat his mashed potatoes. Whoever doesn't want potatoes will get spinach, she said to the stubborn child. Uri Dan didn't know what he started.

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The New York Times

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Length: 3266 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank

Body

Their worried parents call them the lost generation of Palestine: its most radical, most accepting of violence and most despairing.

They are the children of the second intifada, which began in 2000, growing up in a territory riven by infighting, seared by violence, occupied by Israel, largely cut off from the world and segmented by barriers and checkpoints.

To hear these young people talk is to listen in on budding nihilism and a loss of hope.

"Ever since we were little, we see guns and tanks, and little kids wanting little guns to fight against Israel," said Raed Debie, 24, a student at An Najah University here.

Issa Khalil, 25, broke in, agitated. "We never see anything good in our lives," he said. He was arrested for throwing stones in the first intifada, the civil disobedience that began in the late 1980s and led to the 1993 Oslo accords with Israel. He was arrested again in the second uprising as the agreement faltered.

"And for what?" he asked. "I wasted 14 years of my life. We all did. For five years I haven't left Nablus. Here there's unemployment and no peace; it retreats, we go backward."

While generations of young Palestinians have grown up stateless, seething at Israel as the visible agent of oppression, this generation is uniquely stymied.

Israeli checkpoints, barriers and closures, installed to protect Israelis from Palestinian suicide bombers, have lowered these young people's horizons, shrunk their notion of Palestine and taken away virtually any informal interaction with outsiders, let alone with ordinary Israelis. The security measures have become even tighter since the election to power a year ago of the Islamist group <u>Hamas</u>, which preaches eternal "resistance" to Israeli occupation and rejects Israel's right to permanent existence on this land.

During most of the 1980s and '90s, as many as 150,000 Palestinians came into Israel daily to work, study and shop. While they were not treated as equals, many learned Hebrew and established relationships.

Now, the only Israelis whom Palestinians see are armed -- soldiers and settlers. The West Bank is cut into three parts by checkpoints; Gazan men under 30 are virtually unable to leave their tiny, poor and overcrowded territory. Few talk of peace, only of a lifetime of "resistance."

Many Israelis agree that the current generation of young Palestinians has been thoroughly radicalized, but say that is the product of Palestinian political and religious leaders who have sanctioned and promoted violence and terrorism against Israel.

The Palestinian territories are an overwhelmingly youthful place -- 56.4 percent of Palestinians are under 19, and in Gaza, 75.6 percent of the population is under 30, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

Opinion polls show a generation more supportive of armed struggle and terrorism than their parents, according to Waleed Ladadweh of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. The violence is directed not only toward Israel, but also toward one another.

"We're pushed all the time to be more political, more militant, more religious, more extreme," said Shadi el-Haj, a 20-year-old student at An Najah. "We want to be Palestinians, like the generation of the first intifada. But people push you, 'Are you Fatah or <u>Hamas</u>?' All our problems start with, 'I'm Fatah, I'm <u>Hamas</u>.' It wasn't like that before."

During the first intifada the young were a symbol of the struggle for statehood, leaders of a popular uprising. But in the brutal struggle of the second intifada, which has been taken over by the militias, many of them controlled from leaders outside the territories, "now the youth are irrelevant," said Nader Said, a political scientist at Birzeit University in Ramallah.

More importantly, this generation has lost faith in political solutions. "They haven't lived one moment in a period of real hope for a real state," he said. "And with this internal fighting, there is more and more a feeling that we don't deserve a state, that we're inadequate, which kills the morale of the young."

Some 58 percent of those under 30, the center's polls show, expect a more violent struggle with Israel over the next 5 to 10 years, and only 22 percent believe that there will be a peaceful negotiated solution between Israel and the Palestinians. About 48 percent believe such an agreement is impossible, and 20 percent more believe it will only come "in a few generations."

There are no comparable polling figures from the late 1980s, when the first intifada broke out. But in 2000, according to polling done by the center, only 32 percent of Palestinians 18 to 30 believed there would be conflict and violence with Israel in the next five to 10 years. About 21 percent thought there would be more peace, while 16 percent thought there would be less. Those older than 30 expected more peace and less conflict.

In 2000 only 7 percent of all Palestinians (and only 6 percent of those 18 to 30) identified themselves as favoring <u>Hamas</u>. Forty-six percent (and 47 percent of those 18 to 30) favored Fatah. But today, even after a difficult year of <u>Hamas</u> rule, the two factions are roughly equal. Among those 18 to 30, the spread is wider, with 36 percent favoring Fatah and 27 percent <u>Hamas</u>.

Zakariya Zubeidi grew up imbued with what he sees as the heroism of the first intifada, built on the conviction that sacrifice was bringing a state and a better future. Now he runs Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades in the tough town of Jenin and is wanted for carrying out attacks against Israelis.

"It was always our choice to be fuel for the struggle," he said. "But our problem now is that the car burns the youth as fuel but doesn't move. There's a problem in the engine, in the head. These kids are willing to be fuel, but many have been burned as waste."

Mr. Zubeidi was a hero of the first intifada. "When I was younger I thought, 'if I die, that's natural, it's for a cause,' "he said. "And today I think differently. To die? For what? For these people who can't agree? That's what this generation fears. It's lost, and its sacrifices are meaningless. Is the Palestinian dream dying? In these circumstances, yes."The Youngest Ones

In Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp, in an apartment along the rutted main road unpaved after the halt of American aid to the Palestinian Authority, Najwa and Taher el-Assar brood about their three children, Mustafa, 6, Ahmed, 5, and newborn Salma.

"The boys have become so violent in the way they think," Mrs. Assar said. "In a way, they're no longer children." She described how she and her husband watched the news last summer of the shelling on a Gaza beach that left a family dead, a tragedy Israel denied causing but could not explain. "I feel that time stopped," she said. "And then days later, Mustafa says, 'I want to be fat, Mommy.' And why? 'Because I want to put on a suicide belt and not have the Israelis see it,' he said.

"I was shocked," Mrs. Assar said. "But it's in the news, the environment, the sound of the Apaches and the F-16s and the cannons. It all affects them, and they get nervous. Ahmed is very violent with his brother. He has no patience, he doesn't like to share, and I have to watch him all the time."

For the Id al-Fitr festival, the boys asked for toy Kalashnikovs and Uzis, and they know all about the crude rockets, the Qassams, that militants fire into southern Israel. "They classify the weapons, they want a particular gun," Mrs. Assar said. "And when you think of the violence, and what future will we have here? It will be a very violent future."

Mr. Assar broke in. "The world is moving ahead, and we're moving backward," he said. "We're back to 1948."

Mrs. Assar said softly: "I feel there is no way I can protect them or hide them. Normally people are happy with a new baby, but when I delivered Salma I thought, 'Oh my God, a third child in this life.' It haunts me -- I think, 'What if? What if? What if a rocket hits the house? What if the Israelis have another "accident"? What if Mustafa is 19 and attracted to a group of militants and I don't know, and I hear on TV that this person went to Israel and exploded himself?' You live with this, 'What if?' But there's no inner peace. You get so nervous you want to scream!"

Her husband said: "We can't give them security and safety. They can't live as normal children. When a kid realizes a parent can't supply security and safety, what is the point of these parents?"

Mrs. Assar said: "They understand our anxieties, even when we're silent." She tries to explain Israeli sonic booms to the boys as the flatulence of a plane that eats too much, she said. "Yet I become more scared than they do. And they feel it. I hug them to comfort them and I'm the one taking comfort from them!"

Mustafa and Ahmed played with new umbrellas, one printed with Disney characters and one with cats and dogs. They ran in and out of the sitting room.

Then they came in, conspiratorial. Watch, they insisted, then pressed the buttons on the umbrellas, which expanded suddenly and flew into the air. "Qassams!" they shouted gleefully. "Qassams!"The Hothouse of Gaza

In another part of the refugee camp, four black-clad fighters gathered in self-conscious secrecy, members of the Abu Rish brigades, a militant Gazan offshoot of Fatah that opposed the Oslo accords with Israel and has moved closer to *Hamas*.

Raed, 30, was arrested in the first intifada, when he was 16. He felt a hero at the time, but the political result, the 1993 Oslo accords, "were useless and benefited Israel," he said. "No one can resist with stones or build a nation without violence."

Like his comrades, he says he is fighting for the future of his own children, but he has small hopes for them, and large fears. "<u>Hamas</u> and Fatah are so divided, the goal of Palestine disappears," he said. "I talk about willing my children to be martyrs for Allah, but I honestly wish for them to be safe and healthy, that's all."

There is bravado there, but also frustration. None of the fighters, who agreed to talk if their last names were not published, believes a Palestinian state will be established; none can imagine living next to Israel. All of them want to leave and start again, somewhere.

Gaza is a poor, chaotic place of 1.5 million people, 70 percent of them refugees or their descendants. Younger, more conservative and more religious than the West Bank, Gaza is the heartland of <u>Hamas</u>, and the people of Gaza are even more constrained by Israeli and Egyptian security restrictions on their travel. There are fewer jobs than in the West Bank, and even more weapons.

With the economy of Gaza shutting down, much of the work available for young people is either in the swollen and disorganized security forces or in the armed militias or gangs, many of them built on clan loyalties, and some of which engage more in racketeering than in fighting. <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, with considerable financial help from Iran and Syria, are known at least to pay their people, even if <u>Hamas</u> cannot pay full salaries to all Palestinian Authority employees.

Hassan, 21, ran out of money before finishing university, but cannot imagine what he would do in Gaza with a degree. "I look at the graduates here, and their diplomas are useless," he said. "That's why I'm in the resistance."

According to the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, about 19 percent of those killed since 2000 have been 18 or under, whether in fighting against the Israelis or among Palestinian factions.

Mirvat Massoud was 18, the first child in her family to go to university, when she decided last November to blow herself up. The Israeli Army had taken over Beit Hanun, in northern Gaza, and was interrogating its inhabitants, looking for weapons, militants and those who fire Qassam rockets into Israel.

Inspired by a 2004 suicide attack carried out in Israel, by her cousin Nabil on behalf of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, Mirvat volunteered to become a suicide bomber. She was close to Nabil, who had lived upstairs in the Jabaliya refugee camp and was only a year older. The brigades declined her offer, however, saying that one young "martyr" in a family was enough. They told her father, Amin Massoud, a longtime Fatah member, who said he was shocked.

"I spoke to her of course," said Mr. Massoud, agitated, moving his hands through the empty air. "I said, 'Your education will be jihad. Going to school is jihad. If you become a doctor, that's jihad.' But I don't know what drove her -- too much faith inside her, I don't know."

But the wall above Mirvat's desk is still covered with "martyr posters" from the dead of Jabaliya camp, and her parents knew she was becoming more religious and political. She was enraged by reports of a van of schoolchildren hit by shrapnel in Beit Hanun, and she slipped away. She volunteered again, successfully this time, for Islamic Jihad. She died, slightly wounding two Israelis.

Far to the north, in Jenin, Suhaila Badawi, 20, knows every detail of Mirvat's story. She sees Mirvat both as familiar and as a model, a symbol of bravery for young Palestinian **women** and a tragedy, too.

"I wouldn't commit such an act, but I understand her completely and I admire her," Ms. Badawi said about the suicide attack. "She was a Palestinian like me. I don't think she was misled."

Khader Fayyad, 46, lives in Beit Hanun and works as an ambulance driver for the Palestinian Red Crescent, dispatched to every horror.

"I call these kids the destroyed generation," Mr. Fayyad said. "Nobody pays attention to this generation, except to recruit them, and it's very dangerous."

He is proud of 16-year-old Ayman, the brightest of his sons. But he feels unable to provide him a valuable future.

Mr. Fayyad's own father died when he was 17. But it was a different time, he said -- the peace talks, the Oslo accords, the return of responsibility to Palestinians over their lives, Camp David. "We were exposed to the world, to politics, and yes, to Israelis," he said.

"Resistance and politics must go together," he said. "Yasir Arafat knew how to use one for the other. Now, there is no politics, no talks, so the sacrifices of the youth are wasted and empty."

Ayman, however, like most members of his generation, cannot imagine living in peace next to an Israel that has ripped up his town, or becoming friends with an Israeli who has rolled over his schoolyard in a tank.

"Israel should leave this land," he said angrily, then repeats what he has been taught, that all of historic Palestine belongs to Muslims.

"The Jews should go back to where they came from, to Europe, Russia and America," he said. "They have no place here."

Israel breaks all its agreements, Ayman says. "How can you make peace with them?" he asks. "Even the Koran says there will be war with them until the day of judgment."

Yet Mr. Fayyad has not given up all hope. He says he believes that this generation is still malleable, immature. "You can influence them through realistic solutions," he said. "If you delivered a real, two-state solution, believe me, they would go into the streets and dance. But if nothing changes, believe me also, they are lost -- lost to all of us."Leaving

Where young Palestinians once dreamed of staying to build a new state, now many are giving up and scheming to get out.

Moayyed Haj Hussein is 22, educated and well spoken. But after he failed to find a job in six months, his mother pressed his brother-in-law to give him work in a coffee shop near the Hawara checkpoint, which the Israeli Army uses to control who comes in and out of Nablus.

The Assanabel cafe is a simple place, offering decent Turkish coffee, mint tea, schwarma and sweets to the Palestinians who wait for hours to get through the checkpoint. For Mr. Hussein, the cafe has become a kind of soft prison, giving him some spending money but no prospect for a future.

He graduated with a degree in computer sciences seven months ago from An Najah in Nablus, where he lives. But he sleeps here in Hawara because as a male under 30 with a Nablus ID card, it is very difficult to get permission to exit the city to the south.

Mr. Hussein says he has never spoken to an ordinary Israeli. "The only Israelis I see here are either settlers or soldiers," he said. "They all have guns."

He hates waiting on people and washing dishes, and says he is still looking for a decent job. But he is also looking to get out -- to the United States, if possible, where his sister lives, but "almost any place," he said, "where I can work and live a normal life."

He is a Palestinian patriot, he insists. "But there's no hope here," he said. "You see the situation. It's useless to think it will improve. You see it; it just gets worse."

According to Nader Said's polls for Birzeit University, 35 percent of Palestinians over the age of 18 want to emigrate. Nearly 50 percent of those between 18 and 30 would leave if they could, said Mr. Said.

"That's a huge indicator," he said. "In the worst of times here, when Israeli troops were everywhere, the figure in the population was less than 20 percent."

Palestinians talk about how they seem to be welcome in Cuba or China, now that it is hard for them to gain permission to go work in the Persian Gulf or Jordan. Others say it is possible upon arrival in some European countries to ask for humanitarian asylum. But first they need a visa to get there.

Some travel agents in Gaza sell fictitious invitations from foreign hosts in Cuba, China and elsewhere, along with fake visas and hotel bookings to go along with real and expensive air tickets through Cairo.

Even the young fighters of the Abu Rish brigade have tried to leave. Muhammad and Saado, both 27, sold their weapons, took bank loans and paid \$2,000 for visas and tickets from Cairo to Beijing on Austrian Airlines. They made it out of Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt, but the Egyptians put them on a bus, locked the door and drove straight to the airport. For the four days before their departure, they said, the Egyptians then locked them into a crammed airport waiting room.

"A dog wouldn't use the toilet," Muhammad said. "They charged us 150 Egyptian pounds a day (\$26.30) to use a seat, even the little kids. One Egyptian said, 'Even a dead body has to pay.' "They bribed guards to bring them food and water.

The day of their flight, a Friday, they were brought to the departure hall. But an airlines security guard examined their documents and turned them away. Presumably, the visas were fake. "He looked at us as if we were evil," Saado said. "There was no respect for us. I hate the Israelis, but I hate the Egyptians more."

They were returned to the fetid waiting room, and a day later, when there was a busload, they were shipped back, first to El Arish. There they waited for days in an even more disgusting detention area, they said, until the Rafah crossing opened.

"When we finally got back to Gaza, I kissed the soil," Muhammad said, laughing at his humiliation. "We said, 'Gaza is paradise!' "

In his own quest to leave, Mr. Hussein, the cafe worker, has contacted the American Consulate in East Jerusalem. But, he said, "I can't get a permit to go to Jerusalem to make an application."

What about those who would accuse you of giving up your rights in your land?

Mr. Hussein turned away. "I don't care," he finally said. "I want to live happily."

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Graphic

Photos: KNOWING ONLY VIOLENCE -- Young men ducked during a clash with Israeli soldiers in Nablus last month. Few have the chance to interact with ordinary Israelis. (Photo by Emilio Morenatti/Associated Press)

A DREAM IN QUESTION -- Zakariya Zubeidi fought in the first intifada, in the 1980s, and now runs Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades in Jenin, where he is a refugee. His wall is adorned with posters of friends who died fighting the Israelis. (Photo by Rina Castelnuovo for The New York Times)

A SISTER LOST -- Naima Massoud, 17, holds a picture of her sister Mirvat in their home at a refugee camp in Gaza. Mirvat volunteered twice to be a suicide bomber before she was accepted for a mission last November. (Photo by Shawn Baldwin for The New York Times)(pg. A12)

SAFETY AT A COST -- A boy saw an Israeli soldier on patrol near Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem. Many Palestinian children are familiar with weaponry. (Photo by Rina Castelnuovo for The New York Times)(pg. A13)

A Palestinian youth threw stones at Israeli soldiers in Ramallah, West Bank, last week. Parents fear the atmosphere of despair has made their children more accepting of violence. (Photo by Uriel Sinai/Getty Images)(pg. A1)

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<u>'Am I dreaming?'</u>

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Byline: MOHAMMED ASSADI, Reuters

Dateline: RAMALLAH West Bank

Body

Jamila Jaradat was afraid she might die before seeing her son released from the

Israeli jail where he had spent nearly half his life.

She said she thought she was dreaming when she saw Mohannad, 38, walking toward her at President Mahmoud Abbas's compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday, with about 250 other Palestinians freed in an Israeli prisoner release.

Jamila scrambled to her feet and burst into tears as Mohannad approached her.

"Oh my beloved. Am I dreaming?" the frail 64-year-old woman said as she hugged Mohannad, who wiped her tears and made her sit on a plastic chair under a makeshift tent.

Most of those released, including Mohannad, were members of Abbas's Fatah faction. A handful of others belonged to *Hamas*, said Ashraf al-Ajrami, the Palestinian minister of prisoner affairs.

Mohannad had served 18 years of his 20-year-sentence in an Israeli prison for planting bombs in Israel. He said none had caused deaths. Israel had said it would not free prisoners with "blood on their hands."

Others also wept as they were reunited with families and friends. <u>Women</u> ululated and formed circles to dance in celebration after the prisoners arrived in buses.

The prisoners issue is highly emotive for Palestinians, who see Palestinians in Israeli jails as brothers and fighters for freedom from occupation in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

<u>Hamas</u> routed Abbas's Fatah forces in Gaza last month, prompting Abbas to dismiss the government it led and to install a new administration in the larger West Bank.

Abbas has vowed not to rest until all Palestinians in Israeli prisons, which number nearly 11,000, are released.

Senior Fatah official Qaddoura Fares said Israel should free more to advance peace talks.

'Am I dreaming?'

"If Israel had true intentions to make peace with us they would capitalize on releasing prisoners because by doing so they will build trust," he said.

Other reunions were bittersweet. Noora Abu Ayyash, 54, was happy to hug her freed son Majdi, but sad because another three were still behind bars in

Israel.

Nisreen Abu Zeineh, among a handful of Palestinian <u>women</u> freed, said she had had 22 days left to complete her 51/2 -year sentence.

"Despite that, I am very happy," said the 23-year-old as she stood near her parents.

None of the released Palestinians, which included 11 minors and six <u>women</u>, had been convicted of directly attacking

Israelis, and most were at the end of their prison terms,

according to Israeli officials.

Ajrami said there were 64 Palestinians in Israeli prisons serving sentences longer than 20 years who were not among those freed yesterday.

"This is a very small and one-sided step," he said. "We are pushing for the release of sick prisoners, elderly and young and *female* prisoners."

For Jamila Jaradat, the release of her son was enough.

"I will spend the remainder of my days with Mohannad," she said. "I will not let him go out - maybe only to look for a bride. I will tie his hand to mine."

Graphic

Colour Photo: URIEL SINAI, GETTY IMAGES; A released Palestinian prisoner kisses his son in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday.;

Load-Date: July 21, 2007



WITH CAIR, COMPROMISE COMPLICATED - Correction Appended

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)
September 23, 2007 Sunday
0 South Pinellas Edition

Correction Appended

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A

Length: 2316 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN, Times Senior Correspondent

Highlight: The American Muslim group's stated goal is understanding. But some don't trust it.

Body

Two years ago on Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater had an unusual guest speaker - a Muslim.

Ahmed Bedier, head of the Tampa chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, discussed similarities between Judaism and Islam. He answered questions about the Koran. One woman called the talk "wonderful."

Yet Rabbi David Weizman now wishes he hadn't invited Bedier.

"In hindsight I would have asked my colleagues if it was a good idea," says Weizman, who drew flak from some members of Tampa Bay's Jewish community who have long been suspicious of CAIR. "Although the intentions were good - for building bridges - the concern was with the honesty and sincerity of the other side of the bridge."

The reaction to Bedier's appearance reflects the wildly disparate views of CAIR, seen by some as a positive force for interfaith dialogue and by others as a slick front for Muslim extremism.

Without question, the oft-quoted CAIR has become the best-known American Muslim organization since the Sept.£11 attacks. Its stated goal is to increase understanding of Islam and to protect the civil rights of America's 6-million Muslims.

To that end, Bedier - one of CAIR's most media-savvy officials - is a familiar presence on TV, recently questioning the treatment of two University of South Florida students indicted Aug. 31 on explosives charges. And he was often in the news as federal prosecutors pressed their case against former USF professor Sami Al-Arian, accused by then-Attorney General John Ashcroft of being the North American leader of a Palestinian terrorist group.

Though CAIR participates in many civic activities, its association with the Al-Arian case and other controversies subjects it to blistering criticism, much of it from staunchly pro-Israel groups and commentators. They say CAIR supports anti-Israel terrorism. That it espouses the intolerant Wahhabi brand of Islam.

"It's an accumulation of things that have led many of the Jewish organizations to the conclusion that CAIR is problematic," says Martin Raffel, associate director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs in New York.

CAIR denies the allegations, calling them attempts to "demonize" Muslims. And some prominent American Jews question whether the anti-CAIR criticism has gone too far.

"My general view is to look gently at organizations, knowing we all have complicated records," says David M. Elcott, executive director of Israel Policy Forum, a Manhattan think tank. "There have been real issues with CAIR, but at the same time there are ways CAIR could be worked with."

Rabbi Michael Paley says he has been looking into CAIR for months and "so far I cannot find any egregious activities."

"We should be concerned that we are alienating moderate Muslims and Muslims who are struggling to get a foothold in American society," says Paley, scholar in residence at the United Jewish Appeal Federation in New York. "If we do the one thing that has been so important to Jews in America, it will be to compromise."

Surge in prominence

Much of the controversy over CAIR stems from its roots in the Palestinian struggle against Israel. The Washington-based council was founded in 1994 by leaders of the Islamic Association of Palestine, a now-defunct U.S. organization accused of supporting *Hamas*, but never designated a terrorist group itself.

Most Muslims support the Palestinian cause, making it hard for CAIR to be detached, says Ihsan Bagby, a CAIR board member and University of Kentucky professor.

"CAIR tries to stay out of international issues, but they are dragged into it partly because the American Muslim community wants their voice to be heard on this issue because it is so important," Bagby says.

CAIR soared in prominence after the Sept. 11 attacks and the increased scrutiny that left many Muslims feeling under siege. But paradoxically as its profile went up, CAIR's revenues went down - from \$3.7-million in 2002 to \$2.25-million three years later.

Some critics see the decline as evidence CAIR doesn't have much support even among the people it claims to represent. But the drop in money going to the national CAIR has been offset by contributions to its 33 local chapters. CAIR-Florida took in \$802,000 last year, compared to \$16,000 when it started in 2001, according to statements filed with the IRS.

"I think it shows we're a more grass-roots organization - bottom up, not top down," Bedier says. "Ask the NAACP where they were 12 years into their start. Or the ADL."

The Anti-Defamation League, with revenues 10 times those of CAIR, was founded 74 years ago to fight anti-Semitism. Today it is one of CAIR's biggest critics, alleging it hasn't done enough to distance itself from <u>Hamas</u> and other groups committed to destroying Israel and killing Jews.

"CAIR is out there saying it is the organization that represents the Arab-Muslim community in the United States on human rights issues, on civil rights issues," says Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director.

"What we're saying is that if you want to be there, there is a very high standard in terms of your position on terrorism. You either oppose it or not. I want to hear them condemn the terrorism of *Hamas* and Hezbollah."

CAIR condemned the 2002 Passover bombing by <u>Hamas</u> that killed 29 Israelis, and has denounced terrorism in general without naming groups other than al-Qaida. It has also spoken against anti-Semitism including Iran's Holocaust denial conference.

In an open letter to Foxman last month, CAIR accused the ADL of "smearing" it with "defamatory assertions." It also questioned why the Jewish organization didn't criticize Israel for harming innocent civilians during last year's war with Lebanon.

To some observers, the contentiousness reflects the opposing ways Jews and Muslims see the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - as Israel's fight for survival or Palestinian resistance to Israeli oppression.

"The reason (CAIR) can't condemn <u>Hamas</u> with precision is because <u>Hamas</u> has social services aspects," says Paley of the United Jewish Appeal Federation. "And it should not be the job of CAIR to support Israel. That's my job, I'm a rabbi, I love Israel. But that's not the role of CAIR. CAIR is a Muslim organization."

'Nothing nefarious'

A frequent CAIR critic is historian and commentator Daniel Pipes. Soon after the Sept. 11 attacks, he reportedly told the American Jewish Congress that he worried that the "increased affluence and enfranchisement of American Muslims ... will present true danger to American Jews."

CAIR says that Pipes' writings are full of distortions and innuendo.

In a March 2006 article, "Islamists Fooling the Establishment," Pipes said there is a "side to CAIR that has alarmed many people in positions to know. The Department of Homeland Security refuses to deal with it."

Yet less than six months later, CAIR's Tampa chapter hosted a meeting of law enforcement personnel that included three top Homeland Security officials. The FBI's Tampa chief also attended.

In the same article, Pipes tried to link CAIR to Palestinian terrorism by way of \$250,000 it received from the Islamic Development Bank to build its Washington headquarters.

"CAIR's decision to accept (the bank's) funding is unfortunate," Pipes writes, "given the bank's role as manager of the Al-Quds and Al Aqsa Funds, established by 12 Arab countries to fund the Palestinian intifada and provide financial support to the families of Palestinian 'martyrs.'"

The article does not mention that the main purpose of the bank, based in Saudi Arabia, is to finance roads, dams, hospitals and other projects throughout the world.

Pipes also criticizes CAIR for accepting \$500,000 from Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal of Saudi Arabia that was used to buy books about Islam for U.S. libraries. That contribution and the bank financing belie CAIR's claim that it does not receive support from any foreign group or government, Pipes writes.

Communications director Ibrahim Hooper says CAIR was referring to terrorist groups and state sponsors of terrorism, not individuals and banks.

"It's just a plain statement that we're not a government-supported entity," he says. "There's nothing nefarious about it."

'Urban legends'

The Pipes article also alleges that CAIR has a "key role in the Wahhabi lobby" - what Pipes calls a network of organizations, usually supported by Saudi donations, "whose aim is to propagate the extreme version of Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia."

As evidence of CAIR's role, Pipes continues, its "affiliates regularly speak at events sponsored by the Islamic Society of North America, an umbrella organization of the Wahhabi lobby."

CAIR members do attend society events. But so do non-Muslims. At the society's recent convention, one of the main speakers was a rabbi who heads America's largest Jewish denomination.

Ingrid Mattson, president of the Islamic Society, says her organization recognizes Islam's many schools of thought, whereas Wahhabism considers most other Muslims nonbelievers and puts severe restrictions on <u>women</u>. And the society's only connection with Saudi donors since 2001 was partnering with Indiana University on a fellowship program funded by Prince bin Talal.

One of the world's richest men, the prince "is the least Wahhabi Saudi," says Mattson, a professor at Hartford Seminary. "He has an all-*female* staff who he forbids from wearing a head scarf even in the middle of Riyadh."

To counter claims by Pipes and other critics, CAIR recently issued a rebuttal of "urban legends." Among them: CAIR supports terrorism because its Web site linked in 2001 to the Holy Land Foundation, a now-defunct Muslim charity on trial in Texas for allegedly funneling millions of dollars to <u>Hamas</u>.

Critics say CAIR steered donors to Holy Land under the guise of helping victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. But the foundation was not under investigation then and "to claim intent other than a sincere effort to aid victims of tragedy is dishonest," says CAIR, noting it has linked to the Red Cross, too.

Critics have also made much of the fact CAIR is among 300 Muslim organizations and individuals named as "unindicted co-conspirators" in the Holy Land case, a move that permits prosecutors to introduce statements that might otherwise be considered inadmissible hearsay. CAIR has asked the government to remove it and others from the list, saying it "damaged their reputations" without legal recourse.

Al-Arian spokesman?

When South Carolina deputies arrested two Muslim USF students Aug. 4 after finding what appeared to be an explosive device in their car, Bedierdownplayed suggestions of terrorism.

"Had they been two white kids, nobody would be asking those questions," he told reporters. But when the pair were indicted on federal charges, Bedier took a more neutral tone.

"Evidence doesn't lie," he said Aug. 31. "Evidence will also lead to the truth."

The Egyptian-born Bedier knows critics are eager for any sign CAIR condones terrorism. Although he says they never met, he's been called a "spokesman" for Al-Arian, the former USF professor accused of supporting Palestinian Islamic Jihad. After a federal jury acquitted Al-Arian of eight counts and deadlocked on nine others, he pleaded guilty to a single count of conspiring to provide services to the PIJ and received a 57-month sentence.

"We never came out and necessarily defended him, but our position was that people should have their day in court," says Bedier, 33, who managed a dental clinic before joining CAIR in 2003.

Shortly after the sentence, though, an anti-CAIR blog jumped on Bedier for his televised comment that there was "nothing immoral" about Al-Arian's association with the PIJ. Bedier later said he meant there was nothing illegal because the PIJ had not yet been designated a terrorist organization.

The Al-Arian case focused an often harsh spotlight on CAIR. But it also helped make CAIR's Florida affiliate the organization's second largest, after California.

Bedier, who earns \$48,000 as executive director of the Tampa chapter, works out of a free-standing office in Temple Terrace, not far from USF. CAIR raised \$60,000 and borrowed the rest of the building's \$300,000 cost from a local group headed by a Brandon doctor.

The chapter's main job is helping Muslims who feel they've been victims of hate crimes or discrimination. But Bedier's activities have included raising money to rebuild churches burned by Muslims angry at Pope Benedict XVI's allegedly pejorative comments about Islam.

As for Bedier himself, "I found his words always directed toward peace and reconciliation among peoples," says Rev. Robert Gibbons, former vicar general of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg.

CAIR has been far less successful building bridges to Tampa Bay's Jewish community. Barry Augenbraun, a guest with Bedier on a recent radio show, says he was "shocked" when Bedier insisted that Arab armies did not invade Israel after it declared independence in 1948.

"That set back any attempt I have to continue a dialogue with him," says Augenbraun, co-chair of the local Jewish Community Relations Council. "It's very difficult to talk to someone if I can't rely on them relating to historical fact."

After the show, Bedier acknowledged that Arab nations "attacked" Israel while still disagreeing they "invaded." But the real issue, he says, is that some critics will never accept CAIR unless "we put Israel first and we're not willing to do that."

Nor is that surprising, says Rabbi Weizman, whose Clearwater synagogue hosted Bedier for the first - and perhaps only - time in 2005.

"I think CAIR's mission is something like that of the Anti-Defamation League," Weizman says. "And there is a need for that because it is American to have a voice in this country and prevent persecution of a certain group. It's just human nature that these groups have some conflict with each other."

Susan Taylor Martin can be reached at susan@sptimes.com

Correction

The Anti-Defamation League was founded 94 years ago. A story Sunday gave the wrong age of the organization.

Correction-Date: September 25, 2007

Graphic

PHOTO, Courtesy of the Tampa chapter of CAIR: Building bridges? In August 2006, CAIR's Tampa chapter hosted a meeting with local law enforcement and Homeland Security officials to discuss travel security issues. Carl Whitehead, then the FBI's Tampa chief, spoke; Ahmed Bedier is at left. PHOTO, Courtesy of the Anti-Defamation League: Burning bridges? The ADL says this photo of CAIR executive director Nihad Awad speaking near a Hezbollah flag at a large 2002 antiwar rally in Washington shows CAIR endorses "rallies where support for terrorist groups was undeniable." Other Jewish leaders say that is an overstatement. PHOTO, JOHN PENDYGRAFT - Times: Ahmed Bedier is often sought out to comment on cases like that of two Muslim USF students arrested on explosives charges. PHOTO, Philadelphia Inquirer: Daniel Pipes says CAIR propagates an extreme version of Islam. CAIR says his writings contain innuendo and distortions. PHOTO: Ibrahim Hooper is CAIR's national communications director. PHOTO: Abraham Foxman is the national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Load-Date: September 25, 2007



In Short

The Irish Times

March 15, 2007 Thursday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 12

Length: 543 words

Body

A round-up of today's other stories in brief

Survey says one in 10 in EU binge-drinks

BRUSSELS - One in every 10 people in the European Union is a binge-drinker but increasing taxes on alcohol is unlikely to have a big impact on consumption, a new survey has said.

A poll on attitudes to alcohol said binge-drinking - when a person usually consumes five or more alcoholic beverages in a session - is a problem among young people.

"Nineteen per cent of the 15-24 age group usually binge-drink when consuming alcohol," the survey on behalf of the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, said. - (Reuters)

German president pleads for hostages

BERLIN - German president Horst Köhler has called for the immediate release of a German woman and her grownup son who have been held hostage in Iraq for five weeks and threatened with death.

In a video message recorded yesterday during a visit by Mr Köhler to Latin America, he appealed directly to the kidnappers, who said last week they would kill Hannelore Krause (61) and her son Sinan in 10 days unless Berlin pulled its 3,000 soldiers out of Afghanistan. - (Reuters)

Two killed by their own bomb

ALGIERS - Two members of an Algerian Islamist militant group have been killed when a roadside bomb they were planting outside the capital Algiers exploded prematurely, according to the official APS news agency.

Several other rebels were wounded when the home- made bomb went off at the side of a road intersection on Tuesday in Boumerdes province, 50 km (31 miles) from Algiers. - (Reuters)

Fatah and *Hamas* agree ministry

GAZA - Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah and prime minister Ismail Haniyeh of <u>Hamas</u> have agreed to appoint an as yet unnamed person as interior minister, a cabinet spokesman has said.

In Short

The agreement on the interior post, which oversees the security services, removes a key obstacle to forming a unity government. The new cabinet is expected to be unveiled today and approved by the Palestinian parliament on Saturday. - (Reuters)

Montenegro starts EU process

PODGORICA - Montenegro will today open the door towards eventual European Union membership when it signs an agreement with the EU, according to Montenegro's deputy prime minister Gordana Djurovic.

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the first formal step towards eventual accession, will be signed during a visit by EU enlargement commissioner Olli Rehn to Podgorica. - (Reuters)

Egyptian girl tests positive for bird flu

CAIRO - A 10-year-old Egyptian girl has tested positive for bird flu, becoming the 25th human case in the country, a World Health Organisation official has said. - (Reuters)

SAS plans for emissions offset

OSLO - Scandinavian airline SAS says it will let passengers offset greenhouse emissions from their flights by investing in renewable energy. SAS is the second airline after British Airways to introduce the scheme. - (Reuters)

Fashion designer on rape charges

LOS ANGELES - A celebrity fashion designer has been charged with rape, sexual battery and lewd acts on a minor in what prosecutors say were assaults on two **women** and a 15-year-old girl.

A lawyer for Anand Jon said yesterday the sex was consensual and suggested the <u>women</u> had falsely accused his client because he did not make them famous. - (Reuters)

Load-Date: March 15, 2007



<u>Details of alleged sex crimes released: Attorney-general seeks eviction of</u> president said to have forced two female employees to have intercourse

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

January 31, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 515 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

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

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

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

A fresh truce which had begun only early Tuesday in Gaza was marred a few hours later when Fatah gunmen killed a *Hamas* commander with a bullet to the head near the Egyptian border.

But the latest ceasefire, which came after 30 deaths in five days, produced enough of a sense of confidence that many ordinary Gazans left their homes to look for food for the first time since fighting broke out again last Thursday.

Another positive development was that by late Tuesday the warring military wings of the presidential and parliamentary parts of the Palestinian government had exchanged 38 of the Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> members that they had kidnapped from each other since last week. But an unknown number of hostages were still being held.

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

Both alleged that they were then raped, although Katsav faces a rape charge in only one of the cases and indecent assault, sexual harassment and breach of trust for the other. Allegations of sexual misconduct made against Katsav by eight other <u>women</u> have not resulted in charges. The Israeli president also faces separate charges of obstruction of justice and fraud.

Details of alleged sex crimes released: Attorney-general seeks eviction of president said to have forced two female employees to have intercourse

In a dramatic nationally televised speech last week, Katsav vehemently denied the charges, shouting that he was the victim of a public lynching by the media and police.

Despite his claims of innocence, the Israeli media have begun to speculate that Katsav may be considering a plea bargain to do as little prison time as possible. If convicted on all counts, he could be jailed for as much as 16 years.

Israeli Attorney-General Menachem Mazuz said he wanted Katsav out of his official residence because the <u>women</u> he allegedly attacked still worked there. Nevertheless, he would continue to be paid and should be allowed to keep his government car, Mazuz said.

The Israeli Knesset voted Tuesday to begin impeachment proceedings against Katsav in two weeks time. A Knesset committee granted the president a three-month leave of absence last week so that he could defend himself from the charges. His seven-year term expires in July.

Load-Date: January 31, 2007



Book Festival: Reviews: MARGARET ATWOOD: JUSTIN CARTWRIGHT: VAL McDERMID & DENISE MINA: NICK COHEN Poetry drawn from the heart - and from the margins of history

The Scotsman

August 15, 2007, Wednesday

Festival Edition

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Section: Pg. 5

Length: 835 words

Byline: Davis Robinson

Body

MARGARET ATWOOD

ONE doesn't go to the Book Festival to find out what the world's top writers wear in bed, but Margaret Atwood's dislike of pyjamas was just one of the revelations in a intimate and insightful Meet the Author session. Atwood, pictured below right, is launching her new book, The Door, at the Book Festival, her first collection of poems for more than ten years.

Although she is best known for her novels, Atwood has written poetry since the age of five. The poems she read here dealt with a range of themes: the growing infirmity of her mother, who died in December aged 97, and the clearing out of a lifetime of possessions; a bird-watching trip to the Arctic; the futility of war; the strangeness of the act of writing.

Few writers are as pertinent and witty as Atwood on the subject of what it is to be a writer, how it requires the balancing of flashes of inspiration with long periods of hard slog.

She described finding a medieval manuscript in a museum in Iceland - in the margin of which a scribe had scribbled the words: "Writing is boring." "My heart leapt across the ages," Atwood said. And she quoted Joan Sutherland, who, when asked to account for her talent, replied: "Bloody hard work, donkey." The act may be boring, Margaret, but the result never is.

JUSTIN CARTWRIGHT

CHARACTERS in recent history provide a rich seam of inspiration for novelists, but it had its own pitfalls, as Justin Cartwright found out. His latest novel, The Song Before It Is Sung, deals in fictional terms with the friendship between Jewish academic Isaiah Berlin and Adam von Trott, who was part of the July 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler.

After seeing film footage of von Trott's death - when the conspirators were executed by the Nazis, the killings were filmed on Hitler's orders - Cartwright was moved to start investigating the friendship, which began when the men met at Oxford, but soured due to philosophical and personal differences.

Book Festival: Reviews: MARGARET ATWOOD: JUSTIN CARTWRIGHT: VAL McDERMID & DENISE MINA: NICK COHEN Poetry drawn from the heart - and from the margins of history

Cartwright looks at the pair's story through the eyes of a contemporary writer, investigating the relationship amid the breakdown of his own marriage. To his surprise, when the book was published, he found himself under fire from the von Trott family because he questioned von Trott's uncritical status as a hero.

A lively discussion progressed to the question of how ordinary people become capable of terrible acts. It is a theme which has been explored elsewhere in the Book Festival, by Lewis Alsamari, an escapee from Saddam Hussein's army, and by Katrin Himmler, the great-niece of the SS leader, but Cartwright's love of philosophy brought a fresh perspective.

VAL McDERMID & DENISE MINA

IMAGINE you're out for a night in the pub and the two <u>women</u> sitting opposite just happen to be world-famous crime novelists. They're just in a mellow mood, talking about what they like and hate about their job, and somehow you get to join in the conversation.

Despite the presence of 550 strangers in front of them, that was exactly what last night's session with Val McDermid and Denise Mina felt like. Hair was (metaphorically) let down, confidences were shared, literary passions explained with a rare intimacy. Some of the most enjoyable book festival events happen when friends share the stage, and this was definitely the case here.

So McDermid revealed how one of her former journalist colleagues is convinced she's her heroine Kate Brannigan's feisty best friend when really she was written in as a particularly sleazy journalist. And Mina named a bookselling chain (libel laws won't let us do the same) whose book-buying decisions are apparently decided by two men sitting at either end of a table, one holding up a book at a time and the other saying "Yes" or "No" at random.

Yet it wasn't all casual banter among friends. Sexism in publishing, police bungling in the Rachel Nickell murder case, statistics about paedophile murder ("Just the same now as in 1957," said McDermid. "You're more likely to be run down by the man in the white van as to be abducted by him"), the newspaper cases that had sparked off various books - all were discussed with intelligence, honesty and great good humour.

If you do ever meet these two in a pub, buy them a drink. If they're in this kind of form, you'll be glad you did.

NICK COHEN

IF YOU want your prejudices challenged, Nick Cohen's your man. On Iraq, <u>Hamas</u> and Iran, he swims against the tide of left-wing sentiment, and he makes a case worth answering.

It's this: why did the Left, in 1990-1 as much as in 2003, abandon Iraqi socialists and the rest of Saddam's victims in campaigning against war? Why, even apart from the lies on which the war was based, did it not support them? Why does it listen to antisemitic organisations like <u>Hamas</u> rather than Palestinian feminists, gays and Christians whose freedoms <u>Hamas</u> would jeopardise?

Is it blinded by anti-Americanism? Does it appease Islamofascists out of fear of being thought racist? And even if you're not convinced, isn't it odd how few other people are asking these questions?

Load-Date: August 15, 2007



INTERNATIONAL: Israeli tank kills 18 members of family

Daily Post (North Wales)

November 9, 2006, Thursday

North Wales Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 512 words

Byline: SARA THOMAS

Body

FOREIGN secretary Margaret Beckett has expressed her "deep concern" over yesterday s Israeli strike on the Gaza strip which killed at least 22 Palestinians.

Mrs Beckett said she was "gravely disturbed" by the civilian deaths, which included <u>women</u> and children, and it was hard to see how the action in the town of Beit Hanoun could be justified.

She said: "I extend my condolences to the families of those killed and the injured.

"The British government has repeatedly expressed its deep concern over mounting casualties and civilian suffering in Gaza in recent months, and raised these concerns with the government of Israel.

"Israel must respect its obligation to avoid harming civilians. It is hard to see what this action was meant to achieve and how it can be justified.

"Continuing rocket attacks by Palestinian militants are also unacceptable. I call on all sides to meet their obligations under international humanitarian law and to do their utmost to avoid harming civilians, especially children."

Israeli tank shells are reported to have crashed into a residential suburb of Beit Hanoun in the early hours.

Reports have put the number of dead at 18 - including 10 children - as they slept, but a foreign office spokesman said their representatives on the ground believed it was at least 22 with many others injured.

Palestinian leaders condemned the attack and called for international intervention.

Militants vowed revenge, and the military wing of the Palestinians' ruling <u>Hamas</u> group called on Muslims around the world to attack US targets.

Israel halted artillery attacks in Gaza while it investigated the incident, but said it would press forward with operations meant to halt Palestinian rocket fire on Israeli communities.

The tank shells landed around a compound of four apartment buildings in Beit Hanoun, the northern border town that has been the latest focus of the Israeli offensive. Gaping holes were torn into the structures, owned by four brothers from the al-Athamna family who lived side-by-side. A large pool of blood collected in front of the houses, and stairs in an outside stairway were covered with blood.

INTERNATIONAL: Israeli tank kills 18 members of family

Asma al-Athamna, 14, said her family was woken by the sound of an explosion. Her mother quickly ordered everyone out of the house.

As the family left their home, another shell landed, killing the girl's mother, older sister and brother-in-law. "They were killed when they came out of our house into the corridor. A tank shell killed them. I was behind them and I was wounded," said the weeping girl, speaking from her hospital bed.

Khaled Radi, a health ministry official, said all the dead belonged to the al-Afaneh family. More than 50 people were wounded, 14 of them seriously, Radi said.

A military spokeswoman said artillery rounds were fired at Palestinian rocket-launching sites, but far from the apartment compound.

Prime minister Ismail Hani-yeh, of the Palestinians' ruling <u>Hamas</u> militant group, suspended talks on forming a more moderate government with Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, and both men declared a three-day mourning period.

Graphic

Palestinians run after hurling stones at Israeli soldiers during a demonstration in the West Bank town of Hebron yesterday, following the shelling by Israeli tanks of a residential area of the neighbouring village of Beit Hanoun Picture: NASSER SHIYOUKHI

Load-Date: November 9, 2006



Israeli group seeks Gaza 'war crimes' inquiry

Financial Times (London, England)

November 9, 2006 Thursday

Asia Edition 1

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Section: MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA; Pg. 10

Length: 580 words

Byline: By HARVEY MORRIS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel's leading human rights organisation has demanded a criminal investigation into the army's shelling of northern Gaza yesterday that killed 18 Palestinian civilians, most of them **women** and children.

As international leaders expressed a mixture of concern and outrage at the latest additions to a mounting death toll in the Gaza Strip, the B'tselem organisation said it was gravely concerned that the action constituted a war crime.

Amir Peretz, Israeli defence minister, ordered a halt to shelling pending an internal military inquiry to determine whether tank fire had strayed from its intended target.

Whatever the outcome of the investigation, the incident prompted fresh questions about Israel's military tactics in Gaza where hundreds of people, including96 children, have died this year while the number of Israeli civilian casualtiesof Palestinian attacks has dwindled to a handful. Israeli tanks had ostensibly been targeting areas used by militants to fire rockets into southern Israel.

Instead, up to 10 shells hit a residential area of the town of Beit Hanoun, blasting two apartment buildings in the early morning. Sixteen members of a single family were among the dead.

Some of the casualties were hit by secondary shellfire as they left their beds to survey the scene of the initial explosions.

In a statement the army said: "Initial information shows that the artillery fire was directed at a location distant from the one reportedly hit."

Mr Peretz and Ehud Olmert, Israeli prime minister, issued a statement that referred to the "tragic results" of the action and offered humanitarian aid.

The shelling was denounced as a massacre by Palestinian officials. In a rare public display of unity, Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority's Fatah president, and Ismail Haniyeh, its <u>Hamas</u> prime minister, donated blood during a joint visit to a hospital where some of the 50 or so wounded were being treated.

Mr Haniyeh earlier called off a formal meeting with Mr Abbas at which they were to have had further talks on the formation of a national unity government. The PA declared three days of mourning for the victims.

Israeli group seeks Gaza 'war crimes' inquiry

Javier Solana, European Union foreign policy chief, said he deplored the Israeli action. Margaret Beckett, UK foreign secretary, said she was "gravely disturbed" by the deaths and that Israel must respect its obligation to avoid harming civilians. "It is hard to see what this action was meant to achieve and how it can be justified."

Alvaro de Soto, UN special envoy in the region, said he was "shocked and appalled".

Foreign leaders had previously expressed concern at a week-long Israeli invasion of Beit Hanoun that ended on Tuesday in which more than 50 Palestinians were killed.

The army opted for a ground operation after intensive shellfire failed to stem the launching of rockets into southern Israel. The almost daily barrage of home-made missiles continued yesterday, with two striking the southern Israeli town of Sderot, injuring one person.

Although the relatively crude weapons have caused few injuries, the Israeli government has vowed to continue its efforts to stamp out the attacks. Officials say no state would allow its citizens to be targeted in such a way without responding.

<u>Hamas</u> officials said yesterday that militants would resume suicide bombings inside Israel. Khaled Mash-aal, head of the Damascus-based exiled leadership that controls its military wing, said the response to the Beit Hanoun killings would be "by deed not words".

Load-Date: November 8, 2006



Israel faces all-out conflict with Palestinians Call for suicide attacks after 18 civilians die in shelling, reports Tim Butcher

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

November 9, 2006 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; International; Pg. 21

Length: 526 words **Byline:** Tim Butcher

Body

ALL-OUT conflict with Palestinian armed groups loomed over Israel last night after its military killed 18 civilians, all but one of them from the same family, when it shelled a street in Gaza.

Palestinian leaders called for suicide bombers to attack Israeli civilians in retaliation for the artillery barrage on the northern Gazan town of Beit Hanoun. Seven **women** and seven children were among the dead.

Jamal Abed, a senior Fatah leader, said: "I call on all the armed groups everywhere to avenge the blood of the dead with suicide bombings against Israeli civilians, as Israel murders Palestinians."

It was the first time in years that the party of the moderate Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has voiced support for such attacks.

Khaled Meshaal, a leader of the Islamic movement <u>Hamas</u> who is exiled to Damascus, appeared to allude to suicide attacks when he promised to respond "not in words but in deeds".

"The armed struggle is free to resume and the resistance is dictated by local circumstances. There must be a roaring reaction so that we avenge all those victims."

With Ghazi Hamad, <u>Hamas</u>'s chief spokesman, demanding that Israel "cease to exist", the Jewish state was bracing itself for a wave of revenge attacks.

A call from the White House for restraint by both sides fell on deaf ears as Palestinian militants fired a barrage of home-made rockets from Gaza into Israel. At least one person was killed in Gaza City when a car was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike.

The feared fall-out from the killings is expected to overshadow next week's meeting in Washington between President George W Bush and Ehud Olmert, the Israeli prime minister.

A renewal of multiple suicide attacks would plunge the region back to the dark days of the Second Intifada when thousands of civilians were killed on both sides.

The crisis was provoked when a dawn barrage of Israeli shells hit Beit Hanoun. What made the killings different was that no militants were believed to be anywhere near the house and the deaths appeared to be a horrific accident caused by sloppy artillery targeting.

Page 2 of 2

Israel faces all-out conflict with Palestinians Call for suicide attacks after 18 civilians die in shelling, reports Tim Butcher

The Israeli government was pushed on to the back foot by the large loss of life and subsequent chorus of international condemnation led by the European Union and United Nations.

Last night 200 Israeli peace activists demonstrated in Tel Aviv, accusing the government of having "blood on its hands".

Margaret Beckett, the Foreign Secretary, issued a statement in which she said it was "hard to see what this action [the artillery barrage] was meant to achieve and how it can be justified".

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the European Union's external affairs chief, called the attack "a profoundly shocking event". She added: "Israel has a right to defend itself, but not at the price of the lives of the innocent."

Mr Olmert expressed regret over the loss of civilian life, ordered a cessation of Israeli artillery fire into Gaza and convened an official Israeli military inquiry into what went wrong.

Israeli troops pulled out of Beit Hanoun less than 24 hours before the incident after occupying the town for six days in an attempt to neutralise militant groups.

tim.butcher@telegraph.co.uk

Load-Date: November 9, 2006



Send in the Browns

Guardian.com June 28, 2007

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Length: 1251 words

Highlight: Welcome to the Wrap.

Body

SEND IN THE BROWNS

"Never has there been such a fuss about a bloke moving his office next door," says Matthew Engel in the FT. "And to the last the process was interminable.

"2.45pm came and went, and the net curtains on the ground floor at Number 10 started twitching. Where was he? Had Mr Blair reneged? Had Mr Brown demurred? ('I've had a good offer to join the board of Permira. I want twice the money or I'm off!') Was either sovereign or new PM banging on a bit? Were they having lunch? Did this mean Britain was without a prime minister? Did this matter?"

But, of course, there is no job Mr Brown wanted more than that of prime minister, and yesterday he got it. He promised to "try my utmost" - his school motto - and several commentators observe that David Cameron's equivalent ("Floreat Etona") does not carry quite the same weight.

The news is so profoundly unshocking that front-page headlines proved a real challenge. The Telegraph quotes from Mr Brown's slightly lugubrious "speechette" at the door of No 10: "I have heard the need for change ... now let the work of change begin."

"Gordon croaks, 'Let the work of change begin', like some mad professor hunched over a necromantic experiment," writes Boris Johnson. "What he means is 'let the blizzard of legislation continue', with all the dire consequences that implies for the size of the state and the burden of tax."

The Times goes for a low-key headline that hints at its doubts about Mr Brown's longevity in No 10: "The new tenants". "GORD HELP US NOW!" splashes the Express bad-temperedly. "What can we expect from the man who stole our pensions?"

Cherie Blair's farewell to the press was not a fond one. "Bye. I don't think we'll miss you," she said as she climbed into the car in Downing Street. "Believe me, dearie, the feeling is mutual," growls Quentin Letts in the Mail.

"It was small, petty and venomous, but perhaps it was necessary, because it reminded us why it was time for everyone to move on," says the Mirror's Brian Reade. "We'd grown out of love with each other."

Send in the Browns

For the moment, the papers are very much enamoured of Sarah Brown. "[She] has not gone through any feminist hand-wringing," explains Sarah Sands in the Mail. "She adopted her husband's name at the wedding, explaining: 'It's just simpler.' ... Discretion and tact are her outstanding qualities." The phrase "Gordon's rock" crops up frequently. "Gordon clearly relies on his brilliant wife," says the Mirror's Sharon Hendry. "At a recent dinner party he was reportedly looking rather unsociable. Sarah sent him a note saying: 'Talk to the <u>women</u> on either side of you.' He returned it with the scrawl: 'I have.'"

Mr Blair received a standing ovation as he left the Commons after his final session of prime minister's questions. "Clapping is taboo enough, but for MPs of all sides, left and right, to be on their feet was stunning to behold," says Jonathan Freedland in the Guardian. "If the Tories had clapped Margaret Thatcher in 1990, which they did not, Labour MPs would have sawn off their own hands rather than join in ... The result was an image so strong it threatened to steal the story from the coming man." Mr Brown stood on the wrong spot for the photographers: they yelled at him to move so they could take in the '10' on the door.

The Times publishes a rather curious leader titled, Scottishly, "Philosophie": it is a sort of portmanteau of philosophical bons mots for the new PM, drawing on Confucius, Adam Smith, Schumpeter (a favourite of one Times leader writer), Fukuyama and Max Weber. It urges Mr Brown to have faith in the workings of the market: "He should not allow copies of The Wealth of Nations and The Theory of Moral Sentiments to stray too far away from him."

The FT is having none of this. "Miliband, Darling set for top," it splashes, tipping the 41-year-old David Miliband for foreign secretary and Alistair Darling for chancellor. Patricia Hewitt, Margaret Beckett, Lord Falconer, Baroness Amos and Tessa Jowell are all leaving the cabinet, the Sun says. Mr Brown's right-hand man, Ed Balls, will get what the paper calls the "plum job" of schools and children's minister. It will certainly be a change for the young economist.

The Independent also flaunts its sang-froid at the departure of a PM whom it long since rejected. The front page is a "manifesto" of demands from luminaries such as Jacques Delors, sculptor Antony Gormley, the director of Liberty, the environmentalist James Lovelock and, inevitably, Bono. Lord Winston, implausibly, wants the new PM to "take politics out of [the] NHS".

* Jonathan Freedland

* FT: Matthew Engel

* Telegraph: Boris Johnson

* Independent: A manifesto for Gordon Brown

* Times: Philosophie

* Sun: New PM swings the axe

* Mail: Quentin Letts

BLAIR TO ATTEND **HAMAS**

Guess who? "Tony Blair has too much talent, energy and political skill to sit around doing nothing. A position helping other world leaders to revive the Middle East peace process is just right for him." Yes, it's Alastair Campbell in the Sun. His optimism is not reflected elsewhere. Germany's foreign minister yesterday criticised the way Mr Blair had been appointed as the Quartet's envoy and said he would be given little influence.

"Mr Blair is not being asked to run talks between the Palestinians and Israel, but he will seek Israel's cooperation in areas such as free movement and access," says the Guardian. That, according to the Times, means the checkpoints that hamper life for Palestinians trying to move between towns in the West Bank.

Send in the Browns

"No one doubts Blair's status and commitment," a source tells the Guardian. "He came fresh to Northern Ireland, but he's not coming fresh to this. He has an extraordinary amount of baggage. And he's coming in at the worst possible moment."

The Herald Tribune says <u>Hamas</u> activists in the West Bank, where Mr Blair is expected to have an office, have gone into hiding but "remain a powerful presence". "If they want to kill any political deal, they only have to attack a settlement or another Israeli target. Don't think that <u>Hamas</u> is very weak in the West Bank," a stonecutter tells the paper.

- * Scepticism hangs over Blair's appointment
- * IHT: In West Bank, *Hamas* is hard to find but still strong
- * Times: Checkpoints could be first target for peacemaker Blair

RUSSELL CROWE BETWEEN JOBS?

One of the centurions who hang around outside the Colosseum in Rome offering to pose for photographs has displayed a violent side, the Times reports.

"We arrived in Rome and thought it was just marvellous," a "wine-loving wealthy businessman" from LA told the Italian police. "We did the classic tour, we visited St Peter's - and then we wanted to see the Colosseum. When we saw the centurions we couldn't resist the temptation of a souvenir photo."

"They were approached by one centurion - a 'big imposing guy' - and happily posed with him. The smiles faded however when they offered him EUR4 (2.70), and disappeared altogether when they said EUR6 was their limit. Offered a \$2 bill, the centurion said Italians used them as handkerchiefs. 'He became vulgar and aggressive and started insulting us, then pushing and pulling us. We moved away thinking that was the end of it. Instead he came at us and started attacking us savagely with kicks and punches, screaming and shouting. No one came to our aid."

* Times: Fake Roman soldier snaps

SINCE THE PAPERS WENT TO PRESS

Three British soldiers have been killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Follow the reshuffle as it happens

Load-Date: June 28, 2007



How Gaza gets guns (and some butter, too)

The International Herald Tribune
June 19, 2007 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1 Length: 1318 words

Byline: Michael Slackman - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: RAFAH, Egypt

Body

Mona el Naggar contributed reporting for this article.

*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How Gaza gets guns (and some butter, too)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How Gaza gets guns (and some butter, too)

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

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

"You have seen how poor people live. Now you will see how the smugglers live," said Ahmed Muhammad Hussein, who is working to help improve the Bedouins' social conditions. The house was filled with men in new, clean clothing. Large bowls of rice and mutton were served for lunch.

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

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

Rafah became one of the most heavily policed areas in Egypt. The authorities were trying to stop the flow not only of weapons to Gaza, but also of *Hamas*'s radical ideas to Egypt.

The overwhelming security presence closed even the beach, cutting off one last source of entertainment for the many children who live in the area and stoking tension between locals and the authorities.

Today, there are even more troop carriers in Rafah. High-ranking officers set up card tables to rest their walkietalkies and to drink tea as they monitor the scene. There have been reports of some people crossing from Gaza into Egypt, and the security officials said that they had sent some people back to Gaza and taken others to the regional capital of Al Arish.

The Bedouin men who said they were smugglers said it was too risky right now to conduct business because security was so tight. But they said they still managed to drive around the area, easily avoiding checkpoints, and were planning a protest for next month to demand their rights.

Load-Date: June 20, 2007



Israel approves list of prisoners for release

Irish News

July 18, 2007 Wednesday

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Section: Pg. 21

Length: 204 words

Body

Israeli cabinet ministers yesterday approved a list of 256 Palestinian prisoners to be released this week in a gesture to Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, officials said.

David Baker, an official in Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office, said the ministerial committee had approved the release by seven to two.

He said the names of the prisoners would be published later in the day, giving Israelis 48 hours to file legal challenges.

But Mr Baker said the prisoners were all expected to be freed on Friday.

The decision is meant to be a "goodwill gesture" to Mr Abbas, Mr Olmert's office said. Regarding the prisoners, the statement said "there is no blood on their hands", meaning none have been directly involved in deadly attacks on Israelis.

Six of the prisoners are **women**, the office said.

The Palestinian minister for prisoner affairs, Ashraf al-Ajrami, said the release was not enough.

"Israel insists on releasing those who have limited sentences," he said.

"We want a release of prisoners who received long sentences."

Of those to be released 85 per cent belong to Fatah, and 15 per cent to smaller groups, Israeli officials said. None are *Hamas* members, they said.

About 10,500 Palestinian prisoners are held in Israeli jails.

Load-Date: July 18, 2007



Israel braced for revenge attacks after dawn barrage kills family

The Times (London)

November 9, 2006, Thursday

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Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 35

Length: 900 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell

Body

General blames problem with targeting device for artillery strike that left 18 dead in house, reports Stephen Farrell

Her tiny skull cracked asunder from forehead to crown, one-year-old Maysa Athamna lay next to her sister, Maram, in the mortuary, along with their dead cousin, Sanaa.

They were among 18 Palestinians, including at least 14 <u>women</u> and children, killed yesterday by a dawn Israeli artillery barrage that hit their home in Gaza as they slept.

The carnage in Beit Hanoun, drew worldwide condemnation and looked set to pitch the Middle East conflict into another dismal cycle of reprisal attacks.

Amid pools of blood and gore-spattered walls, survivors told how they fled the first shell straight into the path of the others.

Israel suspended artillery fire and Ehud Olmert, the Israeli Prime Minister, expressed regret for the civilian deaths.

But <u>Hamas</u> announced that it would resume attacks inside Israel, and Khaled Mashaal, its supreme leader in Damascus, called on other militant groups to follow suit. "Our response will be by deeds, not words," he said. "The armed struggle is free to resume, and the resistance will be dictated by local circumstances."

Ghazi Hamad, a <u>Hamas</u> spokesman in Gaza, played down a call by the group's armed wing for Muslims to direct "hard lessons" against the United States, Israel's chief ally. But he said that Israel "is a state that believes in killing, and therefore this state should cease to exist".

The politicians' words were in stark contrast with the shocked silence around the Athamna family's four-storey house in northern Gaza, after the deadliest Israeli strike in the Palestinian territories in four years.

Witnesses squatted beside breezeblock walls, staring blankly at bloodstained shoes and clothing from the dead and wounded. Inside the house, babies' cots, prams and pensioners' wheelchairs lay abandoned in the haste to escape from a building with football-sized holes punched through the walls by shrapnel.

Ayman Athamna, 37, said that within 15 minutes he lost at least 15 members of his extended family, including his mother, grandmother and four children under 12.

"I woke up around 5.30 and woke my wife to pray," he said. "She made a cup of tea, and my three-year-old daughter was playing with me. The first shell hit near the alleyway. I picked up my phone and ran down the stairs, which were full of dust from the impact. My brothers and all their families were still inside the house."

When he heard a second shell screaming in, he took shelter, moving quicker than his neighbour, Saker Adwan. "I found half of his body on the ground -he was still alive. As I pulled the torso away into a side street, I told him to say a prayer.

He started, but only said, 'There is only one God ...', and then he died."

Zayed Kafarneh, the first ambulanceman to arrive, said that he could not reach victims for ten minutes because more shells landed after the first.

Yazan Athamna, 15, lay in Kamal Adwan Hospital, weeping at the loss of his mother and cousins, having escaped the worst because he was evacuated quickly: "I don't believe it. I wake up and I find all of them dead. I can't believe it."

Major-General Yoav Galant, the head of Israel's Southern Command, said that 12 shells were fired, and initial investigations indicated a problem with the artillery's "pinpointing device". He said that the rounds had been aimed at a "nearby area", which Israeli Defence Force officials identified as open ground near Beit Hanoun, from which Palestinian militants had fired rockets at Ashkelon the night before. "We had a specific alert on a rocket launching which was supposed to occur again from the same location," General Galant said.

Israeli tanks withdrew from Beit Hanoun only 24 hours earlier, after a six-day siege that caused widespread destruction in the town.

Tzipi Livni, the Israeli Foreign Minister, called it a "regrettable incident", but added: "Israel is faced with constant attack by the Palestinian terror organisations, in the form of relentless firing of Qassam rockets at Israeli population centres. Israel has no desire to harm innocent people, but only to defend its citizens."

However, Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, whose moderate Fatah faction has sought in vain to form a unity government with <u>Hamas</u>, warned Israel that its "terrible, despicable crime" jeopardised the already-slim prospects of reaching elusive agreements.

"We tell the Israelis, you are not seeking peace at all, but are destroying all chances for peace. You must therefore bear all the consequences of these crimes," he said.

Amir Peretz, the Israeli Defence Minister, called on Palestinian factions to "stop with the bloodshed" and recognise Israel's existence. "We recognised your right to an independent state; let go of violence and terror, invest in schools and not arms," he said. Margaret Beckett, the Foreign Secretary, echoed widespread international concern, saying that she was "gravely disturbed" at the civilian casualties.

"Israel must respect its obligation to avoid harming civilians. It is hard to see what this action was meant to achieve and how it can be justified,"

she said, while also criticising Palestinian rocket attacks.

But the bitterest critics were in Beit Hanoun. Walid Ismain, 46, the uncle of Yazan, said: "How can Israel say it is defending itself? Is killing innocent **women** and children in their homes a defensive act?"

Load-Date: November 9, 2006



Disease hits another farm

The Star (South Africa)

August 07, 2007 Tuesday

e4 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 659 words

Body

London - Tests have confirmed a second outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease on a British farm, Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said today. The infected animals were found on a farm south of London within a protection zone set up around the first outbreak, which was confirmed on Friday. After the first outbreak, 120 cattle were slaughtered. A further 50 cattle will be culled in the second case.

Jerusalem - Israel and <u>Hamas</u> have resumed Egyptian-mediated contacts over a prisoner exchange for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, seized by Gaza militants more than a year ago, the liberal Haaretz newspaper reported today. The contacts were resumed a week ago after being suspended in mid-June following <u>Hamas</u>'s bloody takeover of the Gaza Strip.

Beijing - A participant rides a bicycle during an underwater sports meet at the Shengya Ocean World in Dalian, in south-east China's Liaoning province, on Sunday. Shengya Ocean World organised the event, which featured soccer matches, bicycle riding and walking with turtles.

Kathmandu - The Nepalese army has sacked two <u>female</u> soldiers for indulging in "lesbian activities", local media reports said today. The Kathmandu Post said they were detained for more than a month before being discharged from the service. The <u>women</u> have both denied the charges and the military has said they were discharged on disciplinary grounds rather than on sexual ones.

Guwahati - Poachers shot dead two endangered one-horned rhinos fleeing a flooded Indian wildlife sanctuary, taking the number killed this year to 12, officials said today. The poachers took away the animal's horns after killing them near the Kaziranga National Park in the northeastern Indian state of Assam. About a dozen deer and wild boars have also drowned in the flooded park.

Taipei - Taiwan issued sea and land warnings as a tropical storm headed towards the island today, threatening to lash the south-eastern coast with heavy rains and strong winds. Tropical storms in the region gather intensity from the warm ocean waters and can develop into typhoons that frequently hit Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong and southern China.

Tokyo - A strong earthquake shook southern Japan today but no tsunami warning was issued and there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6,4 on the Richter Scale, struck at 9.02am local time (2.02am SA time) and was centred off Okinawa Island, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Disease hits another farm

Elmira - A US woman mistakenly sold her husband's previous wife's ashes this weekend when she parted with a ceramic turtle for 50c (about R3,50). Anita Lewis is desperately searching for the woman who bought the large turtle, with plans to use it as a cookie jar, at Lewis's jumble sale this weekend. Terrence Lewis's previous wife had collected turtles and the house was full of them.

Edinburgh - Just two months after stepping down, Tony Blair is packing them in the aisles at the Edinburgh Fringe with a brace of satirical musicals about his premiership. The world's largest arts festival revels in political theatre and Blair's decade as British prime minister has proved an irresistible inspiration for two very different shows playing to packed houses.

Manila - Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo today urged the two chambers of congress to swiftly enact legislative measures addressing climate change while taking steps to prevent flooding and landslides. The president gave congressional leaders a priority list of 28 legislative measures her government wanted enacted during the next 12 months.

Ankara - Kurdish guerrillas today killed a Turkish lieutenant in the southeast as the Iraqi prime minister arrived for a visit likely to be dominated by Turkish warnings to either crack down on rebel bases in northern Iraq or face a possible incursion. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki insisted that his government was not supporting the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party.

Load-Date: August 7, 2007



How can Blair possibly be given this job?

The Independent (London)
June 23, 2007 Saturday
First Edition

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Length: 939 words **Byline:** ROBERT FISK

Body

I suppose that astonishment is not the word for it. Stupefaction comes to mind. I simply could not believe my ears in Beirut when a phone call told me that Lord Blair of Kut al-Amara was going to create "Palestine". I checked the date - no, it was not 1 April - but I remain overwhelmed that this vain, deceitful man, this proven liar, a trumped-up lawyer who has the blood of thousands of Arab men, <u>women</u> and children on his hands is really contemplating being "our" Middle East envoy.

Can this really be true? I had always assumed that Balfour, Sykes and Picot were the epitome of Middle Eastern hubris. But Blair? That this ex-prime minister, this man who took his country into the sands of Iraq, should actually believe that he has a role in the region - he whose own preposterous envoy, Lord Levy, made so many secret trips there to absolutely no avail - is now going to sully his hands (and, I fear, our lives) in the world's last colonial war is simply overwhelming.

Of course, he'll be in touch with Mahmoud Abbas, will try to marginalise <u>Hamas</u>, will talk endlessly about "moderates"; and we'll have to listen to him pontificating about morality, how he's absolutely and completely confident that he's doing the right thing (and this, remember, is the same man who postponed a ceasefire in Lebanon last year in order to share George Bush's ridiculous hope of an Israeli victory over Hizbollah) in bringing peace to the Middle East??? Not once - ever - has he apol-ogised. Not once has he said he was sorry for what he did in our name. Yet Lord Blair actually believes - in what must be a record act of self-indulgence for a man who cooked up the fake evidence of Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction" - that he can do good in the Middle East.

For here is a man who is totally discredited in the region - a politician who has signally failed in everything he ever tried to do in the Middle East - now believing that he is the right man to lead the Quartet to patch up "Palestine".

In the hunt for quislings to do our bidding - ie accept even less of Mandate Palestine than Arafat would stomach - I suppose Blair has his uses. His unique blend of ruthlessness and dishonesty will no doubt go down quite well with our local Arab dictators.

And I have a suspicion - always assuming this extraordinary story is not untrue - that Blair will be able to tour around Damascus, even Tehran, in his hunt for "peace", thus paving the way for an American exit strategy in Iraq. But "Palestine"?

The Palestinians held elections - real, copper-bottomed ones, the democratic variety - and <u>Hamas</u> won. But Blair will presumably not be able to talk to <u>Hamas</u>. He'll need to talk only to Abbas's flunkies, to negotiate with an administration described so accurately this week by my old colleague Rami Khoury as a "government of the imagination". The Americans are talking - and here I am quoting the State Department spokesman, Sean McCormack - about an envoy who can work "with the Palestinians in the Palestinian system" to develop institutions for a "well-governed state". Oh yes, I can see how that would appeal to Lord Blair. He likes wellgoverned states, lots of "terror laws", plenty of security - though I'm still a bit puzzled about what the "Palestinian system" is meant to be.

It was James Wolfensohn who was originally "our" Middle East envoy, a former World Bank president who left in frustration because he could neither reconstruct Gaza nor work with a "peace process" that was being eroded with every new Jewish settlement and every Qassam rocket fired into Israel. Does Blair think he can do better? What honeyed words will we hear?

I bet he doesn't mention the Israeli wall which is taking so much extra land from the Palestinians. It will be a "security barrier" or a "fence" (like the famous Berlin "fence" which was actually called a "security barrier" by those generous East German Vopo cops of the time).

There will be appeals for restraint "on all sides", endless calls for "moderation", none at all for justice (which is all the people of the Middle East have been pleading for over the past 100 years).

And Israel likes Lord Blair. Indeed, Blair's slippery use of language is likely to appeal to Ehud Olmert, whose government continues to take Arab land for Jews and Jews only as he waits to discover a Palestinian with whom he can "negotiate", Mahmoud Abbas now having the prestige of a rabbit after his forces were crushed in Gaza.

Which of "Palestine"'s two prime ministers will Blair talk to? Why, the one with a collar and tie, of course, who works for Mr Abbas, who will demand more "security", tougher laws, less democracy.

I have never been able to figure out why the Middle East draws the Balfours and the Sykeses and the Blairs into its maw. Once, our favourite trouble -shooter was James Baker - who worked for George W's father until the Israelis got tired of him - and before that we had a whole list of UN Secretary Generals who visited the region, frowned and warned of serious consequences if peace did not soon come.

I recall another man with Blair's pomposity, a certain Kurt Waldheim, who - no longer the UN's boss - actually believed he could be an "envoy" for peace in the Middle East, despite his little wartime career as an intelligence officer for the Wehrmacht's Army Group "E".

His visits - especially to the late King Hussein - came to nothing, of course. But Waldheim's ability to draw a curtain over his wartime past does have one thing in common with Blair. For Waldheim steadfastly, pointedly, repeatedly, refused to acknowledge - ever - that he had ever done anything wrong. Now who does that remind you of?

Load-Date: June 23, 2007



Gazans fear rise of new Islamic zealots Groups attack schools and cafes to enforce a 'Talibanisation' that threatens yet more instability

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

June 3, 2007 Sunday

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Section: NEWS; INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 30

Length: 989 words

Byline: CHARLES LEVINSON * Additional reporting from the Gaza Strip: Hossam al Madhoun

Body

TO THE Gaza teenagers who used it, the internet café at Jabaliyah youth club was a place to meet, exchange emails, and learn about the better life outside war-torn Palestine. To a visitor who turned up at dawn on Friday, however, its purpose was rather more sinister.

Convinced the young people might be exposed to pornography, pop music, or other corrupting Western influences, he planted a bomb that ripped through the doorway.

Similar explosions have rocked dozens of such cafés, video shops, and restaurants in recent months, the first signs of a disturbing new strain of al-Qaeda-like Islamic zealotry taking root in Gaza.

Despite having no shortage of militant religious factions, the territories' occupants have long been secular in lifestyle. Now, however, armed groups affiliated to al-Qaeda are attempting a gun-enforced Talibanisation that threatens to plunge the area into to new throes of instability.

In perhaps the most disturbing incident, gunmen last month attacked a UN school where boys and girls, aged six to 12, were acting together in a play. Supposed prostitutes have been gunned down across the Palestinian territories, and honour killings are on the rise, according to a report by a Palestinian **women**'s group.

"I can no longer allow my sister to go to school without a head scarf because I fear for her safety," said Abdallah al Sherif, 19, a communications student at Al-Azhar University, after noon prayers at a Gaza City mosque on Friday.

After years of being kept at bay by other Palestinian armed factions, who, like most in the Arab world, despise al-Qaeda's bloodthirsty extremism, the movement is finally staking a presence both in Palestine itself and in refugee camps elsewhere.

One such group espousing a violent al-Qaeda-like creed is the Army of Islam, which is holding the BBC journalist Alan Johnston. Similar groups like the Swords of Righteousness, have claimed responsibility for the bombings of businesses deemed impure or immoral.

In Lebanon, radical Islamist fighters in the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp, north of Beirut, continue in their stand-off with Lebanese army troops, which by yesterday morning had left five soldiers dead in 36 hours. The fighters belong to Fatah al-Islam, whose leader Shakir al-Abssi is a Palestinian militant with links to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq killed in 2006.

Gazans fear rise of new Islamic zealots Groups attack schools and cafes to enforce a 'Talibanisation' that threatens yet more instability

"The disappearance of hope, the poverty, the terrible living conditions, and the total security chaos caused by the internal Palestinian power struggle, it's a good ground to have such phenomenon," said Jabril Rijoub, the chief security adviser to Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president.

On both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict, hopes for peace have reached a nadir. The halcyon days of the Madrid and Oslo peace accords are long forgotten. The years since have been marked by Palestinian uprisings and tough Israeli countermeasures that have devastated Palestinian society and left the economy in tatters.

Meanwhile, US military engagements in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere have provided a powerful rallying cry for global jihad across the Muslim world. For Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and in Lebanon, it has proved a volatile mix. Palestinian resistance, once focused solely on Israel, has broadened its focus, incorporating the themes of global jihad's campaign against the West in general.

The group holding Alan Johnston, for example, has used the kidnapping to demand the release of a radical cleric held by authorities in London and to rail against US and British military actions in the Middle East. Palestinian prisoners languishing in Israeli jails, the traditional demands of militants here, have been scarcely mentioned.

"It is clear that there are outside agendas playing on our court in Gaza, in Lebanon, in Ramallah, and in Palestine everywhere," said Mr Rijoub. *Hamas*'s election victory in 2006 was perhaps an early indication that Palestinians were fed up with the status quo and looking to Islam as a possible salve for their woes. But the time since those elections has provided little reprieve.

<u>Hamas</u> has been locked in a power struggle with its ousted Fatah rivals, and an international boycott has left the government struggling to stay solvent. Despite <u>Hamas</u>'s move towards the political centre, Palestinians' lives have not improved, and now some young seem to be turning to more radical Islamic ideologies. Many Palestinians insist that fears of a creeping al-Qaeda takeover of the Gaza Strip are exaggerated. Militant groups such as that holding Mr Johnston use the façade of global Islamic militancy to mask more venal motives, say Palestinian officials.

"These are criminal gangs seeking money and land who use Islam to give themselves international legitimacy," said Abu Abed Kuweidar, a spokesman for the Preventive Security Services in the Gaza Strip.

But Palestinian society seems to be continuing on its trajectory toward Taliban-like intolerance.

Fawzieh Judah, of the Gaza-based Committee for <u>Women</u>'s Struggle, said: "As long as there is no legislative authority, no executive authority, no judicial authority, this situation will get worse and worse until we become another Taliban society."

* Military action could be taken to free Mr Johnston, under plans being considered by the Palestinian leadership, writes Richard Gray.

An adviser to president Mahmoud Abbas said they were prepared to use Palestinian forces to find and snatch Mr Johnston from his captors. The statement come as the BBC reporter endured his 82nd day in captivity.

Saeb Erekat, a senior advisor to President Abbas, said the kidnappers were "nothing more than gangsters". The authorities were prepared to send in Army forces to free Mr Johnston once his location was determined as all negotiation attempts had failed to achieve any progress.

He said: "We must really determine where his location is, and then move, even if it takes a military or security operation."

Load-Date: June 3, 2007



World datelines

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

May 6, 2007 Sunday

Copyright 2007 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 635 words

Body

China

BEIJING -- An explosion in a central China coal mine killed 15 miners and trapped 30 others underground, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. The explosion tore through the Pudeng coal mine Saturday afternoon.

Colombia

BOGOTA -- Forensic teams have unearthed 211 bodies buried in dozens of mass graves near a single town in southern Colombia in the past 10 months, a legacy of fierce fighting in this coca-rich land. Investigators believe most of the victims were killed between 1999 and 2001.

Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY -- The leader of <u>Hamas</u> rejected an American proposal for a detailed timeline to ease Palestinian movement and improve Israeli security, instead threatening new violence against Israel despite wary Palestinian government support for the U.S. plan. The <u>Hamas</u> leader, Khaled Mashaal, said Israel is planning a military operation against the Palestinians.

Italy

ROME -- A 73-year-old woman died in an Italian hospital because tubes carrying oxygen and anesthesia were switched, and authorities were investigating whether the error was responsible for as many as seven other recent deaths, officials and news reports said Saturday. Some 21 people have been treated in the Castellaneta hospital's coronary intensive care unit since it opened on April 20. Eight of them died.

Japan

OSAKA -- A roller coaster partly derailed at Expoland amusement park in Suita, Osaka Prefecture, killing a woman and injuring 21 people Saturday, the Osaka prefectural police said. The second car of the Fujin-Raijin II roller coaster derailed and leaned outward, apparently causing a woman in her 20s to slam into a handrail along the track at about 1 p.m., the police said.

Nigeria

LAGOS -- Gunmen seized a British oil worker from a rig operating off the Nigerian coast in a dawn attack Saturday, a company spokesman said. Work was suspended on the rig and 23 people left on board unharmed were safely taken to shore, said Guy Cantwell, a spokesman for Houston-based Transocean Inc. He said the worker was a subcontractor on the rig, which was drilling on behalf of the Nigerian oil company ConOil.

World datelines

Peru

LIMA -- A cellblock wedding is reportedly in the works for the founder of Peru's Shining Path guerrilla movement, whose 20-year clash with the government left more than 70,000 dead. Abimael Guzman will wed his second-incommand Elena Iparraguirre on an unknown date, Iparraguirre told Caretas magazine this week. The longtime lovers are serving life sentences for terrorism in separate prisons.

South Africa

CAPE TOWN -- The leader of South Africa's main opposition party stepped down Saturday after 13 years of relentless criticism of the ruling African National Congress, calling for his successor to take on crime, HIV/AIDS and other problems besetting the country. Democratic Alliance leader Tony Leon, 50, said it was time to make way for new blood before general elections in 2009.

Sweden

STOCKHOLM -- A soccer game between Muslim imams and Christian priests at the end of a conference to promote interfaith dialogue was canceled Saturday because the teams could not agree on whether <u>women</u> priests should take part. Church of Norway spokesman Olav Fykse Tveit said the imams refused to play against a mixed-gender team of priests because it would have gone against their beliefs in avoiding close physical contact with strange <u>women</u>.

Turks and Caicos Islands

SOUTH DOCK -- The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its search Saturday for more than 40 missing Haitian migrants after local authorities said it was no longer needed as hopes faded of finding more survivors. Roughly 160 Haitian migrants were packed aboard a 25-foot boat when it ran into stormy weather before dawn Friday off the coast of this British territory. Thirty six people -- 23 **women** and 13 men -- were confirmed dead in addition to the more than 40 missing.

Load-Date: May 6, 2007



Militants demand exchange for Israeli

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

April 8, 2007, Sunday

Copyright 2007 Charleston Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. P3A

Length: 618 words

Byline: Karin Laub, The Associated Press

Body

RAMALLAH, West Bank - After months of deadlock, the captors of an Israeli soldier handed over the names of Palestinian prisoners they want freed in exchange for the hostage, a senior Palestinian official said Saturday.

The release of Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit is seen as a precondition for any possible progress in Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts. A swap also could help the new Palestinian unity government, a coalition of the Islamic militant <u>Hamas</u> and the Fatah movement, in its quest for international acceptance.

Palestinian Information Minister Mustafa Barghouti did not say how many names were on the kidnappers' list, which he said was forwarded to Israel by Egyptian mediators. Barghouti said the next move is up to Israel and that he hopes the swap will be carried out quickly.

Israel declined formal comment, although Israeli media cited unidentified officials as saying there had been some progress, but that resolution was still not assured.

Shalit was kidnapped 10 months ago by <u>Hamas</u>-allied militants who tunneled under the Gaza-Israel border, attacked an army post in Israel and snatched the soldier.

His captors initially demanded the release of 1,400 Palestinian prisoners, including **women**, minors and dozens of the longest-serving inmates. In all, about 9,300 Palestinian security prisoners are being held by Israel, one of the highest totals in 40 years of military occupation.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said he is willing, in principle, to release prisoners. However, the swap has been held up by disagreement over who should be freed.

In recent weeks, there had been repeated reports that a list of names was handed to Israel. However, Barghouti's comments marked the first public confirmation. "If the Israeli government is serious, there is now a very good opportunity to end this chapter," Barghouti said.

Also Saturday, an Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed a Palestinian militant and wounded two. The Israeli military said it launched the strike after spotting the militants trying to plant a bomb. It said militants had planted explosives in the same area two days earlier.

The army said militants have planted more than 40 bombs along the border since Palestinian militants in Gaza and Israel agreed on a cease-fire in November.

Militants demand exchange for Israeli

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a small militant group, said the militants were "on a holy mission" when they were hit by the Israeli force.

Israel says militants have been exploiting the lull to smuggle explosives, missiles and other weapons into Gaza through tunnels from neighboring Egypt.

During the truce, Palestinian militants have fired about 200 rockets into Israel, the army said, including two on Saturday. One of the rockets caused light damage to a building in the border town of Sderot, a common target of the militants. The army said there were no injuries.

Palestinian news agency WAFA quoted Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as telling newly graduating members of his presidential guard Saturday that they and members of the other Palestinian security forces must work together to put a halt to the rocket fire, saying it was "against the national interest."

Also Saturday, the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent Fatah offshoot, said one of its best-known gunmen, Zakariya Zubeydi, was shot in the shoulder during a gunbattle with Israeli forces in the northern West Bank city of Jenin. The group said Zubeydi was being treated at a private residence.

Israel's army confirmed it fired at a gunman in a battle in Jenin's refugee camp overnight, but said it did not know the identity of the target. Israel says Zubeydi has been involved in numerous attacks against Israelis, including deadly roadside shootings.

Load-Date: April 9, 2007



Suharto cash back scheme

Herald Sun (Australia)
July 10, 2007 Tuesday
FIRST Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 22

Length: 239 words

Body

JAKARTA -- Indonesian prosecutors yesterday filed a civil suit against former dictator Suharto, seeking more than \$US1.5 billion in damages over funds he allegedly stole during his 32 years in power.

The suit alleges that Suharto funnelled the money from the state through the Supersemar Foundation, which is named as a co-defendant, to his own accounts.

Suharto, 85, has so far escaped any criminal trial for alleged corruption involving billions of dollars during his rule of Indonesia.

Arab League

breakthrough

JERUSALEM -- In a historical breakthrough, the 22-nation Arab League will send a delegation to Israel this week to discuss a peace initiative, and the threat posed by *Hamas* and other Islamic extremists.

The Jordanian and Egyptian foreign ministers, Abdul-Ilah al-Khatib and Ahmed Aboul Gheit, will arrive in Jerusalem on Thursday.

They will discuss the Arab peace plan, which would trade full Arab recognition of Israel for an Israeli withdrawal from all lands captured in the 1967 Mideast war and the creation of a Palestinian state.

Talks over

mosque crisis

ISLAMABAD -- Facing growing pressure, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf last night met key security staff in an attempt to end a deadly stand-off at a pro-Taliban mosque.

The Pakistani Government says militants with links to al-Qaida have taken control of the Red Mosque and are holding hundreds of *women* and children as human shields.

At least 24 people have died so far.

Suharto cash back scheme

Load-Date: July 9, 2007



International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

March 15, 2007 Thursday

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Section: NATIONAL/WORLD; Pg. a9

Length: 653 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

Suicide attack kills 5 in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan - A suicide bomber struck near a police convoy in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing five people and wounding 38 in the latest in a growing wave of Iraq-style attacks.

The attacker, described as a young man wearing a Muslim prayer cap, detonated his explosives as the last in a column of police vehicles passed in front of a bank in Khost, a city near the Pakistani border, officials and witnesses said.

Four civilians and a policeman were killed, according to Gul Mohammadin Mohammadi, the provincial health chief. Nine of the 38 wounded were policemen, he said. Twelve of the injured were in critical condition.

Attack on van kills 8 in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand - Suspected Muslim militants ambushed a commuter van carrying a group of Buddhists and killed eight of them execution-style in Thailand's restive south on Wednesday, military and hospital officials said.

The attack prompted officials to step up security in the south, where a Muslim insurgency has claimed more than 2,000 lives since 2004.

Militants attacked the van as it slowed into a curve in the road, which they had blocked with a large tree trunk, said police Lt. Kitti Mankhong, a duty officer in the Yaha district of Yala province, where the attack occurred.

The attackers first threw a bomb at the van, then fired at the driver with automatic rifles, and finally opened the vehicle's side door, shooting each of the passengers, he said.

The driver, who was hospitalized with a gunshot wound to the face, survived the morning attack, as did a <u>female</u> passenger. She was hospitalized in critical condition.

British lawmakers OK nuclear missile system

LONDON - Prime Minister Tony Blair survived a rebellion by lawmakers in his own party Wednesday when Parliament approved his program to replace Britain's fleet of four nuclear-armed submarines.

International Briefs

Blair's proposal survived a rebellion by 95 lawmakers in his own party, making it the biggest revolt among his ranks since the Iraq war.

Overwhelming support from Conservatives assured approval of Blair's plan Wednesday, with the motion passing by a vote of 409-161. His Labour Party has a majority of 67 seats in the House of Commons.

Critics said the \$40 billion program could harm efforts to stem the weapons ambitions of Iran and other countries. But before the vote, Blair told the House of Commons that the submarines - due to be phased out starting in 2022 - should be replaced to meet possible future threats from rogue regimes and state-sponsored terrorists.

Palestinian leader announces agreement

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Political rivals <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah reached a final agreement on forming a unity government Wednesday, wrapping up months of torturous coalition negotiations aimed at ending bloody internal fighting and lifting international sanctions against the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Ismail Hani-yeh, of <u>Hamas</u>, said he would present the new government to parliament this weekend for final approval.

Israel and Western countries have reacted coolly to the deal, but say they are waiting for final details before deciding whether to lift the embargo.

Haniyeh and Abbas agreed to the power-sharing deal last month in Saudi Arabia, but had spent the past few weeks ironing out the final details.

At least 11 killed in clash in eastern India

CALCUTTA, India - Farmers in eastern India angered by government plans to build an industrial park on their land fought police with rocks, machetes and pickaxes Wednesday, and at least 11 people were killed, officials said.

The clashes broke out when police tried to enter villages in the Nandigram area for the first time since January, when violence forced officers to abandon their posts in the vicinity.

Those disturbances have prompted the government to temporarily suspend plans for scores of so-called Special Economic Zones, which are meant to attract investors with generous tax breaks.

Load-Date: March 15, 2007



<u>Israel thwarting peace talks: Jordan: King says excavation work in</u> <u>Jerusalem threatens one of Islam's holiest shrines</u>

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)
February 7, 2007 Wednesday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 524 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service; Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Jordan's King Abdullah accused Israel Tuesday of "an attack on our holy Muslim sites" by beginning excavation work near Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock and warned this was causing "a dramatic escalation" in tensions that could prevent the revival of Middle East peace talks between Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the United States.

Israeli archeologists vigorously denied the Dome of the Rock would be harmed, showing journalists the work was 50 metres from the Dome, which is Islam's third holiest site.

Muslims are angry at Israel's plan to build a new walkway up to the compound where Islamic tradition says the Prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven and which Jews revere as the site of their two ancient temples.

Israel says the project is needed to replace a centuries-old earthen ramp that partially collapsed in a snowstorm three years ago. But its assurances that the work would cause no harm to Islam's holy sites did little to soothe tensions.

The bridge has been used by Jewish women going to pray at the Western Wall, which is Judaism's holiest site.

Israeli archeologists want to replace the wooden pedestrian ramp with a new more permanent ramp. But the project involves the removal of tonnes earth and archeological debris that lie under a section of a centuries-old walkway to the Dome of the Rock compound that is no longer used. Islamic clerical authorities say the excavation will destroy the old walkway, which they say belongs to the mosque complex, and could result in damage to the structure of the al-Aqsa Mosque, one of Islam's holiest shrines. The Dome of the Rock, or the Temple Mount, as it is known by Jews, has long been a flashpoint for bitter disputes between Israel and the Palestinians.

It was a visit there in September 2000 by Ariel Sharon that sparked the second intefadeh, a violent Palestinian uprising that lasted several years.

Eleven Palestinian youths were arrested near the work site Tuesday as hundreds of Israeli police cordoned off the area around the Dome of the Rock and refused to allow Muslims males under the age of 45 to enter the Al Aqsa Mosque to pray. King Abdullah's strong words were considered significant because he is regarded as a moderate

Israel thwarting peace talks: Jordan : King says excavation work in Jerusalem threatens one of Islam's holiest shrines

Arab leader and because by treaty with Israel, Jordan's monarchy has been designated custodian of Jerusalem's Muslim holy sites.

The fresh controversy over the Dome of the Rock erupted as it was announced Israel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice would meet on Feb. 19 to try to restart Middle East peace talks that have foundered for several years.

The Palestinian president, who leads Fatah, condemned the Israeli excavations in Jerusalem when he arrived in Islam's holiest city of Mecca on Tuesday for two days of crucial peace talks with <u>Hamas'</u> exiled leader, Khaled Meshal.

The meeting called by Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah was aimed at ending a rising tide of violence by Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> factions in Gaza and at forming a national unity government that includes the two warring parties, who have killed more than 70 people in recurring violence since November.

Graphic

Map: EXCAVATION WORK RAISES TENSIONS: Map shows location of work to replace an old access ramp with a modern structure. ;

Colour Photo: The area is in the far lower right of the photo.;

Load-Date: February 7, 2007



INTERNATIONAL: N. Wales MP condemns troop killing of women

Daily Post (North Wales)

November 9, 2006, Thursday

North Wales Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 206 words

Body

A NORTH WALES MP has condemned the killing of two <u>women</u> in Gaza by Israeli troops during tense talks with the country's deputy ambassador.

Conwy Labour MP Betty Williams voiced her anger at last week's bloodshed in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza, during a meeting at the Israeli embassy in London before yesterday's renewed shelling. She met Talaya Lador-Fresher as part of a delegation with six other *female* Labour MPs.

The seven demanded answers from the embassy after Israeli troops opened fire on a crowd of <u>women</u> gathered to help besieged gunmen flee a mosque in the town. Two died and at least ten were injured.

The Israeli military has said the <u>women</u> were used as "human shields" and that there had been armed men in the crowd.

<u>Hamas</u> radio issued an appeal to local <u>women</u> following a tense stand-off developed between Israeli forces surrounding the building and up to 15 militants who had taken refuge inside.

The Israeli military pulled out of Beit Hanoun on Tuesday after a six-day operation targeting militants. Some 50 Palestinians, including about 16 civilians, were killed. Mrs Williams said: "We met the deputy ambassador who received our letter, listened carefully and undertook to convey our message to the ambassador and Jerusalem."

Load-Date: November 9, 2006



<u>Comment & Debate: A brutal taste of the future: The assault on Beit Hanoun</u> is a terrifying example of what lies in store for Palestinians

The Guardian - Final Edition November 8, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES; Pg. 34

Length: 627 words

Byline: Sami Abdel-Shafi Gaza City

Body

The initiation of Avigdor Lieberman - widely regarded as an outright racist - into Ehud Olmert's Israeli government seems to have already brought a taste of things to come. For the past week, the Gaza Strip city of Beit Hanoun has been made a ground zero by the Israeli army. By yesterday, more than 260 Palestinians lay dead and injured, with 53 fatalities - **women**, children and ambulance drivers among them.

The Israeli army had vowed to end the firing of home-made rockets towards southern Israel. Many Palestinians disagree with the use of these makeshift rockets, but regard Israeli offensives as flagrantly disproportionate. Beit Hanoun was left with no men between the ages of 16 and 45 in the wake of a massive forced round-up by the Israeli army last Thursday night amid helicopter gunfire, tanks and artillery shelling. <u>Women</u> and children in the city sent urgent calls for help through Gaza's radio stations. To these jobless <u>women</u>, losing their men meant breakdown in their households.

On Friday morning, scores of <u>women</u> marched through Beit Hanoun in a spontaneous rush to aid friends and loved ones after hearing their pleas. Unarmed, they were shot at by Israeli soldiers from their tanks; two <u>women</u> were left dead and others severely injured. These <u>women</u> were said to have been heading to a mosque to free armed men who took refuge there. Television footage and interviews with witnesses show these <u>women</u> posed no military threat, but they were treated as such by the Israeli army without warning.

Meanwhile, Lieberman's party, Yisrael Beiteinu ("Israel is Our Home"), envisages expelling Palestinians or subjecting them to such misery that they are forced to leave. The party's spin doctors state it more mildly, saying that it proposes to relocate Palestinians to areas under the Palestinian Authority's control. The Beit Hanoun offensive offers an example of what lies in store for them.

Today, the Palestinian Authority tries to govern a besieged Gaza Strip and a West Bank with disconnected cities and villages. The 1.4 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are imprisoned by closure policies, impoverished and without any hope of a dignified life or economic development. The 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank are quickly catching up in a collapse created by the dozens of Israeli military checkpoints and the separation wall which make their lives impossible. Israeli restrictions on movement have made the Palestinians of East Jerusalem look as though they live in a faraway country, from the point of view of West Bankers and Gazans.

The present subjugation of Palestinians to siege, poverty and confinement - in addition to continuing Israeli military attacks - can only make it easier for our people to slip into infighting and tragedy. Both the international community and peace-loving Israelis and Palestinians will inevitably face ever more criticism for their failure to stem this tide of

Comment & Debate: A brutal taste of the future: The assault on Beit Hanoun is a terrifying example of what lies in store for Palestinians

misery. Even to those who never supported <u>Hamas</u>, it is impossible to ignore such a huge double standard: the outside world accepts Lieberman's appointment as deputy prime minister, despite his extreme views, while it boycotts the Palestinian Authority's elected <u>Hamas</u> administration.

One can only wonder at Olmert's insistence that his deputy will not diminish whatever prospects remain of peace. Israel's offensives against Gaza punish an entire population. Bulldozing the area's water and sewage systems, including those built with international donor funding, killing civilians and subjecting tens of thousands of residents to oppressive military measures represent the reality of Israel's policy, whatever its stated objectives.

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Load-Date: November 8, 2006



The chance to jettison a reckless policy that is plainly not working; LEADING ARTICLE

The Independent (London)

November 11, 2006 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 36

Length: 618 words

Body

While the world's attention was diverted by the elections in Washington this week, a tragedy was taking place in the Middle East. More than a dozen Palestinian <u>women</u> and children were killed in the town of Beit Hanoun when explosives rained down on their homes. Israel has admitted its responsibility. The Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says the shelling of the densely packed residential area was due to a radar malfunction. The army apparently intended to hit a nearby orange grove, from which Qassam rockets have been fired on Israel.

On the surface, this changes little. Mr Olmert still refuses to acknowledge that such a disaster was always likely to be a consequence of his reckless policy in Gaza. Firing shells close to civilian areas is inherently dangerous, as Mr Olmert should have learnt when the Israeli air force accidentally hit a number of refugee convoys during the bombing of Lebanon this summer. Mr Olmert also refuses to change tactics, admitting that further such mistakes "may happen" as he seeks to disrupt the crude rocket attacks being launched on Israel from Gaza.

Yet in the wake of the carnage in Beit Hanoun there has also been a flurry of political and diplomatic activity. Mr Olmert has requested a new meeting with the Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. He even says Mr Abbas will be "surprised how far we are prepared to go". There are signs of movement among the Palestinians, too. President Abbas has made contact with the Damascus-based <u>Hamas</u> leader Khaled Mashaal, an indication that talks on a Palestinian national unity government could be about to restart. In an even more significant move, the <u>Hamas</u> prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, yesterday suggested he may step down if it will bring about an end to the economic blockade on the Palestinian territories.

Such words are encouraging. But they must be translated into action. This is an opportunity for Israel to jettison a policy in Gaza that is plainly not working. There has been no significant reduction in the number of Qassam rockets fired into Israel since these punitive incursions began. The Israeli Labour party, a partner in Mr Olmert's government, has a responsibility to push for change. It acquiesced when the far-right Israeli leader, Avigdor Lieberman, was incorporated into the government. This is also an opportunity to lift the economic misery imposed on the Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza.

There is another powerful dynamic at work here. This week's US elections have left the Israeli government more isolated than it has been in a long time. The Democrats, who now control Congress, are no less sympathetic to

The chance to jettison a reckless policy that is plainly not working LEADING ARTICLE

Israel than the Republicans. But this week has sounded the retreat of the Bush administration's attempts to reshape radically the Middle East through force, a campaign that Israel has actively encouraged. We learnt yesterday that the UN ambassador, John Bolton, is likely to be the next high-profile casualty of the rout of the neoconservatives. A pre-emptive US military strike against Iran, something demanded by Israeli hawks, is now unlikely. James Baker's Iraq Study Group is considering an accommodation with Tehran and Damascus. If adopted by the White House, this will inevitably have significant implications for Israel. On his visit to Washington next week the Israeli prime minister will find a remarkably changed atmosphere from his last trip.

If he is wise, Mr Olmert will attempt to use this to his advantage. Since the Lebanon debacle, his approval ratings have been on the floor. His election promise of withdrawal from the West Bank has been indefinitely suspended. This is an opportunity for Mr Olmert to open up new avenues to peace talks. It must not be spurned.

Load-Date: November 11, 2006



Six days of war, 40 years of pain; MIDDLE EAST

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

June 2, 2007 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. 6

Length: 1729 words

Byline: Ed O'loughlin - Ed O'Loughlin is Jerusalem correspondent

Body

Forty years ago, Israel captured land from Syria, Egypt and Jordan, but this did not translate into lasting peace. Many on both sides of the battle are now pondering the lost opportunities.

SOME say the war that broke out in the Middle East 40 years ago this week had changed the entire region when it ended six days later. Others say it never ended at all. Of all the territories captured by Israel in the Six-Day War, only the Sinai peninsula has been returned to its former owner, Egypt, thanks to former US president Jimmy Carter's Camp David accords.

On Israel's northern front, its troops and settlers still occupy the Golan Heights, seized from Syria on the fifth day of the war. Their conventional forces may no longer be engaged with each other but a state of phoney war still exists between Israel and Syria. Sometimes - such as last July, for instance - it erupts into proxy violence in neighbouring Lebanon.

In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, tens of thousands of Israeli soldiers and paramilitary police are needed to control 2.5 million Palestinians and to protect the 450,000 Jewish settlers planted in their midst since the war.

To the south, the isolated Palestinian enclave of Gaza remains, in the eyes of the United Nations, under Israeli military occupation despite the withdrawal of about 7500 Jewish settlers in 2005.

Gaza's air space, sea access and border crossings are still under tight Israeli military control, its economy subject to an Israeli embargo backed by Western powers.

In the past two weeks alone Gaza militant groups have fired about 270 home-made rockets into Israel, killing two civilians, while Israeli shells and air strikes have killed at least 40 Palestinians.

The Six-Day War might have appeared to be a decisive victory for Israel but its outcome was never transformed into a workable political peace. Within months of the war's end, hostilities had resumed with Egypt along the line of the Suez Canal.

The 1970s brought the Yom Kippur War, a new wave of international terror attacks by Palestinian resistance groups and the beginning of Israel's long and bloody entanglement in Lebanon. In 1987 the first Palestinian uprising broke out against Israeli military occupation, flaring again with redoubled violence on both sides in October 2000.

Six days of war, 40 years of pain MIDDLE EAST

So looking back on the war and its 40-year aftermath people on both sides can find cause for regret. Akiva Eldar, an Israeli historian and commentator with the left-of-centre daily Ha'aretz, served in the war as a reservist with Israeli military intelligence. He is among those who think the Six-Day War is still going on.

"I think we are still in the seventh day of the war," he says. "We won the first six days of the war but we keep losing the seventh day, and it doesn't look like things are going to improve in the near future. For the first time since Israel's establishment we had a chance to win peace with the Arabs by trading the territories we took from Jordan and Syria and Egypt, but we fell in love with the bargaining chip. Moshe Dayan (then Israeli's defence minister) used to say we are just waiting for a telephone call from the Arabs to talk peace, but the Arabs tried to call us a few times since then and we refused to take the call."

David Wilder is at the other end of Israel's political spectrum. A native of New Jersey, he is one of several hundred Jews who live under heavy military protection in the first and most extreme of all the Jewish West Bank settlements, carved out of the historic heart of the Palestinian city of Hebron. He, too, believes that Israel made a crucial error after the Six-Day War, although not the one cited by Eldar.

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"The Arabs have a mentality that respects strength and despises weakness, and Israel has been exuding weakness for the past 20 or 30 years in that Israel refuses to recognise the fact that this is our land by right, and that makes the Arabs continue their terrorism. The prime example is Gush Katif (the Gaza settlements abandoned by Israeli in 2005). We gave them Gush Katif and the result is they are shooting rockets at us."

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Earlier this month, two Israeli human rights groups reported that military curfews and attacks and harassment by settlers have driven out 40 per cent of the Palestinian households in the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron. Awayweh recalls with fondness the days when the kings of Jordan ruled there instead.

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Dr Mustafa Barghouti, an independent politician and founder of a medical charity, was recently appointed Information Minister for the Palestinian Authority, the shadow government for a state that does not exist. He was 12 years old when the Israelis captured his West Bank home town of Ramallah.

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"Then they confiscated more lands for the security of the settlements, and then they confiscated more land for roads. They now have effectively confiscated more than half of the occupied territories, and we can't go from one part of what's left to another . . . I think the apartheid system we have here is much worse than the one they had in South Africa, because the victims are being blamed for it, not the ones who have the power."

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"We still have many troubles and we are facing terrorism and other threats but today it is a much stronger and wealthier country . . . Sinai is demilitarised. There is no Syrian artillery on the Golan Heights. Jerusalem isn't divided

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"I don't see any way forward. I used to be a Peace Now activist in the 1980s, but I moved to the Likud because I understood with sorrow and regret that the goal of the Palestinians is not the establishment of a Palestinian state but the destruction of the Jewish state. For some people it's more important to destroy the other side than to build for themselves."

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Two weeks ago, his fellow al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades commander, Baha Abu Jarad, 32, was gunned down in the street outside the north Gaza residence where both had taken refuge, one of dozens of victims of a simmering *Hamas*-Fatah feud.

This week Taysir Jamal seemed almost wistful as he showed off his prestigious Russian-made Kalashnikov and a bag of new factory-made rocket-propelled grenades.

"The situation has completely changed since the Six-Day War," he said.

"Now there is a Kalashnikov in every home, resistance groups everywhere, shooting all the time. Before 1967 if the Egyptians (then controlling Gaza) caught you with even one bullet you could be executed for it.

"Before 1967, all the Palestinians were united, but now you have secular groups, religious groups, centrists, extremists, *Hamas*, PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), Islamic Jihad, Fatah. There's chaos everywhere."

Yakov Attias is also nostalgic about a period he is too young to remember himself. Born in 1966 to Moroccan immigrant parents, he was raised the hard way in the Jewish half of Jerusalem's Mosrara neighbourhood, divided by the 1948 armistice line. Today he runs a family car park on what is still marked on UN maps as "no man's land".

"Growing up I had a million Arab friends from the Old City but I wouldn't even walk there now," he says.

He thinks Israel wasted several chances to make peace with the Palestinians before the Islamic hardline <u>Hamas</u> movement won Palestinian Authority elections last year. Now he thinks it's too late. And Israel might be richer on paper, he says, but it has become a less pleasant, less egalitarian and more divided country.

"For me it's sad. Fifteen or 20 years ago we were one of the best countries in the world to live in but now it's not so good. The settlers took all the young soldiers to guard their houses and they got all the money from the state for their settlements. After the murder of (prime minister Yitzhak) Rabin it turned people in Israel against each other."

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"Things are much worse than they were before 1967. I don't mean those days were good, but now it's worse. Then there were still rules for war, but now the Israelis will bomb anything. Then there was no internal conflict but now there is a civil war. People don't like each other like they used to.

"They are always angry with each other and because the world is boycotting us the financial situation is very bad. It's like our lives have come to a halt."

Ed O'Loughlin is Jerusalem correspondent.

ONLINE

 \cdot See a special multimedia presentation at theage.com.au

Graphic

PHOTO: Fatah militant leader Taysir Jamal (centre) is holed up in a stronghold in the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza. PICTURE: ED O'LOUGHLIN; MAP: Jerusalem

Load-Date: July 19, 2007



Inching Westward in the Maghreb; Reforms in North Africa

The International Herald Tribune
October 31, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 619 words

Byline: Stanley A. Weiss

Dateline: RABAT, Morocco

Body

A democratic "Arab Spring," it seemed, had suddenly blossomed. Lebanon's "Cedar Revolution" forced the withdrawal of Syrian occupying troops. Millions of Iraqis defied insurgents to vote in historic elections. Palestinians elected the moderate Mahmoud Abbas as president, renewing hopes for peace talks with Israel. Egyptian strongman Hosni Mubarak promised the first-ever contested presidential election.

Hardly two years later, however, the decades-long winter of Arab discontent grinds on. Iraq teeters on the brink of civil war. The peace process lies dead, with Israel and <u>Hamas</u> clashing in Gaza and Lebanon still reeling from the summer war between Israel and Hezbollah. Mubarak claims "re-election" with 88 percent of the vote, his main challenger back in prison.

But a visit to this desert kingdom and its North African neighbors reveals that the best hope for Arab reform may lie not in spectacular events in the heart of the Middle East, but in small steps along the region's periphery.

To be sure, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria won't become Jeffersonian democracies anytime soon. In all three, autocratic regimes are enriched by rampant corruption and rely on heavy-handed security services to stamp out opposition.

Yet by virtue of their geography and history, the countries of the Maghreb at the crossroads of the Middle East, Africa and Europe continue to flirt with foreign, social and economic polices that could be models for the region.

All three countries have, at times, reached out to Israel, and been among Washington's closest Arab allies in the war on terrorism. "We have chosen," we were repeatedly told by officials across the region. "We are looking West."

Of course, many non-officials don't share the sentiment. Three years after the Casablanca terrorist bombings, security officials disrupted the latest plot here last month Moroccans planning a "holy war" in the kingdom. In Tunis, where Qaeda-linked terrorists bombed a synagogue in 2002, <u>women</u> are increasingly wearing head scarves in defiance of a government ban. In Algiers, our delegation traveled in armored cars under police escort.

Yet each nation, in its own way, is combating the underlying frustrations that lead to fundamentalism. Algeria, with a press among the freest in the region, held elections two years ago considered its fairest yet. A national reconciliation plan is granting amnesty to Islamic militants (if not justice for their victims) while privatization of state-owned companies and increased social spending is designed to reduce massive youth unemployment.

Inching Westward in the Maghreb Reforms in North Africa

In Tunis, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali sticks to the "Tunisia model" repressive politics alongside progressive economics. Claiming an absurd 95-percent victory in the last election, Ben Ali's regime argues that Tunisia's reputation as a leader in <u>women</u>'s rights and the most open economy in the Arab world with a robust middle class, low poverty and high literacy show that you can give people dignity without democracy.

"If you own your own home, send your kids to school and have a good life, you don't think about blowing yourself up at a cafe," said one Tunisian minister. Islam? Not surprisingly, our hosts in each capital invoked Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> to argue that too much democracy too fast is too dangerous.

ceremony from the mid-1980s whe ruins of s) more than 2,100 years after the RomBut in a region where change comes slow, the tentative reforms in the Maghreb may not be the most dramatic, but they may prove to be the most lasting.

Stanley A. Weiss is founder and chairman of Business Executives for National Security, a nonpartisan organization based in Washington.

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Load-Date: November 1, 2006



Inside Today

The Gazette (Montreal)

November 11, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 570 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

'Al-Qa'ida in Iraq' tape claims 12,000 fighters

The group "Al-Qa'ida in Iraq" claimed in a new audiotape yesterday to be winning the war faster than expected in Iraq and said it had mobilized 12,000 fighters who had "vowed to die for God's sake." The U.S. military, meanwhile, reported that three U.S. soldiers and a marine were killed Thursday in Iraq, bringing the number of Americans who have died in the country so far this month to 25. Details, Page A20

Hamas PM offers to quit, if ...

<u>Hamas</u> leader Ismail Haniyeh said yesterday he would step down as Palestinian prime minister if that would persuade the West to lift debilitating economic

sanctions. Details, Page A25

Jack Palance was film heavy

Jack Palance, the craggy-faced menace in Shane, Sudden Fear and other films who turned successfully to comedy at 70 with his Oscar-winning self-parody in City Slickers, died yesterday. He was 87. Details, Page C9

Teen charged as serial rapist

A 17-year-old who is charged with sexually assaulting 11 <u>women</u> over an 11-month period should be sentenced as an adult if he is convicted, a crown prosector said yesterday. Details, Page A7

Crackdown on drugged driving

The federal government is set to introduce legislation this month that will crack down on people who drive while stoned on drugs, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says. Details, Page A14

Grey Cup fans in, kids out

When the crush of fans begin to arrive in Winnipeg for Grey Cup next week, 13 children temporarily housed in hotels by Manitoba social agencies will be given the boot to make room for them. Details, Page A17

Inside Today

Business

Hike in fuel costs hurts ACE

A 13-per-cent surge in fuel costs cut into ACE Aviation Holdings' third quarter, but CEO Robert Milton has his sights firmly set on March when Air Canada is due to take delivery of its first long-range Boeing 777ER. Details, Page C2

Sports

Habs facing improved Leafs

As the Canadiens prepare to meet the Maple Leafs tonight at the Air Canada Centre, Habs forward Mike Johnson says he isn't surprised by the Leafs' strong showing this season. Details, Page D1

Culture

Bond flick betting on Casino

People are betting that Casino Royale, the new James Bond movie, will revive a franchise that had lost some of its lustre. Details, Page E1

Homefront

Turning ugly into beautiful

Seasoned do-it-yourselfers took a neglected 1938 art deco home in N.D.G. and transformed it into a stylish open-concept showpiece. Details, Page F1

Weekend Life

Kids' birthday parties go big

The birthday party scene has changed. Parents think big - really big! - with Paris Hilton-esque excess. Call it keeping up with the Joneses' kids. Details, Page H1

Travel

Korean DMZ still a war zone

Across Korea's DMZ, soldiers wait and watch. For tourists, it's a chance to see where the Cold War turned hot and where the hostilities stay on hold. Details, Page K3

Many would disagree that Quebec is a civic nation.

MACPHERSON, OPINION, B7

JAMES MENNIE on helping out:

De Broux family has tradition of caring. MONTREAL, A6

JAY BRYAN on the Millennium Promise:

Poverty conference ignored the basic issues. BUSINESS, C1

JACK TODD on racial profiling:

Sham arrests of Alouettes blessing in disguise. SPORTS, D1

DOUG CAMILLI on Paris Hilton:

Inside Today

She, like, totally deserves Walk of Fame star. CULTURE, E9

PAT DONNELLY on the Salon du Livre:

A literary French-immersion course for anglos. BOOKS, J3

DENISE DUGUAY's Television Explorer:

Uber Guide's top vacation fantasies for men. TRAVEL, K2

Graphic

Photo: ('Al-Qa'ida in Iraq' tape claims 12,000 fighters)

Load-Date: November 11, 2006



Six days of war, 40 years of pain; MIDDLE EAST

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First Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. 6

Length: 1729 words

Byline: Ed O'loughlin - Ed O'Loughlin is Jerusalem correspondent

Body

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Graphic

PHOTO: Fatah militant leader Taysir Jamal (centre) is holed up in a stronghold in the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza. PICTURE: ED O'LOUGHLIN; MAP: Jerusalem

Load-Date: July 3, 2007



Round the World in Eighty Seconds

The Daily Telegraph (Australia)

January 30, 2007 Tuesday

State Edition

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Section: WORLD; Round the World in Eighty Seconds; Pg. 17

Length: 224 words

Body

MATP

GAZA CITY: At least 24 people were killed as fighting erupted between rival Palestinian forces in Gaza yesterday, in the fiercest bout of fighting since *Hamas* won elections a year ago.

ROME: Cars were banned for a day in the Italian cities of Rome, Milan Brescia, Como and Varese yesterday, in a government bid to lower pollution levels.

BEIJING: A coal mine gas blast killed 11 miners in southwest China yesterday. Five others were missing and nine managed to escape.

JERUSALEM: The Israeli Government voted yesterday to appoint an Arab Muslim to the Cabinet for the first time in the history of the Jewish state. Ghaleb Majadleh, 53, became a minister without portfolio, despite fierce opposition from ultra-nationalists and some Arab politicians.

BAGHDAD: "Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of Saddam Hussein, told his genocide trial yesterday he had not made any "mistake" when issuing orders during the campaign that saw thousands of Kurdish villages bombed and men, **women**, and children killed.

ABUJA: About 50 Nigerian rebels fought a battle with security forces yesterday, torching police headquarters in the oil-producing Niger Delta to free one of their leaders.

LISBON: Thousands of anti-abortion protesters took to the streets of Lisbon yesterday, urging voters to reject a referendum aimed at lifting the nation's ban on abortion.

Load-Date: January 29, 2007



Letter: End the Gaza siege

The Western Mail
September 3, 2007, Monday
WMail Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 19

Length: 249 words

Body

Sir - It is scandalous that Israel, the US and Britain are trying to starve the democratically elected Palestinian government of *Hamas* in Gaza into submission, and scandalous that we have come to accept the situation.

The relentless bombing and killing of Palestinians in Gaza continues without a peep of protest from the West.

What I cannot accept is the deteriorating condition of more than 6,000 Palestinians who are stuck on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing.

They include students returning from Egyptian universities, the sick, hundreds who have crossed over from Gaza to get medical treatment in Egypt, and others who are returning home after 12 months of working to raise money for their starving families.

Nor can I accept the Egyptian government's conduct, allowing the Israeli army complete discretion to decide whether the crossing will be opened or closed, thereby colluding with the ongoing siege of Gaza.

Many like myself are deeply troubled by this humanitarian crisis. We can no longer remain silent while continuing to watch this catastrophic situation. The sight of thousands of men, <u>women</u> and children sleeping in the hot sun on the Egyptian side of the Gaza crossing is a blot on all humanity.

These Palestinians must wait no longer. The economic and military siege of Gaza must end now.

I have written with these concerns to the Egyptian Ambassador at 26 South Street, London W1Y 6DD, and I appeal to all your readers to do the same. Ray Davies, Pandy Road, Bedwas, Caerphilly.

Load-Date: September 5, 2007



<u>CONTINUATION: Murder, kidnap and chaos: violent Gaza approaches 'tipping point'</u>

The Independent (London)

April 21, 2007 Saturday

Fourth Edition

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Length: 1426 words

Body

own kidnap in December 2005.

Ordered out a few days after the kidnap of the BBC correspondent Alan Johnston, Ms Aarons was provided with a small, armed Palestinian escort last week to return, pack her belongings and bid a sad farewell to the Palestinian family who had rented her an apartment since late September.

She lived through both the "terrifying" Israeli missile attacks near her home, and through the lethal Fatah-<u>Hamas</u> warfare which reached its peak just before the Saudi-brokered ceasefire in Mecca in February. But she says of the underlying insecurity of which Mr Johnston's kidnap remains a symbol: "I am shocked how fast things have deteriorated in the past seven months. Everything seems so normal but a lot more sinister things are happening below the surface." Ms Aarons is right.

By the standards of a Gaza City inured to many kinds of violence over the past seven years, the incident outside Roots restaurant was hardly news. Around noon, the gold-coloured Honda saloon belonging to the restaurant's part-owner Muna Al-Ghalayini was wrecked by a loud explosion audible at least a kilometre away. Fortunately at the time Ms Al-Ghalayini was in the elegant - but of course alcohol-free - restaurant. She was reluctant to speculate about the perpetrators, saying only: "I don't know who did this but the police are investigating it."

Yes she was a little afraid as a result of the explosion. According to one theory, Ms Al-Ghalayini had recently stopped a young man entering on one of the restaurant's family-only nights, saying that he could only come in if he was with his sister, and that he had promised revenge. According to another, Roots, a favoured haunt for middle-class couples and their children eager to escape from the relentless pressures of life in the Strip, did not fit the requirements of extreme socially conservative elements in Gaza.

Either way, the incident, however minor, appears to fit an ominously growing undercurrent of lawlessness which a new national unity government and its drafting of a new security plan has so far failed to arrest.

Eight days ago, Al Ataa, a popular culture centre in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, was broken into and set on fire by an unknown group of assailants. The attackers completely destroyed the computer room of the centre, which aims especially to serve local <u>women</u> and children, runs workshops in non-violence among its many activities and was originally sponsored in co-ordination with the World Bank by the Welfare Association - one of the

charities in The Independent's Christmas appeal. At the same time they destroyed one of the centre's libraries, containing about 5,000 books. Ibtisam El-Za'anin, who heads the society's board of directors, estimated the cost of the lost equipment at around \$80,000 (£40,000) and the damage to the building at \$40,000. She, too, said she had no idea who had carried out the attack, but assumed that they "wanted to stop our work. Perhaps they don't want girls and <u>women</u> to have chances and goals for the future and think we should go back to a situation where <u>women</u> stay at home."

She added: "I am very sad, but we insist that we will go on with our work. We will not yield."

Then in the early hours of last Sunday, an explosive device was detonated at the entrance to the Christian Bible Society's store in the heart of Gaza City. The society - among much else - provides language and computer training courses to Muslims as well as Christians.

After travelling to Gaza to inspect the extensive damage to the entrance and windows, Labib Madanat, the society's Palestinian director, also declared that its work would continue in Gaza, adding: "It's a tragedy. The Bible Society exists to serve the whole population of Gaza."

Why did Mr Madanat think it had happened? "I think it's a mixture of the failure of diplomacy, of politics, because of years of deferred justice, and Islamic fundamentalism, an extreme form of Islam or religion. But the other reason is a chaos in Gaza that leaves room for everything."

There are few Gazans with whom that last point will not strike a chord. For Gaza may now be near what David Shearer, the head of the UN's Office of Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs calls the "tipping point" - the moment that will decide whether the new national unity government brokered in Saudi Arabia can assert a grip on internal security - and get the international help it needs to do so, or whether it descends headlong into a full-scale version of what the former Fatah cabinet minister Sufian Abu Zaida - who was himself briefly kidnapped by <u>Hamas</u> gunmen in December - already calls the "Somali-isation" of the Strip.

The Foreign Press Association warned this week that the kidnapping of Mr Johnston, who disappeared more than five weeks ago, had helped to make Gaza "effectively a no-go zone" for foreign journalists. Even in the days immediately after the kidnapping, you could travel the length of Gaza, to the southern border crossing of Rafah and linger there talking to Palestinians coming back from Egypt - without incident or visible threat. Since then, the John Ging kidnap attempt, the reports of gunmen entering the TV production offices in central Gaza City saying they were looking for more foreign journalists to kidnap, the sheer length of Mr Johnston's ordeal, have made the threat seem much more real. All of which underlines the brutal destructiveness of the kidnap to the Palestinian cause, just when it most needs support. And moving round Gaza City with even one vehicle containing armed Palestinian security men, as The Independent was persuaded to do this week, does not make for much productive journalism.

On the surface, Gaza City seems more peaceful than many times in the past three years. True the mounds of rubbish in the streets are growing because of a week-old strike by municipal refuse men who have hardly been paid in the past six months. But an hour or so after the explosion at Roots on Wednesday, the keffiyah-clad workmen taking a break from building a new mosque close to the Egyptian embassy and not far from where Mr Johnston was kidnapped were a picture of tranquillity. The drivers jostling with donkey carts and honking their horns in irritation at the worshippers thronging the fruit and vegetable stalls could not have been more normal.

Many of the most worrying trends however, including those of murder, are below the surface. Despite the real reduction caused by the ceasefire there continue to be almost daily ugly - and often fatal - incidents, both between Fatah and *Hamas* adherents and clans.

After reporting on each violent incident, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, which has been as painstaking in chronicling inter-Palestinian killings as it was the deaths of Gazans under Israeli fire, concludes by urging the Palestinian Authority and Attorney General to investigate it and bring the perpetrators to justice. This has barely happened in the past two years. "Such crimes not only demonstrate how diminished is the Palestinian Authority's

ability to enact security," says the Gaza business consultant Sami Abdel Shafi, "but they also uncover an alarming trend of resorting to such violent and uncivil means of stating opinions or resolving grievances".

Whether this can even begin to be contained now depends on an untested new Interior Minister and the new National Security Council, which is supposed to be the joint law enforcement arm of the Fatah-<u>Hamas</u> coalition.

At a minimum that will require support from the international community for the new coalition. So far the US and Israel seem to be focusing only on beefing up forces directly answerable to Mahmoud Abbas. But in the absence of any real chance for the economy, the new PA will require serious aid if it is to prevent civil war and have any chance of reimposing the security that most Gazans crave.

Johnston's kidnapping is longest ordeal for two years

Alan Johnston was seized from his car by gunmen as he drove home on 12 March. His ordeal has been by far the longest of any of the foreigners kidnapped over the past two years. Many thousands have appealed for his release, from BBC listeners and viewers to Palestinian journalists in Gaza. There has been speculation in Gaza that he was seized by a criminal or mercenary family. One such family, Dogmush, was blamed for the kidnap of two Fox TV employees in the summer, but the BBC has had no confirmation they were involved. Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, said on Thursday that he had information that Mr Johnston is alive.

Load-Date: April 23, 2007



Another 'sewage tsunami' looms in Gaza: agency

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

June 25, 2007 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 245 words

Byline: Agence France-Presse

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Aid agency Oxfam International warned Monday that the tight restrictions placed by Israel on goods passing into Gaza risk sparking another septic system collapse like the one that killed at least five people in March.

Oxfam has been working with a local water utility to rehabilitate the north Gaza sewage treatment facility and clean up land around the village of Umm al-Nasr that has been contaminated by effluent.

But Oxfam has been waiting for more than three months for Israeli authorization to deliver \$500,000 US worth of equipment and has only 10 days of chlorine supplies left to keep water safe for drinking.

The agency said the utility now fears that the works could burst, swamping up to 10,000 people in sewage, contaminating the water supplies of a further 300,000 people, and creating a public-health crisis.

Three <u>women</u>, one more than 70 years old, and two boys aged one and two died on March 27 when the water treatment reservoir burst, flooding Umm al-Nasr with what Palestinian teleivison described as a "sewage tsunami."

As far back as January 2004, UN aid agencies in the Gaza Strip had warned that the north Gaza sewage treatment facility was operating far beyond its capacity and posed a grave danger to nearby residents.

Israel is allowing only very limited humanitarian supplies into Gaza, which was seized by Islamist movement <u>Hamas</u> earlier this month. "These sanctions must cease immediately," said Oxfam International director Jeremy Hobbs.

Load-Date: June 25, 2007



Unfriendly Views on U.S.-Backed Arabic TV - Correction Appended

The New York Times

May 17, 2007 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

Correction Appended

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Section: Section A; Column 4; Foreign Desk; Pg. 14

Length: 963 words

Byline: By HELENE COOPER **Dateline:** WASHINGTON, May 16

Body

Toward the end of a Congressional hearing on Wednesday on American efforts to win more popular support in the Arab world, Representative Gary L. Ackerman, Democrat of New York, got sidetracked.

Mr. Ackerman was in the middle of chastising representatives from the United States-financed Middle East television channel Al Hurra for broadcasting the views of leaders of the militant Islamist groups <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah. But when a Hurra executive mentioned in the station's defense that it broadcasts uncut, live versions of President Bush's speeches, Mr. Ackerman interrupted.

"You carry President Bush live?" he asked. Then, incredulously, "Hopefully we find this helpful to the mission?"

There was laughter throughout the committee room, but the exchange highlighted the central quandary surrounding American public diplomacy efforts.

In recent weeks both conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats have attacked Al Hurra for, in the words of The Wall Street Journal's editorial page last week, providing "friendly coverage of camera-ready extremists from Al Qaeda, *Hamas* and other terrorist groups."

In particular, critics of the network, which was founded in 2003 as an Arabic-language, American-financed counter to Al Jazeera, are particularly annoyed that the network broadcast a 30-minute speech by the Hezbollah leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, in December.

Mr. Ackerman also complained during the hearing that the network gave extensive coverage to Iran's conference in December on denying the Holocaust and, more recently, showed Ismail Haniya, the Palestinian prime minister (and *Hamas* leader), discussing the faltering Palestinian unity government.

"How does it happen that terrorists take over? Is there no supervision?" Mr. Ackerman asked.

But there was also tacit acknowledgment, even from Republican critics of Al Hurra, that blaming the network might be a little like shooting the messenger. The State Department has devoted many resources lately to public diplomacy, including taking Muslim students to the World Cup games in Germany, serving as host for Arab journalists at training seminars in Washington, and dispatching the under secretary of state for public diplomacy, Karen Hughes, to talk to Muslim <u>women</u> around the world.

But those efforts do little to counter the rising anger among Arabs over the American role in Iraq and the Bush administration's refusal to shut down the military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

"One witness before this subcommittee last week argued that, 'Quote, "It's the policy, stupid," close quote,' " acknowledged Representative Mike Pence, Republican of Indiana, although, he added, "I'm not one who believes we should significantly reorder our policy toward the Middle East."

For decades, the United States has provided funds for radio and television stations dedicated to promoting American values and views. During the cold war, Radio Free Europe sought to counter the state-controlled Soviet media by broadcasting pro-American views.

The first President George Bush created TV Marti, to beam American programming into Fidel Castro's Cuba, though Mr. Castro managed to jam it for years so people in Cuba could not actually see it.

Al Hurra was supposed to follow that tradition. But the station's executives admitted Wednesday that they could not be completely sure that Al Hurra was doing so, because none of the top executives speak Arabic.

"How do you know that they're being true to the mission if you don't know what's being said?" Mr. Ackerman demanded.

Joaquin F. Blaya, a Hurra executive, testified that network officials made sure to question the Arabic-speaking staff about what went on the air. Mr. Blaya and State Department officials acknowledged that the speech by the Hezbollah leader, Sheik Nasrallah, violated the network's policy not to give a platform to those whom Washington considers to be terrorists.

But Mr. Blaya also contended in an interview on Wednesday that Al Hurra would lose all credibility if it did not give air time to people who disagree with American policy. He said that complaints about air time for Mr. Haniya were unjustified because he legitimately holds the post of Palestinian prime minister.

Mr. Blaya also said it was ironic that the government was seeking to promote American values like democracy and a free press while at the same time trying to censure what is shown in the station.

"That's the difference between a free media and propaganda," he said.

He said during the hearing that Al Hurra had appointed a new vice president for news, Larry Register, to make sure the mistakes did not happen again. But he admitted that Mr. Register did not speak Arabic either.

State Department officials acknowledged that the lack of Arabic speakers remained a major failing of American public diplomacy efforts in the Middle East.

Gretchen Welch, the director of policy, planning and resources in the State Department's public diplomacy department, said part of the problem was that the standard source of Arabic language instruction is two years, while the department's "hardship" postings, a label applied to many in the Middle East, last only one year.

To meet the need, she said, the State Department is putting people into language training who would otherwise be filling overseas posts, and those posts are going empty. "It is absolutely a priority," she said.

But Representative David Scott, Democrat of Georgia, expounded on the problem of trying to promote America in the Arab world. "It begs the question, then, in spite of all the myriad programs that the State Department has initiated to win over foreign peoples, why does the world -- the Muslim world in particular -- continue to hate us so?" he said.

http://www.nytimes.com

Correction

Because of an editing error, an article on Thursday about concerns in Congress that Al Hurra, an Americanfinanced television channel in the Middle East, was broadcasting the views of militant groups referred incorrectly to comments by Joaquin F. Blaya, a Hurra executive, about the criticism. He said it was ironic that the government was seeking to promote values like democracy and a free press while trying to censor -- not censure -- what was shown on the station.

An article last Thursday about concerns in Congress over broadcasts of Islamic militant views by Al Hurra, an American government-financed television network in the Middle East, referred incorrectly to the timing of the appointment of the network's new vice president for news, Larry Register. Mr. Register was already on the job when Al Hurra broadcast a speech by Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, in December; he was not hired to make sure such broadcasts did not recur. The article also misstated the length of Sheik Nasrallah's broadcast speech; it was 67 minutes, not 30 minutes.

Correction-Date: May 24, 2007

Load-Date: May 17, 2007



<u>Comment & Debate: Internal conflict and paralysis is corroding our credibility: Israel's occupation is the main reason for today's misery. But Palestinians still need to take control of their own future - Correction Appended</u>

The Guardian - Final Edition May 31, 2007 Thursday

Correction Appended

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Section: GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES; Pg. 28

Length: 1088 words

Byline: Ahmad Samih Khalidi

Body

There was something both deeply sad and painfully predictable about last week's scenes of renewed internecine violence on the streets of Gaza. For Palestinians everywhere, there is nothing worse than the spectre of a civil war, not only because it is so reprehensible in itself, but also because the moral grounding of the Palestinian cause is thereby undermined: if Palestinians are so ready to kill each other the question is inevitably raised, why should anyone feel sympathy for them in their struggle with Israel?

But that was not all. In the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr al-Bared in north Lebanon, the Lebanese army was battling it out with the renegade Islamist faction Fatah al-Islam. After sustaining unexpected casualties in a surprise attack by the faction, the army retaliated with a largely indiscriminate bombardment of the camp, leaving many civilian casualties. The Lebanese army's actions echoed those of Israel in Gaza, posing yet another pernicious question: if an Arab army is allowed to assault Palestinian civilians in pursuit of "terrorists", who can blame the Israelis for doing the same?

The actions in Gaza and north Lebanon represent a new low for a cause that has become accustomed to setbacks, retreats and defeats. Just days before the 40th anniversary of the six-day war of June 1967, the sight of Palestinian civilians fleeing Nahr al-Bared, terrified children clinging to <u>women</u> with meagre belongings carried on their heads, evoked the very worst images of recent Palestinian history.

There is no doubt that Israel and its 40-year occupation are culpable beyond measure for what is happening today. Here are just a few facts: since 1967 Israel has annexed East Jerusalem (including the old city's holy sites), unilaterally expanded its boundaries dozens of kilometres into the West Bank, and settled it with some 250,000 Israeli Jews. Tens of thousands of housing units have been built for Israeli Jews in East Jerusalem; very few for the Palestinian Arabs on their own soil.

Another 250,000 Israeli Jews have been packed into dozens of Jewish-only settlements on the West Bank now serviced by Jewish-only roads. The West Bank is being laced by a 700km-long separation wall and fence that will effectively annex 12% of the West Bank. Another 60% of the West Bank along the Jordan Valley is inaccessible to

Comment & Debate: Internal conflict and paralysis is corroding our credibility: Israel 's occupation is the main reason for today's misery. But Palestinians sti....

the Palestinians on security grounds. Despite, Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Gaza remains besieged and isolated, and there is virtually no normal movement of goods and people in and out of the strip, or between it and the West Bank.

Since 1967, between 650,000 and 700,000 Palestinians have been detained or jailed by Israel out of a current total occupied population of 3.8 million. Since the first intifada of 1987, 80,000 Palestinians have been killed or wounded, the vast majority unarmed civilians.

Yet despite the sustained brutal weight of the longest occupation of modern times, it is not enough to blame it all on Israel. There are other factors at play. What was once a dedicated and vibrant Palestinian national movement is today almost bereft of effective leadership. It negotiators appear incapable of rising to the vast national challenges ahead. The old nationalist-Marxist factions have become marginalised. Fatah, once the embodiment of broad national aspirations, is faction-ridden and incapable of reviving its lost glory in the absence of its founder, Yasser Arafat. <u>Hamas</u> is politically inexperienced and boycotted by the outside world. Its appeal is too narrow to replace Fatah or supplant the broad church of Palestinian nationalism with an Islamist discourse and goals.

Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> are also locked in a mortal struggle for power. Elements on both sides cannot forgo this struggle and will not contemplate the demands of cohabitation or political coexistence. But even if they did, the US and Israel - supported by Britain - seem bent on undermining the Palestinian national government by actively seeking to build up the PA's "Presidential Guard" to intimidate <u>Hamas</u> and eventually put it down, by force if necessary.

Despite such outside support, the PA remains paralysed and incapable. The Presidential Guard is likely to do no more than add to the proliferation of armed groups on the Palestinian scene, and will break apart if and when it is put to the test against its fellow Palestinians. Armed clans now hold sway in Gaza, as the PA's writ fades and becomes increasingly irrelevant. Meanwhile, the infestation of al-Qaida-type salafism has already reached Gaza and the US- and EU-sponsored embargo, support for continued occupation and promotion of internal Palestinian conflict can only feed such trends in the future.

There seems to be no immediate cure for the accumulated consequences of multiple Israeli and external pressures and the disastrous internal decline afflicting the Palestinians today. A rapid and genuine end to the occupation would help, but this is not on the cards. And the Palestinians' deteriorating conditions do not inspire confidence that they would be able effectively to control any areas that Israel might vacate. Meanwhile Israel's political system is suffering from deep flaws of its own, and its weak leadership is incapable of making decisions and seeing them through.

Today, the moment is not for grand peacemaking, despite the optimism generated by the Arab peace initiative and the pretence of movement offered by US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice. The best that is likely to be achieved is a consolidated inter-Palestinian and Palestinian-Israeli ceasefire that will allow both sides to catch their breath and think again. In their own interests, the Israelis need to think hard about the corrosive long-term consequences of the occupation and its effect on their own future as a supposedly safe haven for the Jewish people. The Arabs cannot continue to claim sympathy for the Palestinians while subjecting the most defenceless of them to wanton violence.

The Palestinians have to think hard about their future prospects. The priority must be to revive their national political movement in the spirit of genuine partnership and achievable common goals. The alternative will not only allow for the perpetuation of the occupation but will feed the notion that the Palestinians, decades on, are somehow not "worthy" of the freedom they are rightfully due and so passionately desire.

Ahmad Samih Khalidi is a senior associate member of St Antony's College, Oxford, and a former Palestinian negotiator <u>aswk@yahoo.com</u>

Correction

Comment & Debate: Internal conflict and paralysis is corroding our credibility: Israel 's occupation is the main reason for today's misery. But Palestinians sti....

We stated in error in a comment article that 80,000 Palestinians had been killed or wounded since the first intifada of 1987 (Internal conflict and paralysis is corroding our credibility, page 28, May 31). That figure is the total since the 1967 six-day war.

Correction-Date: June 4, 2007 Monday

Load-Date: May 31, 2007



GAZA RAID A ROARING SUCCESS AS CAPTIVE LION FREED

The Toronto Star

July 10, 2007 Tuesday

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Section: WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA03

Length: 222 words

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Even animals with sharp teeth and claws do not fare well in the volatile Gaza Strip.

Yesterday, <u>Hamas</u> militia members raiding the hideout of a notorious drug ring stumbled upon a <u>female</u> lion stolen at riflepoint two years ago from the Gaza Zoo, said a force commander, Abu Hamam al-Deeb. But she was malnourished, and missing four teeth, claws and part of her tail, a veterinarian said.

Militiamen found the 2-year-old lion along with drugs and a weapons cache, al-Deeb said.

Sabrina the lion was brought back to the Gaza Zoo and reunited with her brother, Sakher. The two playfully chased and swatted each other in the face. When a zoo guard tried to pet Sabrina, Sakher crouched as if ready to pounce.

"We will start a long, arduous treatment to ensure she can survive," said veterinarian Soud al-Shawaa. "They should punish the criminals who did this to her."

Sabrina was last seen during a recent holiday at a Gaza photography studio where her captors charged about a dollar for a picture with the lion.

Sabrina and Sakher were bought from Egypt soon after their birth in 2005. The zoo, closed for years, reopened in October 2005 after Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.

The feline's fate was brighter than that of other animals in Palestinian zoos. In 2004, several were killed when a zoo in Rafah was destroyed in an Israeli army operation.

Load-Date: July 10, 2007



Israel is braced for next attack a year after war with Hezbollah

The Times (London)

August 15, 2007, Wednesday

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Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 31

Length: 691 words **Byline:** James Hider

Body

- * Assault from Lebanon 'just a matter of time'
- * Dispute with Syria adds to military concern

The memorial is more like a crime scene than a monument. On the road along the border with Lebanon a painted black rectangle marks the outline of an army lorry with the names of the passengers where they sat: Razeq, Toma, Eldad and Udi.

After the last are the words "My beloved" -a cry of grief for Ehud "Udi" Goldwasser, one of two Israeli soldiers kidnapped in an ambush here, triggering war with Hezbollah.

A year later, Israeli patrols like Udi's crawl past this spot watchful for any attempt by Hezbollah to launch an ambush similar to the one that left four of their comrades dead, two wounded and two kidnapped -and still missing. Many Israelis believe that a new war with Hezbollah is inevitable, and military analysts fear that the next conflict could be complicated by the emergence of Gaza -run by <u>Hamas</u> and already styling itself on Hezbollah's model of a well drilled, professional guerrilla army -on Israel's southern flank.

Worse, the Government is anxious that the intensive retraining of the Israeli Army in the Golan Heights could trigger fighting with Syria, from whom it seized the land.

The Lebanon border remains tense, despite the presence of more than 13,000 United Nations peacekeepers with a mandate to prevent Hezbollah from rebuilding their rocket bunkers in the frontier zone. "It's just a question of time. They'll try to attack Israel," a reservist, Colonel Kobi Marom, former deputy commander of the border's eastern sector, said. "As a guerrilla organisation they have to continue to raise the flag of resistance against Israel. Otherwise they're just another political party in Lebanon."

Laura Shukrala, who runs the Beirut Nights restaurant in the border village of Jish, also fears a renewed onslaught of Katyusha rockets against the Israeli north. "There's going to be another war," said the 38-year-old Arab Israeli, who saw rockets fired into the fields next to her village last year. Her clientele has been reduced to passing Israeli soldiers heading for the front. "The people talk about it all the time. They say it will be in September."

Few in the Israeli command think that a war will come that soon. Hezbollah lost at least 650 fighters in last summer's conflict, a heavy blow to a movement of about 3,000 guerrillas that recruits youths from mosques and grooms them for years into tightly disciplined units. Israeli commanders believe that Hezbollah has restocked its

Israel is braced for next attack a year after war with Hezbollah

supplies of short-range missiles from Syria and Iran, but that the UN-patrolled border zone has prevented them from being deployed within range of most of Israel.

The retraining of Israeli forces has raised the temperature with Syria. President Assad has been sending mixed messages to Israel, calling for negotiations to retrieve the strategic Golan plateau, which Israel took in 1967, but also threatening "resistance" alongside his Hezbollah allies.

Israel has emphasised that it does not want a war with Syria. Colonel Marom said that there was a chance that if hostilities were renewed with Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u>, Syria could join a limited conflict to force Israel back to the negotiating table.

The Israeli Cabinet has been meeting every week to discuss the issue and the dangers of a Syrian "miscalculation". Brigadier-General Yossi Baidatz, the head of the research division of military intelligence, was reported to have told the Cabinet that Syria was preparing for a war; increasing production of long range missiles and positioning antitank missiles closer to the border. Meanwhile, Israeli forces remain on high alert. At the army listening post of Zarit, on the rocky border, an Israeli unit made up entirely of young <u>women</u> watches video cameras monitoring frontier sectors 24 hours a day. Some days the <u>women</u> replay the video that captures the beginning of last year's war. On it, a Hezbollah guerrilla, his head covered in a scarf, approaches a hilltop security camera, wielding a rocket-propelled grenade. He takes aim and fires. The camera goes blank. The war has begun.

* For breaking news from the Middle East timesonline.co.uk/mideast

Load-Date: August 15, 2007



Letters to the Editor

The Philadelphia Inquirer
June 19, 2007 Tuesday
CITY-D Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; P-com Opinion; Pg. A10

Length: 676 words

Body

Youth vs. BarnesThe disposition of the Youth Study Center has been controversial from early in the Rendell mayoral administration - when I was deputy managing director for criminal justice - up to the recent Council action ("City Council committee OKs lease for Barnes museum," June 6).

There has been pressure for years, via a class-action lawsuit against the city, to either upgrade or demolish the center. Meanwhile it has become a run-down shadow of its beginnings as a landmark architectural response to juvenile-miscreant behavior.

Replacement of the center will cost more than \$85 million, while renovation may cost half that. The building's footprint is a tight V, with a parking area in the V at ground level. It is feasible to build housing above the parking area while renovating other elements of the structure for client services and administrative functions.

Top it off with a gymnasium, and it may just become more beneficial to the kids who pass through it than giving it to the Barnes, however laudable that may be.

Alfred GilbertPhiladelphiaHope for Palestine"Palestinians on path to even deeper divide," Thursday, states that "rival governments in the West Bank and Gaza would . . . push prospects of a Palestinian state even further away." Rather, this division can catalyze lasting peace.

Fatah, for now, supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while <u>Hamas</u> sees Israel's destruction through terror as its goal. Fatah and Israel could begin a peaceful resolution by creating Palestine, starting in the West Bank.

An isolated Gaza led by <u>Hamas</u>, on the other hand, would demonstrate that terrorism to achieve a state doesn't work and won't be tolerated or rewarded with concessions.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas could become a more credible negotiator by securing a West Bank Palestinian state. If that happens, a Gaza-West Bank split can be the beginning of real peace.

Jason WeinbergRichboroTogether for SEPTAA political opponent (letter, Friday) mischaracterized my support for finding a reasonable and fair solution to SEPTA's budgetary woes as being against "permanent, stable and predictable funding for SEPTA." Nothing could be further from the truth.

We all know mass transit, roads and bridges in Pennsylvania need an infusion of funding. Legislators who care about mass transit and road projects are diligently looking for a fair and rational means of raising the funds.

Letters to the Editor

I merely suggested that funding SEPTA is the shared responsibility of the state, local governments and riders and pointed out that Pennsylvania already provides more support for mass-transit systems than most states do.

SEPTA is an economic and environmental asset. The state, local governments, SEPTA and riders need to find more funds for it and also for road improvements in the PennDot 12-year plan. We ought to work together. For SEPTA advocates to bash the General Assembly is counterproductive.

State Rep. Kate HarperBlue BellNo eminent domainWhen I read in your editorial ("Eminent domain: It's not all blight," Thursday) that the "New Jersey Supreme Court has shown the way for fairer and saner use of eminent domain," I was sure you would continue with the logical next sentence: "No use at all."

I'm glad the court stood up for property rights but disappointed it ruled against eminent domain mainly because the plot includes wetlands. It's sad that government stands up for the property rights of birds and tramples on the property rights of humans.

Taylor W. BuleyPhiladelphiaCut to the electionSome thoughts on the 2008 election: After a seemingly epic struggle, the Democrats will produce a ticket of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. It lines up demographically in their favor - **women** and people of color vs. what will be a white-male combo.

There will be the usual politically successful appeal of equality and class-warfare tactics of the left, with the underlying workings of power and revenge. These factors plus the unpopularity of President Bush will propel America into a period of major social change.

Henry CoxeAmbler

Load-Date: June 19, 2007



Troubled by crisis in Gaza

South Wales Echo
September 4, 2007, Tuesday
News Extra Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 18

Length: 249 words

Body

IT'S scandalous that Israel, the US and Britain are trying to starve the democratically elected Palestinian government of <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza into submission, and scandalous that we have come to accept the situation. The relentless bombing and killing of Palestinians in Gaza continues without a peep of protest from the West. What I cannot accept is the deteriorating condition of more than 6,000 Palestinians who are stuck on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing.

They include students returning from Egyptian universities, the sick, hundreds who have crossed over the Gaza to get medical treatment in Egypt, and others who are returning home after a 12-month absence working to raise money for their starving families.

What I cannot accept is the Egyptian government's conduct, allowing the Israeli Army complete discretion to decide whether the crossings will be opened or closed, and colluding with the ongoing siege of Gaza.

Many like myself are deeply troubled by this humanitarian crisis.

We can no longer remain silent while continuing to watch this catastrophic situation.

The sight of thousands of men <u>women</u> and children sleeping in the hot sun on the Egyptian side of the Gaza crossing is a blot on all our humanity.

These Palestinians must wait no longer.

The economic and military siege of Gaza must end now.

I have written with these concerns to the Egyptian Ambassador at 26 South Street, London, W1Y 6DD and I appeal to all readers to do the same. Ray Davies, Pandy Road, Bedwas, Caerphilly.

Load-Date: September 6, 2007



Saudi Royals Mask A Jihad Agenda

New York Sun (Archive) April 23, 2007 Monday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 5

Length: 665 words

Byline: YOUSSEF IBRAHIM

Body

Keeping Saudi Arabia's royal family safe from radical Islamists is the West's strategic concern and delusion.

The only intelligent question for America about Saudi Arabia is: Should we deal with the royals of the house of Saud or go directly to their bearded, Kalashnikov-toting Osama bin Laden-loving followers?

For half a century, the West has preferred to believe that its choice in Saudi Arabia is the moderate, friendly Saudi royal family or the wild-eyed, sandal-clad zombies of jihad, disregarding the seamless relationship between the two.

We have blithely ignored that Mr. bin Laden was a product and a protege - even a full-fledged member - of the ruling establishment in Saudi Arabia. Indeed, his 52 brothers and other members of his family have intermarried widely with the royal family.

Since Abdulaziz Al-Saud founded his kingdom in 1932, power in Saudi Arabia has rested in the hands of one rabid group of Muslim jihadists: the 40,000 perfumed princes and princesses of the Saud tribal dynasty. They are the public face of Saudi Arabia, the folks who show up in the White House as ambassadors to America.

In Saudi Arabia, these royals nurture a vast entourage and infrastructure of palaces, attached mosques, religious schools, and charitable networks at home and, more important, abroad. These institutions are tied to elegant public princes, but also to many more we never see overseas. They dole out the money and in return demand blind obedience and a steady stream of Wahhabite devotees.

Saudi royal wealth has funded not only hundreds of religious schools inside the kingdom, but also hundreds more in Pakistan, Egypt, Afghanistan, Britain, America, and Asia. The network stretches far and wide, and Wahhabi recruits create the fodder that supplies suicide bombers for <u>Hamas</u>, the Taliban, Iraqi jihadis, and Pakistani-British transit bombers.

There is little difference between the royals and their infrastructure. The idea of two camps is a fiction brilliantly spun by American public relations artists aided by legions of purchased lobbyists and American politicians.

So the question, again, is whether we want to deal with the royals or the nuts. I propose the latter. For starters, it serves transparency.

Why allow an enemy to hide behind seductive royals when most of the family consists of die-hard jihadists who fund <u>Hamas</u>, the Muslim Brotherhood, and other Islamic terror groups worldwide? The game allows "royals" to pose as friends as they supply our former presidents and politicians - President George H.W. Bush, President Clinton,

Saudi Royals Mask A Jihad Agenda

President Carter, and our current commander in chief, among others - with hefty business deals and promises of more to, in effect, give cover to a jihad agenda.

Dealing directly with the bearded and the sandaled also makes America far more secure.

Thanks to the current system of bribery, the Saudis have gotten away with murder. In the 48 hours after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the White House - under pressure from the Saudi ambassador, Prince Bandar - permitted more than 50 members of the bin Laden family to leave America secretly when almost every other flight in and out of the country was grounded.

Detaining and questioning some of this group would have landed a few of them in Guantanamo and yielded crucial information, but they purchased a White House pass to escape. And had it not been for the "special relationship" between America and Saudi Arabia, 15 of the 19 hijackers who flew planes into buildings that day would not have been allowed to live and train here in the first place.

Most of all, the ability to call a spade a spade would increase America's credibility in the Muslim world immensely. This royal family, so beloved by the Bush administration and other White Houses, carries out beheadings, cuts off legs and hands, orders <u>women</u> stoned for adultery, and has reduced half of its society to the status of concubine.

Dumping it will give a considerable boost to any noble American project in the Arab world.

Load-Date: April 23, 2007



Blair's call for elections is a ruse

EVENING CHRONICLE (Newcastle, UK)

December 19, 2006 Tuesday

Edition 1

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 20

Length: 1049 words

Byline: By The Evening Chronicle

Body

Just in case Tony Blair, pictured, has not noticed, there is a democratically-elected *Hamas* government in Gaza.

Why, then, is he calling for fresh elections which were only held earlier this year?

The answer is simple, if anyone can read the thinking of our PM.

Like his best friend in the White House, he is trying to undermine anyone elected, or otherwise, who opposes the policy of getting servile governments installed in countries surrounding Israel.

In Lebanon recently hundreds of thousands of people marched through the streets in opposition to the policies of the government which went unnoticed by Tony and George.

Blair is scampering around the Middle East pretending to be a peace broker telling <u>Hamas</u> to accept Israel's existence while the leaders of this country are assassinating Palestinian leaders at will, again without any comment from the EU or the White House.

Tony Blair on his journey would be well advised to attempt to get the funds that were blocked to the <u>Hamas</u> authority that was not to the liking of George and the EU flowing again to pay its people's wages and stop meddling in the affairs of a democratic government.

LES MAY, Gateshead.

Rudeness at the CIU club

MY wife and I visited a CIU club in an area we had just moved into, and when we walked in we went to sit at a table. The people next to it said the seats ware taken because there were beer mats on the table.

So we tried another table and somebody said those seats were taken because there were coats on the back of the chairs and beer mats on the table. We asked how they could be taken if there is nobody sitting there.

They said: "Well, we put them there to reserve them". It is very funny when people go on holiday to Spain and see that the Germans put towels on the sunbeds so you can't use them.

Blair's call for elections is a ruse

Isn't this just doing exactly the same? So I think people who visit CIU clubs and complain about Germans on holiday and put beer mats and coats on the back of chairs should think twice about calling other people.

L H, Wallsend.

We must find this sick killer

IN light of the most brutal murders of the five <u>women</u> in Suffolk may I, through your pages, pass on my heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of these five young ladies who met their untimely deaths at the hands of an evil, sick monster.

Let's hope Suffolk Constabulary catch the culprit as soon as possible and this very sick individual is brought to justice so all **women** in Suffolk, and UK-wide, can once again walk the streets without any fear.

T G, Edinburgh

Smoking ban is too tame

I READ the comments of T C Blyth in the Chronicle and would like to say I think the Government is not going far enough with the proposal to stop people lighting up in certain enclosed spaces.

The ban should be a complete ban, except in their own or other people's houses. I know they will never completely outlaw this disgusting habit, because of the amount of tax gained from it, but that will be the best and only alternative.

PETER WILSON, Wallsend.

Legalise prostitution

IT is about time prostitution was made legal.

It has been legal in Japan for years. If <u>women</u> or men sell their bodies it should be registered. Whether you agree with it or not, it is still going on.

There should be full medical care and it should be treated like any other work. They should be liable for taxes and any other Government demands, the same as any other worker. They should have regular medical checks - then there might be fewer murders and other atrocities than there are now.

One way or another, the Government should sort this out. Like it or not, we are always going to have prostitution. We must try to make it safer for the sake of all concerned.

MAUREEN CURTIS, Dunston.

Suffering from fools

HOW long will we suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune inflicted on us by fools in authority, without the peasants revolting?

Locally, "experts" still go on about the Western Bypass bottleneck being solved by an extra lane, but anyone can see the cause is on leaving at the eastern end where the A1M needs priority. A new lane leading there would cause more chaos - but the dummies don't get it.

Nationally, how green is Gordon Brown, pictured?

Steeper taxes discouraging travel, encouraging saving energy?. We'll grumble and pay up, emissions unaffected just more cash for him to waste.

Blair's call for elections is a ruse

But he also wants new affordable housing built in the Greenbelt, accommodation for overpopulation, more roads defeating Nature's efforts to cope

Internationally. Blair apologises for "England's" part in the slave trade, though only a few English privateers profited, along with Corsairs, Arab slavers, and Africans selling defeated neighbours.

Slaves in all but name, most of our forebears toiled on or under the land, or in the new factories, or simply starved to death, their so-called freedom a myth created by trendy left-wing intellectuals.

Nothing changes. Sympathy for an event long past? Perhaps. But apology inappropriate.

DON HENDERSON, Holmside Avenue, Gateshead.

You've been so generous

I WOULD like to express my gratitude to the generous shoppers of Newcastle for donating an incredible £2,603.84 to Sue Ryder Care on Saturday November 17 2006.

Our volunteers braved the cold to collect for us and hundreds of people took a few minutes out from their Christmas shopping to give.

The money collected will help us help more people with life-limiting conditions such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, Huntingdon's disease and stroke. Sue Ryder Care gives people back the freedom, comfort, self-esteem and reassurance that these conditions take away. We provide care of the highest quality across the country in our hospices, neurological care centres and through community-based services.

The money raised in Newcastle is equivalent to the cost of 20 nurses' shifts. Sue Ryder Care nurses not only look after the immediate medical needs of our patients and residents but also go the extra mile to provide comfort to their relatives over the Christmas period. The hard work of Sue Ryder Care nurses will allow whole families to spend Christmas together.

Anybody who would like to know more about the charity's work should visit <u>www.suerydercare.org</u>. The support from the people of Newcastle is highly appreciated by everyone at Sue Ryder Care. Thank you!

MATT GUY, fundraiser, Sue Ryder Care

Load-Date: December 19, 2006



Guardian Weekly: The roundup

Guardian Weekly April 13, 2007 Friday

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*The*GuardianWeekly

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 704 words

Body

Americas

Official quits in judicial row

Monica Gooding, an adviser to Alberto Gonzales, the US attorney general, who is believed to have played a key role in the scandal over sacked prosecutors, has resigned, adding to pressure on Mr Gonzales to do the same.

Cheney defiant on al-Qaida link

Dick Cheney, the US vice-president, repeated in an interview his belief that there was a link between Saddam Hussein's Iraq and al-Qaida, although secret intelligence documents declassified after pressure from Congress show the opposite.

China joins pet food deaths probe

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is investigating claims by owners that thousands of dogs and cats have been poisoned by pet food. The FDA put the death toll at only 16, but said a toxin used in plastics and pesticides might have been added to the food to boost profits, and might have come from China. Beijing and the US Congress promised inquiries as pet food firms withdrew 60m cans.

Amazon swimmer claims record

A Slovenian endurance athlete, Martin Strel, 52, claimed a world record for distance swimming after covering the 5,265km from the Amazon's headwaters in Peru to Brazil's coast in 65 days, defying alligators, piranhas and toothpick fish.

Europe

Captain charged over liner sinking

The Greek captain of a cruise liner that sank off Santorini was charged in Naxos along with five other crew with negligence, breaching safety rules and polluting the environment. They face a maximum of five years in jail. Two French tourists among the 1,154 passengers remain missing.

Guardian Weekly: The roundup

Litvinenko's widow accuses Putin

The widow and friends of Alexander Litvinenko, the former KGB agent who died from radioactive poisoning, accused President Vladimir Putin and the Russian government of "state-sponsored terrorism" at the London launch of the Litvinenko Justice Foundation.

Joan of Arc relics branded fakes

French scientists said tests showed that relics discovered in 1867 and thought to be those of Joan of Arc are forgeries made from the remains of an Egyptian mummy.

Court approves female gondolier

A German woman, Alexandra Hai, became the first <u>female</u> and foreign gondolier after winning approval from a Milan court to ferry guests from three Venice hotels.

Asia/Pacific

Beijing to join carbon cut talks

China, the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, is to take part in negotiations to limit global warming after 2012, the Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

Run-off likely in East Timor poll

Preliminary results in East Timor's presidential election show the prime minister, Jose Ramos-Horta, with a narrow lead over seven rivals. But analysts say he is unlikely to win the majority needed to prevent a run-off.

Indonesian editor cleared

Judges in Jakarta threw out a high-profile case against the editor of Indonesian Playboy magazine, Erwin Arnada, who was accused of violating indecency laws. They said that images that had outraged hardline Islamists were not pornographic.

Billionare offers to clean up Bhopal

One of India's richest men, industrialist Ratan Tata, has been lobbying for the Indian government to drop a court case against Dow Chemical to pay for the world's worst chemical accident, in Bhopal in 1984, which killed thousands. But campaigners claim that Dow is using an "Indian front company to do its dirty work".

Africa

Zimbabwe strike fails

A two-day general strike called by Zimbabwean trade unions to press for higher wages amid hyper-inflation proved a failure after the government deployed thousands of troops and police in cities and townships.

Farmer jailed for killing worker

A South African farmer, Jewell Crossberg, was jailed for 20 years after being found guilty of shooting dead a Zimbabwean worker. The Pretoria court dismissed his claim that he fired the shots to scare off baboons.

Middle East

Hamas offers prisoner swap

<u>Hamas</u> has sent Israel a list of about 500 Palestinian prisoners it wants released in return for Israeli soldier Corporal Gilad Shalit, whom it has held since last June.

Guardian Weekly: The roundup

Taliban demand prisoner release

The Taliban will kill four Afghan medical personnel unless the government releases two Taliban commanders. The threat came after the militia beheaded Ajmal Naqshbandi, an Afghan translator seized last month.

Load-Date: April 23, 2007



2 women candidates: The likeness ends there; Politicus

The International Herald Tribune

December 5, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 1073 words **Byline:** John Vinocur

Dateline: PARIS

Body

Hillary and Segolene: On the evidence, not soul sisters. At best, cautiously connected in the business of getting elected.

But most likely in the end: An acknowledgment that this French-projected relationship Segolene Royal and Hillary Rodham Clinton, nominally <u>women</u> of the left, joining hands as presidential candidates and trans-Atlantic political kin represents not enough truth and too many liabilities to fly in America or look believable elsewhere.

For now, the French Socialist candidate's handlers have said a first encounter will probably occur in mid-December, the time when Royal's people have talked of going to the United States to attend a Democratic Party meeting.

No secrets about the motivation here. In French terms, after last week's sometimes grotesque, amateur-night debut in international politics in Lebanon, where Royal met with Hezbollah and later tried to rectify a stack of jarring statements and silences about America, the Middle East and Israel her plan to hang out with Democrats and their senator from New York has the comfy look of new status and acceptability.

This goes to one of Royal's problems. If she's running 50-50 in the polls against Nicolas Sarkozy, the rightist reformer, she trails him badly ahead of April's election in the categories of dealing with international crises, representing France abroad and authority.

Besides hoping that some of Clinton's reputation for competence and decisiveness rubs off, Royal would like to tie the role of George W. Bush's poodle around Sarkozy's neck. The sought-after contrast is between a Sarkozy allied with Bush they talked in Washington in September and a Royal cast as the pal of the America the French say they like.

There's a risk here for Segolene.

In seeking to pair up with Clinton, Royal gains ground on the obvious association of two <u>women</u> striving for leadership. But she faces trouble on more probing comparisons.

The reality is, whether Americans like or detest the idea of Hillary Clinton as a future president, it is more a matter of her politics than her status as a woman. But in France, the foundation of Royal's popularity is her being a woman: Polls show that's her single most appealing attribute.

2 women candidates: The likeness ends there Politicus

For Royal, this means that the tangible content of her campaign or its absence will be the biggest variable in determining her chances. While Clinton is widely regarded as a politician whose strength is based on substance and clear positions, Royal's success beyond gender has been largely linked to her appearance of modernity and talking about modernizing a country on the decline.

This is while determinedly steering clear of a specific, far-reaching plan for economic and social measures. Indeed, Segolene is stuck with her party's leftist electoral platform, denounced by the right as a blueprint from the 1970s.

Hillary, meanwhile, has cast herself as a centrist, convinced that the Democratic congressional election victory in November was one for the middle and that this is the only path to a Democratic presidency in 2008.

Here's a Clinton who has sponsored an anti-flag-burning constitutional amendment and now says the Democrats "are ready to roll up our sleeves and work with our Republican counterparts. Our country works best when we work from the vital, dynamic center."

And here's Royal who has summed up her view of outreach from the left by saying, "The capitalists have to be frightened. There's no alternative."

Royal's biggest problem for Clinton, and the place where comparisons with her become invidious, comes in the Frenchwoman's core statement about America's nature as an international political incorrigible.

Unlike her choice over the weekend in Beirut to back off from saying she shared "the analysis of the role of the United States" contained in a Hezbollah man's description of the "American administration's unlimited lunacy," Royal has never withdrawn a more official foreign policy declaration on America's incapacity for change.

"Make no mistake," she told an international group in October, "a less conservative government could succeed Bush and dialogue with the United States might be easier. But it's in the nature of a solitary power without a counterweight to make unilateral decisions and be tempted by the use of force."

Europe, Royal said, "is the single peaceful power capable of representing an alternative to American hyperpower."

Clinton can't avoid noting that hyperpower is an expression coined by a French Socialist during her husband's second term to describe Bill Clinton's United States as a problem whose control required the world's banding together in resistance.

And what of Royal's consulting with Hezbollah; or her expressed willingness to talk to <u>Hamas</u>, which demands Israel's destruction; or her initial silence in response to a Hezbollah official's description in her presence of the Israelis as Nazis, and his comparison of Hezbollah to the French resistance fighting the Nazis?

In fact, Clinton appears to have already drawn a political line.

In defending Israel's battles against Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> this summer, Clinton called these groups "the new totalitarians of the 21st century."

And Clinton pledged that "America will support Israel in her efforts to send a message to <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah, to the Syrians, to the Iranians to all who seek death and domination instead of life and reason that we will not permit this to happen and we will take whatever steps are necessary."

As for Royal in Beirut, she described her position there as one of a "facilitator."

When she was asked if that meant acting as a mediator between Hezbollah and the pro-Western Lebanese government now under Hezbollah's siege, she winged it again and replied, "Why not?"

That's difficult for Royal to explain away to Clinton, who identifies Iran as Hezbollah's key backer and key arms supplier, and who, in the incorrigible Yankee manner, makes it clear that a U.S. military option to deal with Tehran's nuclear ambitions should not come off the table.

2 women candidates: The likeness ends there Politicus

The thorough, painstaking senator, burned once in American public opinion by honoring a rant by Yasser Arafat's wife with a kiss, would be out of pre-presidential character in not checking visitors' affinities.

These days, after Royal's Middle East misadventure, that may well mean a Clinton greeting with a narrow smile at an arm's-length photo op.

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E-mail: pagetwo@iht.com

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Tomorrow: Roger Cohen on China, North Korea and the six-party talks.

Load-Date: December 5, 2006



Five killed after sewage floods village in Gaza

The Independent (London)

March 28, 2007 Wednesday

First Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 30

Length: 656 words

Byline: Donald Macintyre in Jerusalem

Body

Five people were killed in Gaza yesterday when overflowing sewage destroyed an earth embankment, flooding a village in the northern strip with mud and waste.

The collapse of the embankment left 25 people injured, and submerged about two dozen houses in water and effluent in `a disaster that UN officials said they had warned of as long ago as 2004.

A UN official in Gaza said that efforts to build a new waste treatment plant near the village of Umm Naser had been delayed in the past by the high security risks in the area, which is 300m from the border with Israel. The area has frequently seen Palestinians firing rockets and Israel responding with artillery fire.

Dr Muawiya Hassanin of the Palestinian Health Ministry said that two <u>women</u> in their 70s, two toddlers and a teenage girl had died in the sudden flood.

The head of the Palestinian Water Authority, Fadel Kawash, said the level of sewage in the pool had increased in the past four days, seeping up the embankments and "causing the sewage to pour into the village."

Ziad Abu Farya, the head of the Umm Naser council, described the scene in his village as "our tsunami".

A 2004 report by the UN's Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs pointed to the urgency of constructing a new treatment plant and added: "unless action is taken to address this problem, water in this effluent lake will spill out over the holding basins into residential areas, and directly into homes."

The report had also warned that the site was a heath risk as a source of mosquitoes and waterborne diseases. Stuart Shepard, an OCHA official in Gaza, said the waste spill has made those risks even higher. "It is an extremely serious situation," he said.

<u>Hamas</u> gunmen, along with rescue crews, rushed to the search for residents - many were initially thought to have been buried under the slide of mud and waste. As residents fled or were evacuated from the village, three children were seen leaving on a cart pulled by a donkey for the nearby town of Beit Lahiya.

Five killed after sewage floods village in Gaza

Residents reacted angrily to reporters and government officials who arrived at the scene. There were reports that bodyguards accompanying the new Palestinian Interior Minister, Hani Kawasmeh, who went to inspect the damage, had fired into the air to disperse the angry crowd.

Amina Afif, 65, whose small shack was destroyed, said: "We lost everything. Everything was covered by the flood. It's a disaster."

<u>Hamas</u> blamed international sanctions against the Palestinian Authority, but Mr Shepard said the construction project had not been affected by the boycott. He said that since the UN's 2004 report was published, international funding for a new plant had been secured but construction had not been able to go ahead because of the high security risks in the area.

Israel has offered to provide humanitarian assistance to the village.

Meanwhile, there were clashes last night between Palestinian youths and a group of Israeli right wing activists, who were holding a circumcision ceremony in the ruins of the northern West Bank settlement of Homesh. This settlement was evacuated under Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan in 2005.

Israeli media reports said that rocks had been thrown at Palestinian children by the activists, who want the settlement to be re-opened and that police had broken up the clashes.

Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister of Israel, has said the settlers will not be allowed to stay.

The Israeli government apologised yesterday for an incident in which the British deputy ambassador Janet Rogan was strip-searched behind a security screen on a visit to the prime minister's office, despite having presented her diplomatic identification.

A spokesman for the British embassy, which lodged an official complaint over the incident, said the apology had been accepted "and we now regard the incident as closed".

The prime minister's office has apparently instituted procedures to ensure that such incidents do not happen again.

Load-Date: March 28, 2007



Opinion: Moderate is a word that many claim and all too few deserve

The Observer (London)

November 26, 2006

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The Observer

Section: OBSERVER COMMENT PAGES; Pg. 13

Length: 220 words **Byline:** Jasper Gerard

Body

L ike a famous Belgian, a moderate Muslim is devilishly elusive. It has become the media's holy grail to discover a sort of SDP of Islamic fundamentalism. Every time we anoint some cove the 'voice of moderation', he turns out quietly to favour *female* genital mutilation or a spot of light bombing.

So it is back to the phone book for TV producers after this newspaper's fascinating revelation that BBC pin-up Asghar Bukhari (below) sent a donation to the Hitler-apologist David Irving. We mediaistas overuse the word 'shocking', but how else to describe Bukhari's anti-Jewish rant?

Sure, criticise Israel. I felt decidedly queasy reading interviews with British Jews serving in Israel's army in Gaza. They can return here as respected citizens, yet a Brit who fights for the Palestinians might be spirited away to a privatised, off-shore torture camp on behalf of MI6. There is a moral distinction between Israel's army and, say, *Hamas*, but it is not absolute.

So I hope you accept I am no Knesset propagandist. But to be so blinded by hatred of Israel is irrational. Should Bukhari and his Muslim Public Affairs Committee be grounded from BBC airspace?

Perhaps not. If - and it is an if - he represents a chunk of Muslim opinion, we should try to understand him. But, please, don't besmirch the word by billing him a 'moderate'.

Load-Date: November 27, 2006



Gaza under seige

UK Newsquest Regional Press - This is Lancashire

November 7, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: LETTERS Length: 242 words

Byline: Asian Image letters

Dateline: Asian Image

Body

In Gaza City, with other MEPs, I urged <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah deputies to recognise the 1967 borders of Israel and to curb the futile and indefensible firing of Qassam rockets.

It is scarcely surprising if my words fell on deaf ears.

Gaza is under siege. There is no access by air, sea or road. Trade has been brought to a halt. Factories have been bombed.

Tax revenue has been seized by Israel and paid employment has ceased to exist. Elected representatives and thousands of others have been kidnapped and imprisoned.

The Israeli Defence Force roams at will, killing 50 Palestinians in the last week alone. Anyone who resists the occupation is branded a terrorist', as well as the hundreds of **women** and children killed "in error".

Israel ignores UN resolutions and shows contempt for international law.

Those who, out of despair, have taken up arms against an occupying army can no more be considered terrorists' than Second World War resistance fighters in France or Norway.

We are told repeatedly that Israel has the right to defend itself, but how would Israelis respond if the positions were reversed?

They would surely fight back with every means at their disposal.

Continuing inaction by Britain and the EU condones Israel's behaviour. Strong condemnation must be backed by the use of selective sanctions. Many Israelis condemn their government's policies and seek peace and justice. Our object must be to strengthen their influence.

Chris Davies MEP

Load-Date: November 7, 2006



War over, but fight goes on

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 2, 2007 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 29

Length: 1829 words **Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin.

Body

The conflict was over not long after it began, but the Middle East is still paying a heavy price 40 years later, writes Ed O'Loughlin.

Some say the war that broke out in the Middle East 40 years ago had changed the entire region when it ended six days later.

Others say it never ended at all.

Looking back on the war and its 40-year aftermath, people on both sides can find cause for regret.

Akiva Eldar, an Israeli historian and commentator with the left-of-centre daily Ha'aretz, served in the war as a reservist with Israeli military intelligence. He is among those who think the Six-Day War continues.

"I think we are still in the seventh day of the war," he says. "We won the first six days of the war but we keep losing the seventh day, and it doesn't look like things are going to improve in the near future.

"For the first time since Israel's establishment we had a chance to win peace with the Arabs by trading the territories we took from Jordan and Syria and Egypt but we fell in love with the bargaining chip. Moshe Dayan [then Israeli's defence minister] used to say we are just waiting for a telephone call from the Arabs to talk peace, but the Arabs tried to call us a few times since then and we refused to take the call."

David Wilder is at the other end of Israel's political spectrum. A native of New Jersey, he is one of several hundred Jews who live under heavy military protection in the first and most extreme of all the Jewish settlements on the West Bank, carved out of the historic heart of the Palestinian city of Hebron. He, too, believes that Israel made a crucial error after the Six- Day War, although not the one cited by Eldar.

"The mistake the people of Israel made is to refuse to recognise that Eretz Israel [the claimed biblical land of Israel] is an integral part of the Jewish people and that Hebron and Jerusalem are no less a part of Eretz Israel than Tel Aviv and Haifa," Wilder says.

"The Arabs have a mentality that respects strength and despises weakness, and Israel has been exuding weakness for the past 20 or 30 years in that Israel refuses to recognise the fact that this is our land by right, and that makes

the Arabs continue their terrorism. The prime example is Gush Katif [settlements in Gaza abandoned by Israeli in 2005]. We gave them Gush Katif and the result is they are shooting rockets at us."

Of all the territories captured by Israel in the Six-Day War, only the Sinai Peninsula has been returned to its former owner, Egypt, thanks to the 1978 Camp David accords of the then US president Jimmy Carter.

On Israel's northern front Israeli troops and settlers still occupy the Golan Heights, seized from Syria on the fifth day of the war. Their conventional forces may no longer be engaged with each other but a state of phoney war still exists between Israel and Syria. Sometimes - last July, for instance - it erupts into proxy violence in neighbouring Lebanon.

In the West Bank and East Jerusalem tens of thousands of Israeli soldiers and paramilitary police are needed to control 2.5 million indigenous Palestinians and to protect the 450,000 Jewish settlers planted in their midst since the war.

To the south, the isolated Palestinian enclave of Gaza remains, in the eyes of the United Nations, under Israeli military occupation despite the withdrawal of about 7500 Jewish settlers in 2005.

Gaza's air space, sea access and border crossings are all under tight Israeli military control, its economy subject to a crippling Israeli embargo with the backing of the Western powers.

In the past two weeks alone Gaza militant groups have fired about 270 homemade rockets into Israel, killing two civilians, while Israeli shells and air strikes have killed at least 40 Palestinian militants and civilians.

The Six-Day War might have appeared to be a decisive victory for Israel but its outcome was never transformed into a workable political peace settlement. Within months of the war's end active hostilities had resumed with Egypt along the line of the Suez Canal.

The 1970s bought the Yom Kippur War, a new wave of international terrorist attacks by Palestinian resistance groups and the beginning of Israel's long and bloody entanglement in Lebanon. In 1987 the first Palestinian uprising broke out against Israeli military occupation, flaring again with redoubled violence on both sides in October 2000.

Only a few metres from Wilder's office in the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron is the home of Sheik Ayoub al-Awayweh, the 65-year-old leader of a Palestinian clan.

Last month two Israeli human rights groups reported that military curfews and attacks and harassment by settlers have driven out 40 per cent of the Palestinian households in the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron. Awayweh recalls with fondness the days when the kings of Jordan ruled.

"Under the Israelis we feel there is no respect for any kind of people: <u>women</u>, men, leaders and kids. Nobody. The Jordanians were better. There is no comparison. At least they are Arabs and they know how we feel and what we need."

He agrees to have his photograph taken in front of the Israeli checkpoint which separates his own part of Hebron, now almost a ghost town, from the bustling Palestinian-controlled part of the city.

"The most important thing for anybody is freedom, the freedom to move about your own country without difficulty," he says. "I live 62 metres from this checkpoint and every time I go through it they stop me and check my identity card. And I live exactly 62 metres from this checkpoint. They all know well who I am."

Dr Mustafa Barghouti, an independent politician and the founder of a medical charity, was recently appointed the information minister for the Palestinian Authority, the shadow government for a state that does not exist. He was 12 when the Israelis captured his home town of Ramallah in the West Bank.

"First we had occupation and then limitation of movements and then gradually we saw the Israelis begin to confiscate our lands for their settlements," he says.

"Then they confiscated more lands for the security of the settlements, and then they confiscated more land for roads. They now have effectively confiscated more than half of the occupied territories, and we can't go from one part of what's left to another ... I think the apartheid system we have here is much worse than the one they had in South Africa because the victims are being blamed for it, not the ones who have the power."

On the other side of the ethnic divide Dr Yuval Steinitz, a philosopher and MP for the hardline Likud Party, has few regrets about the war or its aftermath. He believes it was the making of modern Israel.

"On the eve of the Six-Day War Israel was a poor country with only 2 million Jews threatened by the standing armies of other countries, not just by terrorists," he says.

"We still have many troubles and we are facing terrorism and other threats but today it is a much stronger and wealthier country ... Sinai is demilitarised. There is no Syrian artillery on the Golan Heights. Jerusalem isn't divided and there are no Jordanian snipers in East Jerusalem. Our relations with the US, Russian, China - all the major powers - are better than they used to be in the late 1960s and we have peace treaties with two important Arab countries, Jordan and Egypt."

He is less sanguine, however, about relations with the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories.

"I don't see any way forward. I used to be a Peace Now activist in the 1980s, but I moved to the Likud because I understood with sorrow and regret that the goal of the Palestinians is not the establishment of a Palestinian state but the destruction of the Jewish state. For some people its more important to destroy the other side than to build for themselves."

Taysir Jamal, 33, is even less cheerful about the future. A Fatah member and officer of the Palestinian Authority's presidential guard, he says he is on a death list drawn up by the rival <u>Hamas</u> movement.

Two weeks ago his fellow Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade commander, Baha Abu Jarad, 32, was gunned down in the street outside the north Gaza residence where both had taken refuge, one of dozens of victims of a simmering *Hamas*-Fatah feud.

This week Jamal seemed almost wistful as he showed off his prestigious Russian-made Kalashnikov and a bag of new factory-made rocket-propelled grenades.

"The situation has completely changed since the Six-Day War," he says. "Now there is a Kalashnikov in every home, resistance groups everywhere, shooting all the time. Before 1967 if the Egyptians [then controlling Gaza] caught you with even one bullet you could be executed for it.

"Before 1967 all the Palestinians were united but now you have secular groups, religious groups, centrists, extremists, <u>Hamas</u>, PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], Islamic Jihad, Fatah. There's chaos everywhere."

Yakov Attias is also nostalgic about a period he is too young to remember. Born in 1966 to Moroccan immigrant parents, he was raised the hard way in the Jewish half of Jerusalem's Mosrara neighbourhood, divided by the 1948 armistice line. Today he runs a family car park on what is still marked on United Nations maps as "no man's land".

"Growing up I had a million Arab friends from the Old City but I wouldn't even walk there now," he says.

"People got greedy. They forgot the basic stuff - respect between people. I lived in South Africa for years and I see some things that they did to the blacks there that the Israelis are doing to the Palestinians."

He thinks Israel wasted several chances to negotiate peace with the Palestinians before the Islamic hardline <u>Hamas</u> movement won Palestinian Authority elections last year. He now thinks it's too late. And Israel might be richer on paper, he says, but it has become a less pleasant, less egalitarian and more divided country.

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"For me it's sad. Fifteen or 20 years ago we were one of the best countries in the world to live in but now it's not so good," he says. "The settlers took all the young soldiers to guard their houses and they got all the money from the state for their settlements. After the murder of [prime minister Yitzhak] Rabin it turned people in Israel against each other."

A hundred kilometres and a universe away from Jerusalem Mona Hamed, a 45-year-old social worker, was out shopping in Gaza City on Wednesday to feed her husband and eight children. Like many Palestinian state employees she has gone for months with little or no pay as a result of the international boycott of the <u>Hamas</u>-led Government.

"Things are much worse than they were before 1967," she says. "I don't mean those days were good, but now it's worse. Then there were still rules for war, but now the Israelis will bomb anything. Then there was no internal conflict but now there is a civil war. People don't like each other like they used to.

"They are always angry with each other and because the world is boycotting us the financial situation is very bad. It's like our lives have come to a halt."

Graphic

PHOTO: No return ... refugees flee to Jordan over the wreck of the Allenby Bridge after Israel moved into the West Bank in 1967. Photo: AP

Load-Date: July 16, 2007



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Graphic

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Load-Date: July 17, 2007



U.N. Official Touring Israel Is Near Area Hit by Rocket

The New York Times

November 22, 2006 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 723 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Nov. 21

Body

The United Nations' top human rights official, Louise Arbour, visited a southern Israeli town on the front lines of the conflict with the Palestinians on Tuesday, and received a firsthand taste of the turmoil.

During her stop in Sderot, a town frequently hit by Palestinian rockets from the Gaza Strip, a rocket crashed about half a mile from her convoy, slamming into a factory and critically wounding an Israeli man, Yaakov Yaakobov, who died of his injuries on Tuesday night.

Ms. Arbour traveled to the scene, where angry Israeli workers hurled stones and insults at her and her convoy, accusing her organization of favoring the Palestinians. Ms. Arbour left for another part of town, and met with residents who told her about living with persistent rocket fire.

"Israel has a responsibility to defend its citizens, but has to do so only by legal means," Ms. Arbour, the commissioner for human rights, told reporters. "It has to do so in line with international law."

A day earlier, Ms. Arbour visited the Palestinian town of Beit Hanun, which was hit hard during an Israeli military incursion this month directed against Palestinian rockets. The Israeli operation left dozens dead, including civilians. Nineteen family members in a compound were killed by Israeli artillery on Nov. 8.

Ms. Arbour said she had met with Palestinian <u>women</u> and children who felt "terribly exposed, terribly vulnerable, extremely afraid, very abandoned -- and I have a sense there is the same thing here" in Sderot.

Similarly, Ibrahim Gambari, the United Nations undersecretary general for political affairs, said Tuesday that Palestinian rocket fire on Sderot was "legally and morally wrong," Reuters reported. But he also said that Israel "should act prudently and proportionally in defending its citizens, so as to avoid civilian casualties."

In an attack that appeared linked to internal Palestinian feuding, a former cabinet minister from the Fatah faction, Abdel Aziz Shahin, was shot in the buttocks on Tuesday after a radio appearance criticizing <u>Hamas</u>, the radical Islamic faction that leads the government. His injuries were not serious, according to hospital officials in Gaza City.

In the hours before Ms. Arbour visited Sderot, the Israeli military carried out a predawn raid in Gaza City, killing a wanted *Hamas* militant and two other Palestinians, Palestinian medical workers said.

U.N. Official Touring Israel Is Near Area Hit by Rocket

The Israeli forces, which included armored vehicles, surrounded the house of the militant, Ayman Hassanin, 26. Using loudspeakers, soldiers demanded that he surrender, but Palestinian gunmen converged on the area and heavy shooting began.

Mr. Hassanin was killed, along with another young man and a 70-year-old woman, according to the Palestinian medical workers.

Israeli forces were also operating in two places in the northern Gaza Strip, trying to suppress rocket fire. An Israeli airstrike in Beit Hanun wounded more than 10 Palestinians, medical workers said.

Despite the Israeli presence, the Palestinians still managed to launch five rockets on Tuesday, the Israeli military said.

Also in Gaza, two Italians working for the International Committee of the Red Cross were seized from their vehicle on Tuesday by Palestinians in the southern town of Khan Yunis, according to Palestinian security officials. [The two were released shortly after midnight on Wednesday, The Associated Press reported.] No group claimed responsibility.

Also on Tuesday, 51 immigrants from India known as the Bnei Menashe, who claim descent from a biblical "lost tribe," were warmly welcomed as they arrived in Israel on Tuesday.

The Bnei Menashe have been emigrating from the remote Mizoram region of northeastern India since the 1990s, and they now number about 1,000 in Israel. The Bnei Menashe say they are descendants of one of the tribes of ancient Israel, who the Bible says were dispersed by the Assyrians more than 2,700 years ago.

However, Israeli religious authorities had questioned the Jewish heritage of the Bnei Menashe, and the Interior Ministry halted their immigration in summer 2003.

The authorities now accept them as Jewish, and another 150 are expected to land next week, with some 7,000 more in India seeking to live in Israel, said Michael Freund, chairman of Shavei Israel, a group working to bring the Bnei Menashe here.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: November 22, 2006



Militants Seize, Then Release, U.S. Teacher In West Bank

The New York Times

October 12, 2006 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 10

Length: 650 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Oct. 11

Body

Palestinian militants in the West Bank released a 24-year-old American teacher on Wednesday night, hours after he was reported missing by his organization, his colleagues said.

The teacher, Michael Phillips, who had been living in Nablus and giving English lessons to Palestinian children for three months, failed to show up for a midday class on Wednesday. That prompted a search by the Palestinian security forces and his colleagues at Project Hope, a private education group that assists Palestinians.

Late Wednesday night, Mr. Phillips was freed unharmed, said Samah Atout, a founder of Project Hope. "He's fine, and he says he wants to stay right here in Nablus," Ms. Atout said.

During the time he was missing, a group calling itself Ansar al-Sunna said it had kidnapped him, and it sent a copy of his passport and a student identification card to Reuters. A group by that name operates in Iraq, but it is unknown whether the groups are connected.

A masked man who said he was from Ansar al-Sunna told reporters that the group's demands were the immediate release of all Palestinian <u>women</u> and children in Israeli prisons. He also said Mr. Phillips had been seized to "confront the American war on Islam."

But Ms. Atout said that "no one in the city has heard of this group."

"I think it may just be a few individuals who are trying to get attention," she said.

Palestinian militants have seized about two dozen Westerners in the Gaza Strip in recent years, but kidnappings in the West Bank are rare.

Mr. Phillips, who is from the Los Angeles area, has taught mostly children ages 7 to 12, though he has also taught some adults, Ms. Atout said.

Also in Nablus, Israeli troops shot and killed a militant, Abdullah Mansour, during a predawn raid, the military and Palestinian officials said.

Militants Seize, Then Release, U.S. Teacher In West Bank

Elsewhere, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian wearing a bomb belt who had breached Gaza's perimeter fence. He was killed shortly after he reached the Israeli side of the fence, the military said.

In another incident in Gaza, the Israeli Air Force bombed the house of a Palestinian legislator, Mariam Farhat, shortly after calling the home and telling the occupants to leave. No one was injured. The military said the house was being used to manufacture and store weapons.

Ms. Farhat, who is a member of the militant faction <u>Hamas</u>, gained notoriety in 2002 when she made a video with her 17-year-old son, Muhammad, and encouraged him to attack Israel. A short time later, he took part in a shooting that left five Israelis and himself dead. The video was released after the shooting.

Since then, two more of Ms. Farhat's six sons have been killed in clashes with Israel. Ms. Farhat, who is known as "mother of the martyrs," was elected to the Palestinian parliament in the January elections that brought <u>Hamas</u> to power.

[Early Thursday, Israeli forces killed three Palestinian gunmen and a bystander during a raid in the Gaza Strip, Reuters reported, quoting witnesses and medics. They said troops backed by helicopter gunships had entered Abassan village in the dark, touching off clashes. There was no word on the affiliations of the dead gunmen. The slain bystander was a 14-year-old boy, medics said.

[The Israeli Army confirmed its forces were in the area, looking for facilities used by militants. The troops fired on gunmen who had tried to attack them, an army spokesman said.]

Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet dissident who has served in the Israeli Parliament and held a number of cabinet posts, plans to quit the legislature and retire from politics, aides said Wednesday. His right-wing Likud Party lost in parliamentary elections in March and is now in the opposition.

Mr. Sharansky, 58, served nine years in a Soviet labor camp before he was allowed to emigrate to Israel in 1986. He became the leader of an immigrants' party, which eventually merged with Likud.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Michael Phillips, an American teacher in the West Bank, after his release by militants yesterday. (Photo by Alaa Badarneh/European Pressphoto Agency)

Load-Date: October 12, 2006



In short

The Irish Times

September 1, 2007 Saturday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

Length: 299 words

Body

Today's other stories in brief

Stone-throw boys guilty of killing father

LONDON - Five boys who threw stones at a father as he played cricket with his teenage son have been found guilty of killing him.

Ernest Norton (67) died from a heart attack after being hit by the stones at a leisure centre in Erith, Kent in February last year.

He was struck on the head by a missile following an argument with the youths, one of whom was as young as 10 at the time. The youths, now aged between 12 and 14, were all found guilty of manslaughter. - (Reuters)

Students charged over explosives

MIAMI - Two Egyptian students studying engineering in Florida have been charged with transporting explosive materials across US state lines without permits.

Ahmed Abdellatif Sherif Mohamed and Youssef Samir Megahed were arrested on August 4th after being stopped for speeding in Goose Creek, South Carolina, a few miles from a US naval weapons station.

- (Reuters)

Eight injured in Fatah protest

GAZA - At least eight people, including two foreign journalists, were hurt in Gaza when thousands of men from the Fatah movement used open-air Friday prayers to protest against the <u>Hamas</u> Islamist takeover of the Palestinian enclave.

- (Reuters)

Mugabe bans wage increases

HARARE - President Robert Mugabe yesterday imposed a new law on Zimbabwean businesses banning them from raising wages to keep pace with the world's highest inflation.

In short

The move is the latest in a government crackdown aimed at taming prices which have soared, given inflation running at more than 7,000 per cent.

- (Reuters)

Two arrested over triple murder

HERTFORDSHIRE - Detectives have arrested two men over a triple murder at a house in Bishop's Stortford, a police spokeswoman said . Two *women* were also badly injured in the attack.

- (Reuters)

Load-Date: September 1, 2007



Ticking Time Bomb

New York Sun (Archive) September 14, 2007 Friday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 11

Length: 741 words

Byline: DIANA FURCHTGOTT-ROTH

Body

President Bush's speech last night and General Petraeus's testimony this week coincided with the publication of "The Iranian Time Bomb: The Mullah Zealots' Quest for Destruction," by American Enterprise Institute scholar Michael Ledeen.

The book could not have been better timed. Even as we are succeeding in Iraq, Iran is working against us, and we will not achieve peace in the region if we ignore its threat.

Since 1979 Iran has changed from a society where <u>women</u> could attend university and have careers, to one where they are second-class citizens and have been sold as slaves and punished by stoning. Iran's rulers routinely torture political dissidents, with numerous examples documented in the book.

Not only does Iran treat its own people with cruelty, but it is funding insurgents in neighboring Iraq, and it has openly called for the destruction of America and its allies.

The takeover of the American embassy in Teheran in November of 1979 was followed by Iranian-funded Hezbollah's bombing of the American embassy in Beirut in April 1983, its attack on the U.S. Marine barracks in October 1983, and numerous other acts of war, all ignored by America.

And Iran is one of the main funders of <u>Hamas</u>. Hudson Senior Fellow Meyrav Wurmser has estimated that with <u>Hamas</u> now in power, Iran has increased its annual contribution to \$250 million from \$20 million a year, exclusive of weapons and military training.

Why aren't we in America doing more to stop Iran terrorizing its citizens and waging war against us?

Mr. Ledeen suggests encouraging the highly educated Iranian opposition to defeat the current regime and set up a democratically elected government. He estimates that approximately 70% of Iranians would like a change of government, compared to a small percent of Russians in the heyday of the Soviet Union. If the Soviet Union could be defeated, why not President Ahmadinejad?

As a nation, we can do little to cripple the Iranian economy. Trade with Iran has been trivial. Since 2000, we have imported only \$150 million to \$200 million worth of Iranian goods. We import more from China in 8 hours than we import from Iran in an entire year.

Ticking Time Bomb

But there is much political pressure that could be generated against Iran by America and its allies. Specifically, protests could help reveal to the American public how morally corrupt the Iranian government has become. The Iranian leaders would be harmed politically, and the Iranian opposition would be strengthened and encouraged.

Unions could follow the example of the AFL-CIO, which is trying to free imprisoned Iranian union leaders, Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which is divesting its pension funds of

companies that do business with Iran.

According to the general president of Teamsters, James Hoffa, "I believe that divestiture of investments in companies that do business with Iran can help bring peaceful change to that nation ... I also believe that divestiture of investments in companies linked to Iran is the patriotic thing to do as well as a wise investment strategy."

University students in the 1960s and 1970s organized divestiture movements, boycotts, and other programs that effectively persuaded many businesses that doing business in South Africa could be unprofitable in other parts of the world, and apartheid eventually ended. The same might be done for Iran.

Feminists criticize American employers for allegedly paying <u>women</u> only 78% of men's wages, and for not promoting more <u>women</u> to the corner office. Yet when their Iranian sisters are forced to wear veils, sold into slavery, and stoned on mere suspicion of adultery, they say nothing.

Why weren't feminists up in arms about Iran's imprisonment of the American professor, Haleh Esfandiari, on trumpedup charges of spying? Mrs. Esfandiari returned to America last week - no thanks to the American Association of University <u>Women</u> or the National Organization for <u>Women</u>.

As we hear about developments in Iraq, we need to remember that Iran should be at the top of America's list of demon governments for constant attempts at destabilization. It funds insurgents that kill our troops in Iraq. It threatens to destroy America and America's friends around the world and develops nuclear weapons to back up its threats. After almost three decades of closing our eyes to Iranian horrors, it's time to change course.

Ms. Furchtgott-Roth is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute.

Load-Date: September 14, 2007



Stranded Palestinians start hunger strike

The Gazette (Montreal)
July 7, 2007 Saturday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A22

Length: 287 words

Byline: AFP

Dateline: EL-ARISH, Egypt

Body

Around 100 Palestinians stuck in Egypt for nearly three weeks have gone on a hunger strike to pressure the authorities to open the Rafah frontier post so they can return to the Gaza Strip.

An AFP correspondent said the Palestinians included <u>women</u> and children who were caught when the border was closed after *Hamas* fighters ousted Fatah militants from Gaza in a violent takeover on June 15.

"We have gone on hunger strike to get the Rafah terminal opened and to protest against the makeshift nature of our accommodation," their spokesman, who asked to be known only by his first name, Mohammed, said.

As residents of the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians can enter Egypt without a visa to travel elsewhere. They are not, however, allowed to move around freely and are transferred by bus to or from the Rafah terminal to Cairo airport.

"This makes 20 days that we have been piled up in a miniscule room at El-Arish airport (near Rafah) where we are sleeping on the ground," Mohammed said late Thursday.

The group includes some Palestinians who were wounded in the intifada, or uprising, against Israel and who have been overseas for medical treatment.

Mohammed said a humanitarian organization had been providing the Palestinians with one meal each day.

"Today, we refused the food and started a hunger strike. It will go on until death or until we are authorized to go home," Mohammed said.

Israeli troops withdraw from Gaza: Israeli troops withdrew from the Gaza Strip overnight after an operation in which they killed 11 Palestinian fighters during heavy fighting, sources on both sides said yesterday. An Israeli army spokesman said the incursion in central Gaza around the Mughazi refugee camp had ended and troops were back in Israel.

Load-Date: July 7, 2007



News Summary

The New York Times
September 20, 2007 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 759 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-13

Democrats Fall Short

In Iraq War Proposal

A proposal that Democrats put forward as their best chance for changing the course of the Iraq war died on the Senate floor, as Republicans stood firmly behind President Bush. A1

The shooting by private security guards in Baghdad on Sunday that left at least eight Iraqis dead revealed gaps in the laws applying to such contractors. A1

Iraq raised fresh criticisms of the security contractor Blackwater USA, with Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki saying his government had registered seven cases in which the company's guards killed Iraqis. A6

Bomb Kills Lebanese Official

A powerful car bomb in a Christian neighborhood just east of Beirut killed a prominent Christian lawmaker from the governing coalition and six others, in the latest bombing to rock Lebanon's teetering political order as the country prepares to select a new president. A3

Egypt Fights Genital Cutting

<u>Female</u> circumcision, as advocates call it, or genital mutilation, as critics refer to it, has become a focus of ferocious debate in Egypt this summer, as a nationwide campaign to stop the practice has become one of the most powerful social movements in decades. A1

Israel Pressures *Hamas*

Hours before Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice landed in Jerusalem for talks on resolving the Middle East conflict, Israel ratcheted up the pressure on *Hamas* by declaring Gaza "hostile territory." A12

NATIONALA14-21

Detainees' Right to Appeal

News Summary

Is Blocked by G.O.P.

Senate Republicans blocked an effort to give terrorism detainees the right to appeal their detention to federal courts, rejecting complaints that a new law denying that option ran against the nation's principles. A18

NATO Proposal by Giuliani

Rudolph W. Giuliani, making an unusual campaign swing outside the United Sates, said in London that he would like to see a broad expansion of the NATO alliance, including extending an invitation to Israel. He also raised the prospect of using military force to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons. A21

Fewer Silver Anniversaries

More than half the Americans who might have celebrated their 25th wedding anniversaries since 2000 were divorced, separated or widowed before reaching that milestone, according to the latest census survey. A14

Immigrant Bill is Revived

A bill to offer legal status to illegal immigrant students who have graduated from high school was revived this week in the Senate. It was the first new effort to advance a piece of broad immigration legislation that had failed in June. A18

SCIENCE/HEALTH

House Passes New Drug Law

The House overwhelmingly passed legislation that is expected to give federal drug regulators significantly more money and power to ensure the safety of the nation's drug supply. A18

NEW YORK/REGIONB1-7

Vendor Picked to Wire

Subway for Cellphones

All 277 underground stations in the New York City subway system will be wired for cellphone use in a deal announced by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The cellphone network will be introduced in six downtown Manhattan stations in two years, officials said. B1

Audit on School Violence

A sampling of large New York City high schools showed that they failed to notify the state about a significant amount of disruptive incidents in the 2004-05 school year, according to an audit by the city comptroller. B1

BUSINESS DAYC1-14

Free Downloads at NBC

NBC Universal announced plans to make make episodes of popular television programs available for free download. A1

Lawyer Faces Indictment

Melvin L. Weiss, a top class-action securities lawyer whose firm, Milberg Weiss, is under investigation for a kickback scheme, is expected to be indicted. C1

Sallie Mae Deal in Peril

News Summary

Investors who agreed to buy the student lender Sallie Mae for \$25 billion are preparing to back out of the deal if they cannot negotiate the acquisition price. C1

U.A.W. Sets Aside Trust

General Motors and the United Automobile Workers have set aside discussions of a landmark health care trust because they could not agree on how much G.M. would invest.C2

Business DigestC2

OBITUARIESB8

Laurel Burch

As a 20-year-old single mother, she found metal in junkyards to hammer into jewelry to support her two children, she was 61. B8

EDITORIALA22-23

Editorials: A shield for the public; pass the dream act; the G.O.P.'s candidate-free debate; Francis X. Clines on the empty shelves at the Food Bank for New York City.

Columns: Gail Collins and Roger Cohen.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: September 21, 2007



Israel kills 4 Palestinians

The Star (South Africa)

August 14, 2007 Tuesday

e4 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 710 words

Body

Gaza - Israeli ground forces killed four Palestinians today when they clashed with militants during a raid on the <u>Hamas</u>-controlled Gaza Strip, the Islamist group and hospital officials said. At least 12 Palestinians were wounded in the fighting. An Israeli army spokesperson said the operation was to try to find a suspected militant tunnel network and to prevent cross-border Palestinian rocket fire.

Denpasar - Indonesian prosecutors sought today a 14-month jail sentence for the brother of British celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay in a trial over heroin possession on the island of Bali. Ronald Ramsay (38) was arrested in February after entering a supermarket in Bali's main tourist strip of Kuta. Police said they seized 100mg of heroin from him. Ramsay did not make any comment in court.

Oslo - Norway's 35-year-old Princess Martha Louise, fourth in line to the throne, has come under intense media scrutiny for her involvement in the "angel school", that aims to teach people how to get in touch with angels. Observers question whether her work can be combined with official duties. A leading newspaper has called on her to renounce her title.

Seoul - South Korea's president will travel by land to this month's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong II in Pyongyang, local media reported. It is the first time a South Korean official will travel to the North's capital via restored links across the border dividing the peninsula. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and North Korea's Kim are to meet from August 28 to 30 in Pyongyang.

Seoul - Severe floods caused by days of heavy rains in North Korea have left at least 200 people dead or missing and will hamper the country's ability to feed itself for at least a year, an international aid group operating in the country said today. North Korean officials told the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies that 200 people were dead or missing across the country.

Taipei - A Taiwanese court today cleared the main opposition's presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou of corruption charges after a high-profile trial, a verdict expected to boost his chances in the race. While the ruling party cried foul, citing political interference, Ma, who chaired the nationalist Kuomintang party (KMT) until he resigned following his indictment, hailed what he called a "milestone ruling".

Washington - Democrats celebrated the resignation of master White House strategist Karl Rove, while a leading US daily excoriated President George W Bush's trusted adviser as a practitioner of politics as "blood sport". The New York Times urged lawmakers to pursue its probe into Rove's role in the firings of several federal prosecutors and other efforts to politicise government.

Israel kills 4 Palestinians

Jerusalem - Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu ran for re-election as head of the rightist Likud Party today, with pundits predicting an easy win for a man seen as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's main challenger. Expremier Netanyahu has soared in opinion polls since last year's inconclusive war against Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas and the rise of Palestinian Islamist group <u>Hamas</u>.

Baghdad - Gunmen early today slaughtered the pregnant wife of a police officer, his brother and 12-year-old son, while three <u>women</u> and a man were shot dead in their sleep. Police Major Akil Radi Edan from the Iraqi town of Suweira, 50km south of Baghdad, said his two other sons were wounded when armed men swarmed into his house and blazed away at those inside.

Sydney - An Australian cowboy claims he climbed a tree to escape two crocodiles in an outback swamp - and stayed up there for six nights. David George (53) said he was dazed after falling from his horse. When he regained his senses, he was in the middle of the swamp. A rescue operation began after his horse wandered home and he was spotted by an army helicopter crew on August 8.

Ankara - Turkey's presidential hopeful Abdullah Gul will visit opposition leaders today to drum up support for his bid to be elected head of state, but faces hostility from secularists wary of his Islamist past. The Islamist-rooted AK Party decided late yesterday to renominate Gul, Turkey's foreign minister, despite opposition from the country's powerful secular elite, including army generals.

Load-Date: August 14, 2007



McCain camp apologizes for anti-LDS remarks

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

June 23, 2007 Saturday

Copyright 2007 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 288 words

Body

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) -- John McCain's presidential campaign has apologized to Republican rival Mitt Romney for comments about the LDS Church allegedly made by a volunteer earlier this year.

The incident dates to a meeting of Iowa Republican activists in April, where McCain's Warren County chairman, Chad Workman, is alleged to have made negative comments about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) and the LDS faith. Romney is LDS.

A participant at the meeting said Workman questioned whether Latter-day Saints were Christians, and he referenced an article alleging that the LDS Church supports the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u>. The participant talked to The Associated Press on Friday on condition of anonymity because he is involved in Iowa politics and wanted to protect his identity.

In response to a question on whether LDS <u>women</u> were more likely to be stay-at-home mothers, the participant said Workman associated the treatment of LDS **women** with the Taliban.

Workman didn't return a call Friday afternoon.

McCain spokesman Danny Diaz said, "we apologize for any comment made concerning Governor Romney's religion. ... Such comments are inappropriate and unacceptable."

Romney's Iowa campaign manager Gentry Collins said the campaign has accepted the apology from McCain's campaign, and "it's our expectation that he'll make sure that these kinds of things don't happen again."

"It's our view that attacks of religious bigotry have no place in politics today," he said.

The apology comes just days after Republican presidential hopeful Sam Brownback issued a similar one for a campaign staffer's e-mail to Iowa Republican leaders that was an apparent attempt to draw unfavorable scrutiny to Romney's faith.

Load-Date: June 23, 2007



Young people's music? I'd rather field-strip an AK47

The Australian (Australia)

August 29, 2007 Wednesday

All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 13

Length: 632 words

Byline: STEPHEN MATCHETT

Body

THE WRY SIDE

IN what is a tragedy for music lovers, the Spice Girls have reformed for a world tour. Yes, Posh Spice, Baby Spice, Old Spice and Paris Spice are back in the bravado business. Can they carry a tune? Not in a bucket. Are they among the great balladeers of 20th-century culture? Sure they are, just like the Monkees. Are they credible role models for young <u>women?</u> Definitely, until a real-life Powerpuff Girls group starts up.

But what the Spice sisters do have is the two things that assure success in modern music: they are no longer in the first bloom of youth and will not frighten anybody with anything unexpected.

That's the thing about modern music, it is sometimes one thing, sometimes another, but rarely both.

Have a listen to the radio stations enjoyed by cool youth, the sort of people who look as if they live on lentils in inner-city squats but in fact are still at home and eat vegetables only if cooked by their mums.

What their broadcasters of choice play sometimes sounds like a <u>Hamas</u> instructor explaining how to clean an AK47, accompanied by people banging drums that sound too loud even to them. And they are deaf.

The rest of the playlist resembles the sort of screeching that radio telescopes pick up from distant galaxies. It may be music, Jim, but not as we know it.

Then there are the tracks that most people listen to on radio stations that rely on CD sets advertised on late-night TV, "Favourite soft rock of the '70s", "Rocking hard classics of the '80s", as well as the endless supply of songs by bands that did not die before they got old and new groups that reference their work (imitate is such an ugly word).

Of course there are other stations that play classical music and even odder ones that play some genre called jazz, but the audience for the first selection is smaller than a sampling error, which is huge compared with the numbers who listen to the second.

But the only way to call most of what gets played on the radio modern is to compare it with the age of the Earth.

Most popular music styles have not changed since the days when polyester was popular and digital described what you did with your fingers to keep time to a groovy beat, man. The people who listen to this sort of stuff will not necessarily welcome the Spice persons back because they never noticed they went away.

Why should they? Have a look at what is top of the pops.

Last week there were suggestions the Rolling Stones might make this tour their last. Hard to imagine why, given there must be people somewhere on the planet who have not heard all about Jumping Jack Flash, who must be hobbling by now given that Sir Mick Jagger (Knight Commander of the Order of Arthritis) is in his mid-60s.

And Bob Dylan has been touring Australia, again. You have to wonder how many miles a man must walk down if you have not got to the place where you can call him a man after 40years.

But the best example of the way everything has stayed the same is the old Sunday night ABC music show Countdown, which 33 years after it started still hasn't blasted off.

Last year Countdown's B-team of bands appeared in concerts across Australia. The tour was such a hit that it's on again, this time with groups that are as old as they are obscure. Of course nobody at the Countdown concerts need notice that the songs are as senescent as the singers.

As the audience and performers have grown old together, nobody will see how old they all are, at least with the lights low and the smoke machine going flat out.

Same for the songs, because how can music that is still on the radio be out of date?

But if you think this is depressing, consider the future when the "hits and memories" stations replace Old Spice and her pals for the *Hamas* weapons drills. It will be enough to drive you to drink. Or jazz.

Load-Date: August 28, 2007