

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:28:00AM EEST

Job Number: 223498528

Documents (100)

1. Iraq theocracy not democratic

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

2. 'Cedar' revolutionaries want more reform for Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

3. YOUR LOCAL MP Brendan Nelson Our youth do us proud

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

4. A Revolutionary Channels His Inner Michael Moore

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

5. Beirut firebrand takes up Saddam's banner Scourge of Shiites is defended by one

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

6. For a Shiite, Defending Hussein is a Labor of Love

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

7. Night of Death and Terror for Lebanese Villagers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

8. Assumptions take their lumps as West meets Middle East

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

9. Warm and Fuzzy TV, Brought to You by Hamas

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

10. I dodged bombs with my 3 babes Triplets slept as it rained missiles

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

11. YOU MUST SAVE MY HUSBAND MR BLAIR Or there will be blood on your hands, says the wife of hate

preacher trapped in Beirut

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

12. Wedding day amid bombs of Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

13. Another Complaint From Cair Is Thrown Out of Court

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

14. Student documentary shown at Tufts U. gauges Lebanese uncertainty

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

15. Crowd demands justice for Rafik Hariri: Removal of Syrian -backed president urged

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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16. Democracy's challenge

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

17. Syrian shadow fades, but still darkens Lebanon: Influences politics; Christian-Druze alliance is untested

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

18. Power shifting in Middle East

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

19. 'Our Peace Strategy Has Failed'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

20. Middle East crisis: Cyprus: Lebanese who fled as youngsters forced to flee again with own children

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006



21. Violent reaction to cartoons of Muhammad

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

22. Global Warning

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

23. The roundup

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

24. Is political Islam on the march?

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

25. Israeli hostage dilemma: negotiate with Hamas?

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

26. Iraqi Leader's Needs vs. President's Policy



Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

27. Cold War No. 2

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

28. Agony of waiting ends for former Socceroo

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

29. Blair calls for a global terror war

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

30. Families arrive in Phila. from war-torn Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

31. A 'making-of' documentary that will make your night 'Jump into the air force clobber and hit the deck

grinning.'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

32. Last-minute rush for Canadian evacuation effort in Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

33. Blogosphere abuzz with tales of Rapture, end of the world

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

34. Citizens party as Lebanese voters break with Syria: Opposition candidates take all 28 northern seats

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

35. Lebanon escape relief as first Britons sail to safety I want to go home, says mother

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

36. The West's fear of Islamism backfires; Mideast democracy

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

37. Donaldson murder: IRA informer has been silenced but his death raises questions for Sinn Fein's

leadership: The thorn in the republicans' side

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

38. Terror boss pushes for civil war: Al-Zargawi calls on Sunnis to fight back against Shia 'snakes'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

39. 3 Palestinians accused of smuggling explosives

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

40. Nats in search of a way ahead

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

41. 3 Palestinians accused of smuggling explosives

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

42. Evacuees arrive in Phila.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

43. Israelis Arrest 3 Palestinians Trying to Smuggle Explosives

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

44. Protestors throng consulates

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

45._chat room

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

46. Comforting the young & afflicted When American evacuees of war-ravaged Lebanon arrived on U.S. soil last week, two Lancaster countians were there to provide a crucial yet often-overlooked service: child care at the airport.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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47. Ten shows you can't miss

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

48. FAST FORWARD

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

49. The way we war Middle East II

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

50. Letter - Evil men are using religion to pursue their own global agenda;

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

51. Isolating Iran will only strengthen hardliners

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006



52. Rice silent on women's rights in Middle East

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

53. The Way We War

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

54. A blind eye to Tamil terrorism

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

55. WHY SEXIST GEORGE HAS GOT IT WRONG

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

56. INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER; News & Views in Record time

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

57. 'We must be active against terrorism'



Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

58. An Islamic path to democracy

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

59. <u>Comment & Analysis: In a warped reality: Two years on, the occupiers justify the war by embracing the irrelevant and ignoring the inconvenient</u>

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

60. In a warped reality

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

61. <u>Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Two clocks are ticking: Obsessed with trying to stop Tehran from</u> going nuclear, we are neglecting democracy

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

62. <u>Comment & Debate: Punishment of Palestinians will create a crucible of trouble for the world: George</u>
Bush's policies helped build Hamas; now a dangerous linkage with Iran and Iraq threatens a mega-crisis

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

63. New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The money trails run to 'fences' with Middle Eastern ties.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

64. The Week: 15-21 July

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

65. His father went to Germany to topple a wall - now George Bush arrives to mend fences

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

66. WILL THE MIDEAST BLOOM?

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

67. Man Shoots 6 at Seattle Jewish Agency, Killing One

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

68. Syria: lift the veil and discover an enigma

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

69. Man 'angry at Israel ' kills woman at Seattle Jewish centre: 5 injured as man walks into building, starts

shooting

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

70. Dear shah-licking Zionist sock puppet ...: Iranian president writes President Bush to lay out some of his

views

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

71. Zargawi Purportedly Sanctions Murders Of the Innocent

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

72. Dropping the word

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

73. <u>Destination Tyre for evacuation ship: Quick turnaround for Princess Marissa after landing Canadians in</u>

Cyprus

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

74. Frightened women just want to get home: Joelle Kahwaji and her kids want to leave war-torn Lebanon and come back to Coquitlam, while Shirley Weiner yearns to return to Israel

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

75. Rescue mission for trapped Australians OUT OF HELL

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

76. Creative Chaos Checkmated

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

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

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

78. Muslim backlash over cartoons forces Danish newspaper to apologise

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

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

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

80. AFGHAN OPIUM TOWN HITS HARD TIMES AFTER DRUGS BAZAAR IS BANNED

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

81. Diplomatic noises

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

82. Why Gaza attacks are deadlier

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

83. <u>SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: JIHAD: PLAY THE GAME; WESTERN PC GAMES FEATURE US FORCES</u> DESTROYING ARAB ENEMIES. NOW ISLAM

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

84. Pressure Mounts In Washington For Talks With Iran

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

85. Lebanon 's tragedy captured in a mother's heartbreak MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

86. Family relieved and reunited after members come home from Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

87. Fight for Mideast democracy faltering

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

88. Oil and blood

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

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89. Frightened women just want to get home: Joelle Kahwaji and her kids wants to leave war-torn Lebanon and come back to Coquitlam, while Shirley Weiner yearns to return to Israel

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

90. READERS WRITE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

91. Lebanon 's pain seen in a mother's heartbreak Middle East Crisis

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

92. Lebanese vote has little passion: Fervour raised by Syrian presence is largely gone

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

93. U.S and Britain step up evacuations Hostilities displace half-a-million people

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

94. Canada set to begin Lebanon evacuations

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

95. Vegetarian green light

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

96. TEXT MANIACS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

97. Measuring the ripples

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

98. In Focus

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

99. Tiger tales

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

100. Bite-size columnettes not the same old ****

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006



Iraq theocracy not democratic

University Wire March 7, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 The News Record via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 487 words

Byline: By Ryan Donohue, The News Record; SOURCE: U. Cincinnati

Dateline: CINCINNATI

Body

The Jan. 30 elections in Iraq marked a historic step toward securing a free and democratic Iraq, but Iraqis went to the polls and elected an assembly with strong religious ties.

With the representatives being appointed and the future of Iraq being decided, one must consider the possibility that all our efforts to create a democracy in Iraq may have been in vain.

Approximately 70 percent of the seats went to the two major groups, the United Iraqi Alliance and a powerful Kurdish alliance, both of which have a strong religious foundation to their politics.

Many people from these groups believe that there is no other alternative to having the Koran as the law of the land in Iraq. And many Iraqis and Americans find this possible encroaching Islamic theocracy in Iraq to be very troubling.

Can a theocracy in Iraq still be democratic?

No.

Iranian-born Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, the most powerful Shiite cleric in Iraq, has said he supports candidates that want to create a new constitution that is based on the Koran.

Other prominent clerics in Iraq have called for candidates to make Islam the source of all legislation. With Shiites holding the most seats in the new 275-member national assembly, minority Sunnis, Iraq's previously privileged religious group under Saddam Hussein, and other minority groups fear that they will be targets for repression.

Is a democratic-theocracy a contradiction in terms?

Yes.

Every theocracy that has ever existed has led to the oppression or outright persecution of minority religious groups. When one dominant group sets the law for all others to follow it inevitably leads to the infringement of the basic human rights of the rest of the citizens. It overpowers or excludes them in the decision-making processes of the country.

For an example of how terrible a theocracy in Iraq might be we need to look to Iraq's neighbor, Iran.

Iraq theocracy not democratic

Iran has the one of the worst human rights abuse records in the region and the world. Iran is known for its brutal repression of dissent, *women*'s rights and Kurds, as well as supporting terrorist groups like *Hezbollah*.

We can't let Iraq become another brutally oppressive theocracy like Iran.

What can we do to prevent Iraq from becoming an oppressive theocracy like Iran?

Well, the struggle for a free and democratic Iraq isn't over yet.

We have to wait and see which direction this new government will take before anything can be known for sure.

The best thing we can do now is hope for the best and let the Iraqis make their own decisions.

But if the overwhelming dominance of representatives from religion-based political parties in the new national assembly takes Iraq toward theocracy, then we should step in, as delicately as possible, and help guide the country in a better, more democratic direction.

Even if stepping in may spur more criticism of our efforts, we still can't let all our efforts to improve Iraq be in vain.

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Load-Date: March 7, 2005

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'Cedar' revolutionaries want more reform for Lebanon

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

May 31, 2005, Tuesday

Copyright 2005 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: WORLD; Pg. 07

Length: 909 words

Byline: By Annia Ciezadlo Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: BEIRUT

Highlight: In the first round of Lebanese elections, voters backed the son of slain former Prime Minister Rafik

Hariri.

Body

Stopping cars hurtling through Beirut's downtown, young protesters do something they could never do before: pass out flyers that urge Lebanese to cast a protest vote against the country's entrenched political class - including the leaders of this spring's Cedar Revolution.

A sedan with government plates squeals up. It's plastered with posters of Saad Hariri, son and political heir of slain former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Serge Toursarkissian, a parliamentarian seeking reelection on the younger Hariri's slate, which swept all of Beirut's 19 parliamentary seats Sunday, barrels out.

"How can you tell people not to vote for Hariri?" he bellows. "Hariri's killing was a big crime, and the Syrians have left this country, and we should all go out and vote!"

But months after the Cedar Revolution, the movement ignited by Rafik Hariri's death that helped end Syrian domination over this country, Lebanon's government is showing few other signs of change. Dissatisfied with the elections, some are now questioning politics as usual - and, in some cases, the very opposition leaders who led their revolution.

The elections, which will continue for the next three Sundays, will usher in many of the same politicians who have dominated the country's political scene for decades. Though pro-Syrian politicians won't be as powerful as before, their continued political influence discourages many Lebanese who had hoped for more substantial change. Voter turnout in Beirut Sunday, the first in the four-stage elections, was only 28 percent.

But the popular protests had a ripple effect, and among the reverberations was an increasing willingness to challenge corruption, stagnation, and hereditary rule in Lebanon's government. Outside government circles, a growing civil society movement is now pushing for democratic reforms.

"Lebanon has changed in an interesting way since three months ago," says Rasha Jomaa, one of the young **women** debating Mr. Toursarkissian. "We would never have had the right to go down to the street and declare our opinions like this. And the topic of our group was a little bit taboo before."

Ms. Jomaa, a graduate student in sociology, joined the Cedar Revolution with fervor in March. When the Iranian-backed Shiite party *Hizbullah* held a pro-Syrian rally, Jomaa and other young people joined a massive

'Cedar' revolutionaries want more reform for Lebanon

counterdemonstration. After the rally, she went to a tent city where protesters were gathered and she stayed all night.

But as days in the tent city wore on, Jomaa saw "people-power" slowly giving way to party politics. Party officials would send out mass text messages instructing the revolutionaries when to gather, what to wear, and who to support. "They were dominated," she says. "They could not be frank and open for Lebanon."

As opposition leaders like Walid Jumblatt began negotiating with pro-Syrian politicians, some revolutionaries became disgusted.

Jomaa and other disillusioned activists formed a group called Hayyabina, orLet's Go, which calls for the abolition of Lebanon's confessional system. Based on religious affiliation, Lebanese law sets up a balance of religious sects in parliament. Although Muslims are more than half the population, the 128-member parliament must be split evenly between Muslims and Christians. Seats are set aside for specific religious sects, and politicians can only run for seats that correspond to their religion.

In theory, this confessional system keeps the country's Muslim majority from dominating smaller religious groups. But in practice, it is more complicated: The current electoral law, for example, forces many Christians to vote in Muslim areas.

Hayyabina's platform is simple: Instead of voting according to religion, the Lebanese should be allowed to vote according to traditional political platforms. "We want to find our rights as citizens, not as members of religious groups," says Lokman Slim, one of the group's founders. "We cannot find our rights through membership in confessional groups - we want them to be guaranteed in the Constitution."

Hayyabina is not the only group seeking to change Lebanon's political landscape. After the revolution, more than 13,000 Lebanese citizens signed a petition to add a clause to Lebanon's electoral law, allowing Lebanese expatriates to vote overseas. Nobody knows exactly how many Lebanese live abroad, but some estimates range as high as three times the country's internal population of 4 million.

In Lebanon, expatriate voting has always been politically charged, with critics claiming that it would tip the country's sectarian balance one way or another. But others say that as Lebanese citizens, they have a right to vote, regardless of who they might vote for. "The simple argument that is the basis of this campaign is that it is simply a constitutional right to vote if you are Lebanese, and the holder of a Lebanese passport," says Chibli Mallat, a law professor at Beirut's St. Joseph University. "So you cannot be deprived of this right."

Mr. Mallat and several others presented their petition to the Lebanese government a month before Sunday's poll, pointing out several ways in which voting could be conducted at Lebanese embassies abroad. But the government, absorbed in minute negotiations over the electoral law, did nothing. "The present government doesn't have the imagination or the guts to get it through," says Mallat. "I think we are still in the ancient world."

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Load-Date: May 30, 2005



YOUR LOCAL MP Brendan Nelson; Our youth do us proud

North Shore Times (Wednesday) (Australia)

July 26, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: Pg. 32

Length: 479 words

Body

BOMBING Iraq's Golden Shrine in Samara, a cartoon-led jihad against the west, Iranian nuclear aspirations, al-Qa'ida's fomentation of Middle Eastern violence and <u>Hezbollah</u>'s bombing of Israel and its subsequent retaliation - among many other things - there is much about which young people might feel depressed.

Yet in the midst of this, the Australian Bureau of Statistics released some comforting data on social trends last week.

The rate of volunteering by 18-to 24-year-olds has jumped from 17 per cent to 28 per cent in less than a decade.

Otherwise known as "generation Y", young Australians donate their time to sports and hobby groups when they're not giving a hand to welfare and community activities.

When asked why they took time out to help others, 40 per cent said it gave them "a sense of personal satisfaction".

The rest were driven by a desire to "help others" or "do something worthwhile".

Given a group as diverse as Aristotle, Mohammad, St Francis, Mamoidines, Paul Harris (Rotary) and Jesus Christ and their disciples have advocated such behaviour for more than a few years, it is pleasing to see the message getting through.

When Education Minister, one of the questions most frequently asked of me by senior high school students was "Why can't the HSC include some kind of assessment of community service?"

As one said, "it (the HSC) should assess what kind of person you are".

There is little doubt that the best way to help yourself is to help others.

It seems also that the rekindled altruism of young people also has a practical objective.

The more savvy have worked out that employers are impressed by CVs peppered with detail about work with the poor, community service and evidence of selflessness.

While our economy is growing, interest rates are low, inflation is manageable and unemployment is through the floor, the real coal miner's canary is the well-being of young people.

Not only are our kids volunteering but also drug use and suicide have declined.

YOUR LOCAL MP Brendan Nelson Our youth do us proud

The 1995 National Drug Strategy Household Survey showed 37 per cent of male teenagers had used an illegal drug in the previous year.

By 2004 it had dropped to 21 per cent.

The same trend applied to young women and in both sexes it was replicated in those in their 20s.

The suicide rate for 15 to 24-year-olds peaked at 19.3 per 100,000. By 2004 it was less than half that at 9.6.

So too they have embraced their nation's military history as an anchor of national meaning and belonging.

While the North Shore Times is tireless in its positive portrayal of young people in our community, the broader media has much to answer for in its negative portrayal of the next generation.

Why is it that less than 15 per cent of coverage of young people is positive?

The most fragile yet powerful gift they have is hope.

It must be nurtured through all that is bad in the world.

Perhaps we are making progress.

Load-Date: July 26, 2006

End of Document



A Revolutionary Channels His Inner Michael Moore

The New York Times

November 26, 2005 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 4; THE SATURDAY PROFILE

Length: 1166 words

Byline: By NAZILA FATHI

Dateline: TEHRAN

Body

FOR years, Massoud Dehnamaki was known widely as the feared enforcer of conservative rules that restricted freedom for *women* and society.

In recent years, however, he has emerged as Iran's Michael Moore, having directed a documentary on the taboo issue of prostitution and another forthcoming film on soccer as a metaphor of political struggle.

Reformists and conservatives alike harshly criticized Mr. Dehnamaki for making the first movie, "Poverty and Prostitution." Conservatives were furious that one of their own had not only highlighted an un-Islamic social pathology but seemed to sympathize with the prostitutes. Reformists believed he deliberately exaggerated the problem to make a case against easing Islamic law.

In an interview in his basement office in downtown Tehran, Mr. Dehnamaki said both camps had gotten it wrong, and denied that his views had undergone a radical transformation.

"I was always concerned about justice in society," he said. "There was a time that I believed that the people were the problem. But that was a mistake. The real problems are our rulers, who have become used to corruption and cannot fulfill the promises of the early days of the revolution about social justice and equality."

Film critics have pointed to the countless professional shortcomings of the movie, Mr. Dehnamaki's first. Not surprisingly, it was never granted a license to be distributed. Instead, bootleg copies have circulated widely and parts of the film were broadcast by opposition television on satellite channels.

In the movie, Mr. Dehnamaki interviews more than a dozen prostitutes and many of their customers. All the **women** tell the same story of poverty and the need to provide for their families.

"We are two sisters working, and we can hardly earn enough to buy food and pay our rent," says a sobbing woman, whose face was covered to hide her identity.

"I sometimes dream of having chicken, or good food, at least once a week," she goes on, wiping away tears. "I have worked at homes where they had so much money that they threw food in the garbage. I always envy people who can eat well."

A Revolutionary Channels His Inner Michael Moore

A woman clad in the traditional head-to-toe chador, who introduces herself as the mother of the two sisters, says she has thought of killing herself and her daughters several times because of the hardship of their lives but she could not find the courage.

Another young woman tells of her sick father who needed surgery. His four daughters had decided to choose lots to see which would go to Dubai, where prostitution pays far better, to earn the money to pay for the operation.

The job fell to the youngest sister, who returned from Dubai shattered. A woman who loses her virginity before marriage in a traditional family in Iran loses her honor and with it her chances of a good marriage. In the car with Mr. Dehnamaki, who is driving her home from the airport, she bursts into tears, saying that she feels betrayed by her sisters.

TO convince the <u>women</u> he was not a threat, Mr. Dehnamaki changed his conservative appearance, shaving his beard and replacing his baggy, long sleeved shirts with T-shirts. He also began driving a taxi as a way to find his subjects.

"Once one woman said she wanted 200,000 rials [\$22] for her services," he said. "I said, what if I give you one million rials and you tell me your story instead." She agreed, and introduced him to a few of her friends, too.

Mr. Dehnamaki, 36, believes Iran needs to modernize, within the confines of a strict Islam, but not Taliban-style.

"If we are against the Islam that the Taliban introduced, we must be able to offer a good model of the Islam that we believe is the source of compassion and kindness," he said. "But it has to be according to the needs of today so that it would be acceptable to our youth."

Like many in his generation, Mr. Dehnamaki fought for three years in the 1980-88 war with Iraq and was scarred by the experience. He was wounded three times and saw many of his comrades die. Trying to do justice to their sacrifice remains his driving force.

Mementoes of those days are still the only decorations in his simple office. The crutches he once used hang from a bookcase, alongside framed photos of him with comrades who were killed in the war and posters of bodies on the battlefield.

AFTER the war ended in 1988, Mr. Dehnamaki helped found the extremist Islamic militia force Ansar <u>Hezbollah</u>, which is best known for its attacks on pro-democracy demonstrators. But he grew increasingly disenchanted with the course the revolution had taken, and quit the group after eight years.

Many formerly stalwart supporters of the 1979 revolution have moderated their views over the years. Most became reformists and joined the movement of President Mohammad Khatami, who favored increasing political and social freedoms.

But not Mr. Dehnamaki, who remained critical of both the conservative and reformist camps. Two weekly journals he had founded remained outlets for conservatives to rail against political and social reforms, <u>women</u> who were not covered from head to toe and the pernicious effects of Western cultural influences. Both journals were shut down last year as part of a crackdown aimed primarily at reformist publications.

"I spoke in those two newspapers of a generation who had been betrayed," he said, referring to his fallen comrades from the war with Iraq. "They gave their lives for ideals that never materialized."

Still, doubts lingered about the sincerity of the transformation of Mr. Dehnamaki's beliefs, particularly after Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a religious conservative, was elected president last June. But those doubts were eased when Mr. Dehnamaki wrote an open letter to the president warning him against his "fundamentalist and backward supporters," those people "who reduced promotion of virtue and prevention of vice to fighting against <u>women</u>'s dress, and ignored justice in society."

A Revolutionary Channels His Inner Michael Moore

There is little question that Mr. Dehnamaki has come a very long way from his days as an enforcer. One university professor, Sadigh Sarvestani, called him "a man whose name was once affiliated with the ugliest violence and has now become an artist dealing with the most delicate aspects of art."

It bears mentioning that Mr. Sarvestani was speaking at a conference at Tehran University about Mr. Dehnamaki's movie and was quoted in Mr. Dehnamaki's new magazine. The magazine has published just three issues but already has some high-profile advertisements -- a sign, many here say, that he remains well connected.

Mr. Dehnamaki said at the same conference that he had made the film because he was tired of hearing "how officials generalized the country's problems."

"I did not have the wisdom I have today 10 years ago," he said, explaining his past association with Ansar <u>Hezbollah</u>. "I am becoming a middle-aged man now, and whatever I did in the past was because I did not want to betray my killed comrades."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: MASSOUD DEHNAMAKI (Photo by Kaveh Kazemi for The New York Times)

Load-Date: November 26, 2005

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Beirut firebrand takes up Saddam's banner; Scourge of Shiites is defended by one

The International Herald Tribune June 24, 2006 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2 Length: 1188 words

Byline: Hassan M. Fattah

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

Nada Bakri contributed to this article from Beirut.

*

By all rights, she should be seeking Saddam Hussein's head. But in an unlikely turn of events, Bushra Khalil, a lawyer from Lebanon's predominantly Shiite south, has become one of Saddam's most strident defenders.

Khalil, the daughter of a prominent Lebanese Shiite family, is part of the team of attorneys representing Saddam before the Iraqi tribunal that is prosecuting him and others for war crimes involving the mass executions of Shiites at the hands of Saddam's Sunni Arab henchmen.

The seeming contradiction has not been lost on many neighbors and friends who still cannot believe Khalil is defending a man accused of killing untold thousands of Iraqi Shiites, including, possibly, some of her relatives. But the move is emblematic of Khalil's style: heated, confrontational and eager for the spotlight.

For Khalil, defending Saddam is a way to resist the U.S. occupation of Iraq, with an approach focused more on politics than law.

"The occupation is of Iraq, but the aggression is against the entire Arab peoples," she said. "If you look really deep at the evidence, Saddam in fact is not really guilty."

Her clients are accused of killing 148 Shiite men and teenage boys in 1982 after a failed assassination attempt against Saddam in the Shiite town of Dujail, 55 kilometers, or 35 miles, north of Baghdad.

She hopes that her being Shiite will hamper the prosecution's case.

"They are trying to make the issue of Dujail a Sunni-versus-Shia issue," she explained. "But when someone like me, with my family history, defends Saddam, it calls their whole assumption into question."

Khalil boasted that she was among the first to join Saddam's legal team, days after he was captured in 2003. In the years since, she has represented him in public and private, seeking to discredit the very legitimacy of the tribunal and waging a heated battle in the court of Arab public opinion.

Beirut firebrand takes up Saddam's banner Scourge of Shiites is defended by one

She gets no money for her time, she said, though Saddam's family in Amman covers some of her expenses. Her case, she says, is a labor of love.

She had a standard speech back when she took up his defense. "This man was a real leader. He launched the resistance and refused to acquiesce," she said she told people then, adding now: "In 2003, that was tough talk, but no one knew then that the Iraq resistance would get so strong."

When she finally got the chance to testify in court in April, it did not take Khalil long to butt heads with the chief judge, Raouf Abdel-Rahman. When in April the prosecution played a video of Saddam discussing crushing the opposition, she grew heated and held up pictures of U.S. soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners. In a loud voice, she turned to Saddam and said, "Look what they are doing to your country." The judge promptly held her in contempt of court and ejected her.

Last month, she landed in the spotlight again when an agitated Abdel-Rahman cited her for speaking out of turn and ordered the court's guards to eject her.

In a huff, Khalil pulled off her judicial robe and threw it on the floor, pushing guards who were grabbing at her hands. She has been banned from the court ever since, she said.

"Part of what we do will provoke the judge," she admitted. "But his job is not to get provoked."

Friends and family said they feared for Khalil's safety as she continues defending Saddam. On Wednesday, the murder of another of Saddam's attorneys, Khamis al-Obeidi who was kidnapped, apparently by a Shiite militia, and later shot in Sadr City offered a reminder of those dangers.

"I am not afraid. I know there are threats but I will not be afraid of them," Khalil said. She alleged that security around the attorneys has been reduced, making them easier targets. "Legally, we are stronger, so they have to weaken us some way."

The walls of Khalil's apartment in a Beirut suburb tell only some of the storied permutations of her life. Glamorous photographs, enlarged to poster size, provide a reminder of her go-go days in the 1980s. Campaign posters, relics of a reminder of several unsuccessful runs for a seat in Parliament, show her in a more mature phase.

Then there is the juxtaposition of a photograph of her grandfather, the most senior Shiite judge in Lebanon in his day, sitting with several prominent Shiites. That photo contrasts with the framed medallion below it, given to her by a Baathist Iraqi <u>women</u>'s group, the starkest contradiction.

Khalil has old ties to Iraq, and made numerous trips to Baghdad in the 1990s, during which she curried favor with senior regime figures and received numerous awards from Baathist organizations.

She has been accused in some Arab news reports of getting money from Saddam in those days and of having a close relationship with Uday Hussein, one of Saddam's sons. He was killed with his brother, Qusay, by U.S. forces in July 2003. Khalil said she met Uday only a few times and in public.

Defending Saddam, though, was the last thing anyone in her village would have expected, friends and confidantes say.

Khalil's uncle on her mother's side is Sheik Mohammed Taqi al-Faqih. He was a student and confidante of the father of Abdelaziz al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a top Shiite party, and an associate of Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim, who led the party until he was killed in a bombing in 2003.

Iraqi Shiite clerics and leaders visited the family home regularly as she grew up and her family maintains strong ties to the Shiite holy city of Najaf. She said her family still grieves for distant relatives felled by Saddam and his reign of terror.

Beirut firebrand takes up Saddam's banner Scourge of Shiites is defended by one

To answer some of the criticism, Khalil says she wrote a letter to the <u>Hezbollah</u> leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, and other Shiite leaders in Lebanon, arguing the merits of her work. The main reason to defend Saddam, she insisted, is because America is prosecuting him.

"If Imam Ali were alive today, would he have remained neutral?" she said she wrote, referring to the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad who is a central figure for Shiites. "If not, where would he have stood? With Bush or with Saddam Hussein?"

But *Hezbollah* officials contacted about Khalil's letter said they had no recollection of it.

Family members contacted for this article refused to comment on Khalil or her role in Baghdad, saying the issue was a private matter. But residents of her home town, in Juwayda, in southern Lebanon, said she was no longer welcome there.

"Her decision to join his defense team upset a lot of people here," said a local shop owner who knows her family and gave his name as only Abu Qassem. She rarely comes to the village anymore, he said. "She is not welcome here and she knows that. All the Khalil family hates her now and she is aware of this fact."

Others in the town dismissed her campaign for Saddam as a play for the spotlight.

"She went all the way to Iraq in search of fame and attention, not Saddam or the Arab cause," said Abbas Klait, 57, a store owner in Juwaiya who said he was a classmate of her sister. "That has left her on bad terms with the town people and she rarely comes here anymore."

Load-Date: July 14, 2006

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For a Shiite, Defending Hussein is a Labor of Love

The New York Times

June 24, 2006 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 4; THE SATURDAY PROFILE

Length: 1099 words

Byline: By HASSAN M. FATTAH; Nada Bakri contributed reporting for this article.

Dateline: BEIRUT, Lebanon

Body

BY all rights, she should be seeking Saddam Hussein's head. But Bushra Khalil, a swaggering lawyer from Beirut's predominantly Shiite south, is one of Mr. Hussein's most strident defenders.

Ms. Khalil, the daughter of a prominent Lebanese Shiite family, is one of a team of lawyers representing Mr. Hussein in the Iraqi tribunal prosecuting him and others for crimes against humanity in cases that include the execution of 148 Shiites at the hands of Mr. Hussein's Sunni Arab henchmen.

The seeming contradiction has not been lost on many neighbors and friends, who cannot believe Ms. Khalil is defending a man accused of ordering the killing not only of the 148 for which he is currently on trial, but also of tens of thousands of Iraqi Shiites during the 34 years of his rule, including possibly some of her relatives.

But the move is emblematic of her style: heated, confrontational and eager for the spotlight. For Ms. Khalil, defending Mr. Hussein is part of resisting what she sees as American aggression, in a defense focused as much on politics as on law.

"The occupation is of Iraq but the aggression is against the entire Arab people," she says. "If you look really deeply at the evidence, Saddam in fact is not really guilty."

Her clients are accused of killing residents of a Shiite town, Dujail, on the northern fringe of Baghdad, after what Mr. Hussein and his associates call a failed assassination attempt against him there. She hopes that being Shiite herself will hamper the prosecution's case.

"They are trying to make the issue of Dujail a Sunni versus Shia issue," she explained. "But when someone like me, with my family history, defends Saddam, it calls their whole assumption into question."

MS. KHALIL boasts that she was among the first to join Mr. Hussein's legal team, which she did days after he was captured in 2003. In the years since, she has represented him in public and in private, seeking to discredit the legitimacy of the tribunal and waging a heated battle in the court of Arab public opinion. She gets no money for her time, she says, though Mr. Hussein's family in Amman covers some of her expenses. She calls the case a labor of love.

For a Shiite, Defending Hussein is a Labor of Love

She says she had a standard speech back when she took up his defense: "This man was a real leader. He launched the resistance, and refused to acquiesce."

She adds now, "In 2003, that was tough talk, but no one knew then that the Iraqi resistance would get so strong."

When she finally got the chance to speak in court in April, it did not take Ms. Khalil long to butt heads with the chief judge, Raouf Abdel-Rahman. When the prosecution played a video of Mr. Hussein ordering the arrest of townspeople after the alleged assassination attempt, Ms. Khalil held up pictures of American soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners.

In a loud voice, she turned to Mr. Hussein and said, "Look what they are doing to your country." The judge promptly held her in contempt of court and ejected her.

In May, she landed in the spotlight again when Judge Abdel-Rahman cited her for speaking out of turn, ordering guards to forcibly eject her from court. Ms. Khalil pulled off her judicial robe and threw it on the floor, pushing guards who were grabbing at her hands. She has been banned from the court ever since.

"Part of what we do will provoke the judge," she admitted coyly. "But his job is not to get provoked."

Friends and family fear for Ms. Khalil's safety as she continues defending Mr. Hussein. On Wednesday, one of Mr. Hussein's senior attorneys, Khamis al-Obeidi, was kidnapped from his home and killed, apparently by a Shiite militia. He was the third of Mr. Hussein's attorneys to be killed since the trial began in October.

"I am not afraid," Ms. Khalil said. "I know there are threats but I will not be afraid of them."

THE walls of Ms. Khalil's suburban Beirut apartment tell of some of the permutations of her life. Glamorous photographs, enlarged to poster size, provide a reminder of her go-go days as a Beirut socialite in the 1980's. Campaign posters, relics of several unsuccessful runs for a seat in Lebanon's Parliament, show her in a more mature phase -- but still swaggering.

Then there is the stark juxtaposition of a photograph of her grandfather, the most senior Shiite judge in Lebanon in his day, sitting with several other prominent Shiites, and a framed medallion given to her by a Baathist Iraqi **women**'s group.

Ms. Khalil has longstanding ties to Iraq, and made numerous trips to Baghdad in the 1990's, during which she curried favor with senior government figures and received awards from Baathist organizations. She has been accused in the Arab news media of receiving money from Mr. Hussein and of having had a close relationship with his son Uday, who was killed by United States forces in July 2003. She says she met him only a few times and in public.

Defending Mr. Hussein, though, was the last thing anyone in Juwaya, her home village in southern Lebanon, would have expected, friends say.

Ms. Khalil is related to some well-known Iraqi Shiite leaders, some of whom were regular guests in the family home when she grew up. Her family still grieves for distant relatives felled by Saddam Hussein.

She says she wrote a letter to the <u>Hezbollah</u> leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, and other Shiite leaders in Lebanon, arguing the merits of her work. The main reason to defend Saddam, she insisted, is because America is prosecuting him.

"If Imam Ali were alive today, would he have remained neutral?" she says she wrote, referring to the cousin and son-in-law of the prophet Muhammad, a central figure for Shiites. "If not, where would he have stood? With Bush or with Saddam Hussein?"

Hezbollah officials who were asked about the letter said they had no recollection of it.

For a Shiite, Defending Hussein is a Labor of Love

Members of her family contacted for this article refused comment, insisting the issue was a private matter. But some residents of Juwaya said she was no longer welcome there.

"Her decision to join his defense team upset a lot of people here," said a local shop owner who knows her family and gave his name as only Abu Qassem. "She is not welcome here and she knows that. All the Khalil family hates her now and she is aware of this fact."

Others dismiss her campaign as a play for the spotlight.

"She went all the way to Iraq in search of fame and attention, not Saddam or the Arab cause," said Abbas Klait, 57, a Juwaya shop owner who said he was a classmate of her sister. "That has left her on bad terms with the townspeople and she rarely comes here anymore."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: BUSHRA KHALIL (Photo by Tamara Abdul Hadi for The New York Times)

Load-Date: June 24, 2006

End of Document



Night of Death and Terror for Lebanese Villagers

The New York Times
July 31, 2006 Monday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 2; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1; HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDEAST: THE SCENE

Length: 1038 words

Byline: By SABRINA TAVERNISE **Dateline:** QANA, Lebanon, July 30

Body

The dead lay in strange shapes. Several had open mouths filled with dirt. Faces were puffy. A man's arm was extended straight out from his body, his fingers spread. Two tiny children, a girl and boy, lay feet to head in the back of an ambulance, their skin like wax.

In the all-day scramble to retrieve the bodies from the remains of this one house -- backhoes dug for hours at the site after an early-morning airstrike -- tallies of the dead varied, from as many as 60 to 27, many of them children.

This was the single most lethal episode in the course of this sudden war. The survivors will remember it as the day their children died. For the village, it is a fresh pain in a wound cut more than 10 years ago, when an Israeli attack here killed more than 100 civilians. Many of them were children, too.

The Israeli government apologized for that airstrike, as it did for the one here on Sunday. It said that residents had been warned to leave and should have already been gone.

But leaving southern Lebanon now is dangerous. The two extended families staying in the house that the Israeli missile struck -- the Shalhoubs and the Hashims -- had discussed leaving several times over the past two weeks. But they were poor -- most worked in tobacco or construction -- and the families were big and many of their members weak, with a 95-year-old, two relatives in wheelchairs and dozens of children. A taxi north, around \$1,000, was unaffordable.

And then there was the risk of the road itself.

Dozens, including 21 refugees in the back of a pickup truck on July 15, have been killed by Israeli strikes while trying to evacuate. Missiles hit two Red Cross ambulances last weekend, wounding six people and punching a circle in the center of the cross on one's roof. A rocket hit the ambulance convoy that responded in Qana on Sunday.

"We heard on the news they were bombing the Red Cross," said Zaineb Shalhoub, a 22-year-old who survived the bombing. She was lying quietly in a hospital bed in Tyre.

"What can we do with all of our kids?" she asked. "There was just no way to go."

Night of Death and Terror for Lebanese Villagers

They had moved to the house on the edge of a high ridge, which was dug into the earth. They thought it would be safer. The position helped muffle the sound of the bombs.

But its most valuable asset was water. The town, mostly abandoned, had not had power or running water in many days. A neighbor rigged a pumping system, and the Shalhoubs and Hashims ran a pipe from that house to theirs.

Life had taken on a strange, stunted quality. In a crawl-space basement area near the crushed house, five mattresses were on the floor. A Koran was open to a prayer. A school notebook was on a pillow. Each morning, the <u>women</u> made breakfast for the children. Ms. Shalhoub gave lessons. And they all hoped for rescue.

The first missile struck around 1 a.m., throwing Mohamed Shalhoub, one of the relatives who uses a wheelchair, into an open doorway. His five children, ages 12 to 2, were still inside the house, as was his wife, his mother and a 10-year-old nephew. He tried to get to them, but minutes later another missile hit. By morning, when the rescue workers arrived, all eight of his relatives were dead.

"I felt like I was turning around, and the earth was going up and I was going into the earth," said Mr. Shalhoub, 38, staring blankly ahead in a hospital bed in Tyre.

Israeli military officials said the building did not collapse until the early morning, and that "munitions" stored in the house might have brought it down. But the house appeared to have been hit from above, and residents said the walls and ceiling came down around them immediately after the first bomb.

"My mouth was full of sand," Ms. Shalhoub said. She said doctors had told her family that those who died had been suffocated and crushed to death.

"They died because of the sand and the bricks, that's what they told us," she said.

At least eight people in the house survived, and told of a long, terrifying night. Some remained buried until morning. Others crawled free. Ms. Shalhoub sat under a tree with Mohamed Shalhoub, without his wheelchair, and three others, listening to the planes flying overhead in the dark.

"You couldn't see your finger in front of your face," said Ghazi Aidibi, a neighbor.

Ms. Shalhoub said she tried to help a woman who was sobbing from under the wreckage, asking for her baby, but she could not find the child. A neighbor, Haidar Tafleh, said he heard screaming when he approached the debris, but that bombing kept him away.

"We tried to take them out, but the bombs wouldn't let us," Mr. Tafleh said.

The area took several more hits. A house very close to the Shalhoubs' was crushed. A giant crater was gouged next to it. Residents said as many as eight buildings had been destroyed over two weeks.

Collapsed buildings have been a serious problem in southern Lebanon. Dozens of bodies are still stuck under the rubble. The mayor of Tyre, Abed al-Husseini, estimated that about 75 bodies were still buried under rubble in Slifa, a village on the border.

A grocer, Hassan Faraj, stood outside his shop, near a monument to those killed in the 1996 attack. He said that **Hezbollah** fighters had not come to Qana, but that residents supported them strongly. There was little evidence of fighters on Sunday, but **Hezbollah** flags and posters of Shiite leaders trimmed the streets. "They like the resistance here," he said.

He cautioned people not to stand in the street in front of his shop, because that was where the ambulance convoy was hit in the morning.

Night of Death and Terror for Lebanese Villagers

At the Hakoumi Hospital in Tyre, Mr. Shalhoub sat in bed. His face was slack, stunned. His relatives poured him spicy coffee, and the room filled with its scent. The survivors spoke of their faith as a salve. The children, Mr. Shalhoub said, were in paradise now.

But 24-year-old Hala Shalhoub, whose two daughters, ages 1 and 5, were killed, was moaning and rocking slightly in her hospital bed.

"I want to see them," she said slowly. "I want to hold them."

A relative said, "Let her cry."

Zaineb Shalhoub, in the next bed, rested quietly.

"There's nobody left in our village," she said. "Not a human or a stone."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: Mohamed Shalhoub lost his mother, his wife, their five children and a nephew in the collapse of a building his family had been hiding in. (Photo by Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)(pg. A11)

Rescuers moved bodies out of an apartment building in Qana, Lebanon, that was hit by an Israeli missile yesterday. Dozens of people were killed. (Photo by Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)(pg. A1)

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



Assumptions take their lumps as West meets Middle East

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

December 11, 2005 Sunday

FOURTH EDITION

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Section: NEWSWATCH; Pg. B4

Length: 1112 words

Byline: By Jon Sawyer POST-DISPATCH WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

Dateline: BEIRUT, LEBANON

Body

Take a dozen journalists, half from the United States and half from countries throughout the Middle East.

Put them together for a week of workshops and reporting in war-scarred, volatile Lebanon.

Then watch the sparks fly --- and assumptions die.

For Omayma Abdel-Latif, a senior reporter with Cairo's Al Ahram newspaper, the most revelatory moment came at the end of a group interview with the Lebanese director of Hamas, when a couple of the American journalists balked at adding their e-mails to a list for follow-up material.

"They were fearful when the Hamas guy took their e-mails that if they were found to have e-mails from Hamas, they could be questioned or go to jail," Abdel-Latif said. "That I could not grasp."

Fran Quigley, a civil-liberties attorney and free-lance reporter from Indianapolis, was startled that Israel loomed so large in how the Middle Eastern journalists saw U.S. policies in the region.

"Our colleagues viewed all U.S. actions in the region through the prism of U.S. allegiance to Israel," Quigley said -more important than talk of spreading democracy or even access to oil.

For Khosrow Soltani Kasseb, editor of the Tehran-based Iran News, the most surprising moment came during a group interview with the commander of forces in southern Lebanon for <u>Hezbollah</u>, the Iranian-backed Shiite resistance movement that led the two-decade struggle against Israeli occupation forces that ended with Israel's withdrawal in 2000.

Given <u>Hezbollah</u>'s reputation for strict piety and rigid rules, the <u>women</u> in the U.S. journalist group arrived with their heads dutifully covered. Also on hand: a local woman reporter from Beirut, wearing a hot pink elastic top, tight pants -- and nothing at all on her head.

"I never imagined that they would let **women** appear without observing full Islamic hijab" covering, said Soltani. "It sounds as though I, too, had been influenced by the extensive negative propaganda by the Western media."

Assaulting stereotypes

Assumptions take their lumps as West meets Middle East

The journalists meeting in Beirut were part of a workshop on international reporting in which participants might learn as much from one another as from the instructors. The workshop was sponsored by the lowa-based Stanley Foundation and by the Reuters Foundation.

The result was spirited exchanges in Beirut, in the classroom and interviews and over dinner, and in e-mails since.

"The one thing I walked away from Beirut with was this overwhelming sense that Americans and Middle Easterners need to talk to each other," said Sean Harder, military affairs reporter for the Savannah (Ga.) Morning News. "Not on a diplomatic or political level," he adds, "but person to person."

Raed el-Rafei, 28, of Beirut's Daily Star, said: "I think the way the media makes news just makes us miss the point most of the time. When the media is always reporting on suicide bombers and politics, we miss the human touch."

For the American journalists, the diverse backgrounds of their Middle Eastern counterparts was itself an assault on stereotypes.

Abdel-Latif is the hijab-wearing daughter of a devout and conservative Sunni family, for example, while el-Rafei grew up in a secular Sunni family reading Sartre and Camus and "feeling very much distant from everything related to religion."

Soltani, the Iranian journalist, was born in the Kurdish city of Mahabad, the son of a Sunni father and Shia mother. His wife is Shia, too. "According to the law, since my father was a Sunni, I am also supposed to be a Sunni," he writes. "But since I am not a practicing Muslim, it really does not matter to me -- Shia or Sunni!"

Santa Essa, 31, is a Baghdad University-trained chemist who became a journalist only after the 2003 war and isn't a Muslim at all. An Assyrian Christian, she works for the Aswat al Iraq news agency. In jeans and T-shirt, a baseball cap backward on her head, she views issues of sectarian strife with the jaundiced eye of someone who has seen too much violence, too close.

"Am sorry to be late," she wrote in an e-mail last month. "I had funeral (my cousin was killed by roadside bomb)."

Beneath the surface

Essa said her main complaint about Western journalists was naiveté, that they took too much at face value. "If you talk with a mixture of Muslims, they will try to appear as very lovely people and say they love each other," she said. "But if you live in Iraq, you'll see that it's lies. Not all of them, but most of them -- they don't love each other."

Essa works with one of the many independent media outlets that have sprung up in Iraq, most with U.S. government help. But her complaints about superficial Western coverage are echoed by colleagues at more-established regional newspapers.

Abdel-Latif, the Cairo journalist, answers with a stinging critique when asked what bothers her most about Western media coverage of terrorism and the Middle East.

"Ignorance, ignorance," Abdel-Latif says. "There is no effort I feel on the part of the American journalists to understand the societies they are covering. They come with their preconceptions and stay as long as they want but leave with the same preconceptions. No lessons learned."

For the journalists at the Beirut workshop, there was a lesson a few days after they headed home in how words can inflame -- and confuse.

The occasion was an appearance by Iran's new hard-line president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, at a Ramadan conference in Tehran on the subject of "The World Without Zionism." At the conference, Ahmadinejad, speaking to 4,000 students, called for Israel to be "wiped off the map."

Assumptions take their lumps as West meets Middle East

The firestorm that followed was predictable: denunciation by U.S. and other Western leaders, editorial condemnation in major Western media, the cancellation of a Tehran visit by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The only thing missing, said Iranian journalist Soltani, was any acknowledgment that Ahmadinejad's remarks were neither new nor, in the Iranian context, incendiary -- not in a country where "Death to Israel" chants have been a staple of Friday prayers since the era of Ayatollah Khomeini two decades ago.

"These slogans remain slogans and nothing more," Soltani told fellow journalists in an e-mail. "Let's not forget the occasion in which Ahmadinejad said those things," he added -- "a conference dubbed 'The World Without Zionism.' What else did you expect him to say? Viva Israel?"

"What is certain is that no one here (I mean the officials) has any intention of wiping out a state by killing its people!" Soltani said. "They just wish Israel did not exist or would somehow perish for the cause of Palestine."

STLtoday.com/muslim Go online to read earlier stories in this series, plus the transcript of the interview with Karent Hughes.

Notes

MUSLIMS AND AMERICA Journalists: Comparing notes

Graphic

PHOTO

Journalists attending a workshop in Lebanon included (from left) Haitham Tamimi of Hebron, West Bank; Khosrow Soltani Kasseb of Tehran, Iran; and Omayma Abdel-Latif of Cairo, Egypt. Jon Sawyer | Post-Dispatch

Load-Date: December 12, 2005



Warm and Fuzzy TV, Brought to You by Hamas

The New York Times

January 18, 2006 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1; Gaza Journal

Length: 1141 words

Byline: By CRAIG S. SMITH

Dateline: GAZA, Jan. 13

Body

Hey kids, it's Uncle Hazim time!

Hazim Sharawi, whose stage name is Uncle Hazim, is a quiet, doe-eyed young man who has an easy way with children and will soon preside over a children's television show here on which he'll cavort with men in larger-than-life, fake-fur animal suits on the Gaza Strip's newest television station, Al Aksa TV.

But Captain Kangaroo this is not. The station, named for Islam's third holiest site, is owned by Hamas, the people who helped make suicide bombing a household term.

"Our television show will have a message, but without getting into the tanks, the guns, the killing and the blood," said Mr. Sharawi, sitting in the broadcast studio where he will produce his show.

"I will show them our rights through the history," he said, "show them, 'This is Nablus, this is Gaza, this is Al Aksa mosque, which is with the Israelis and should be in our hands.' "

The new station is part of the militant Palestinian group's strategy to broaden its role in Palestinian politics and society, much as <u>Hezbollah</u> did in Lebanon. The station began broadcasting terrestrially on Jan. 7, and Hamas is working on a satellite version that would give it an even wider reach, like <u>Hezbollah</u>'s Al Manar TV, which is watched throughout the Arab world.

"Their success encouraged us," said Fathi Hammad, Al Aksa TV's director. He said that Hamas had tried to find an existing broadcaster to accept its programming but that no one would take it.

"The Arab satellite broadcasters AI Jazeera and AI Arabiya both turned us down," he said, sitting beneath the seal of Hamas, which depicts the Dome of the Rock (which stands alongside AI Aksa mosque in Jerusalem) between crossed swords and an idealized map of Palestine. "Even Iraq and Saudi Arabia refused."

In 2003, after the Palestinian Authority granted Hamas a broadcast license covering both radio and television, the group started the Voice of Al Aksa, which quickly became one of the most popular radio stations in the Gaza Strip. It took more than two years to assemble the expertise and equipment necessary to start the television station.

Warm and Fuzzy TV, Brought to You by Hamas

The current 12 hours of daily television programming, which has the unfinished look of public-access cable television in the United States, consists primarily of readings from the Koran, religious discourse and discussions of <u>women</u>'s issues, such as Islamic fashion, child-rearing tips and the right of <u>women</u> to work, which Hamas supports. It will eventually feature a sort of Islamic MTV, with Hamas-produced music videos using footage from the group's fights with Israeli troops. There will even be a talent search show, a distant echo of "American Idol."

But its biggest star will be Mr. Sharawi, whose radio show for children was the Voice of Al Aksa's biggest hit.

Mr. Sharawi, 27, wearing a long black leather coat with a hood over a green suit and tie, fixed with a pin, looks like a straight-and-narrow Sunday school teacher. In fact, he got his start working with children at his mosque while studying geology at Islamic University in Gaza. His hair is parted in the middle, his beard trimmed as neatly as a suburban lawn.

He said the head of Hamas's radio station spotted him leading children's games at his mosque and asked him to do a children's radio show two years ago. The show has become so popular, his appearances at occasional Hamas-sponsored festivals draw as many as 10,000 children at a time.

Mr. Sharawi will not take visitors to see him do his radio broadcast because the studio's location is a heavily guarded secret. In 2004, an Israeli Apache helicopter fired three rockets into the station's previous studio not long after Mr. Sharawi and his colleagues had fled.

Everybody involved in the television station is worried about another attack, but Mr. Sharawi said he is ready to die if it comes. "The messengers don't care if they lose their lives for the sake of revealing the message," he said.

As he describes it, his television show, which begins in a few weeks, will teach children the basics of militant Palestinian politics -- the disputed status of Jerusalem, Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and the Palestinian refugees' demand for a right to return to the lands they lost to Israel in the 1948 war -- without showing the violence that Hamas's pursuit of those goals entails.

The show will alternate between Uncle Hazim and his animal characters in the studio taking live phone calls from children and video clips recorded outside. Mr. Sharawi said he would leaven the sober and pedantic material with fun and games, including such standards as egg-and-spoon races, eating apples on a string or "tug of war, which will show children that the more you cooperate with others, the more you win."

Mr. Sharawi said he would dress up in different costumes to suit the show's locale: a sailor suit while taping on the beach, a track suit when in the park, even a Boy Scout uniform while hiking through the small patches of empty land that serve as Gaza's wilderness.

"We will invite real Boy Scouts to come and talk to us about camping," Mr. Sharawi said, warming to his theme (the Palestinian Scout Association is a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement).

Through it all, Mr. Sharawi will be accompanied by animal-costumed sidekicks to provide comic relief. Hamas will rent the Egyptian-made plush costumes -- a fox, a rabbit, a dog, a bear and a chicken, already gray and matted from wear -- from a production company run by a Hamas supporter who has just emerged from two years in Israeli jails.

When asked if the animals will have names, Mr. Sharawi looked slightly nonplussed and said: "Bob. Bob the Fox, for example."

He said he was inspired by a children's program on Saudi television in which a young veiled woman and a Mickey Mouse-like character take calls from kids. Fingering a string of bright green plastic prayer beads, a pale blue prayer rug lying on the chair beside him, he tries to reconcile Hamas's bloody attacks that kill innocent children with his role as mentor.

Warm and Fuzzy TV, Brought to You by Hamas

"These are one of the means used by the Palestinians against Israel's F-16's and tanks," he said of the suicide attacks, giving a stock answer. "We're doing our best to avoid involving children in these issues, but I cannot turn the children's lives into a beautiful garden while outside it's the contrary."

He gets up to fiddle with a magnesium light stand in the studio, which is furnished with five beige upholstered chairs and a dusty desk in front of a rattan screen decorated with plastic grape leaves.

The show, which will be broadcast on Friday mornings, the beginning of the Muslim weekend, will be preceded by an hour of cartoons, including a serialized life of the Prophet Muhammad, and that universal send-up of deadly conflict, Tom & Jerry.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: A Palestinian family watching Al Aksa TV at home in Gaza City. The television station, owned by Hamas, began broadcasting this month. (Photo by Khalil Hamra for The New York Times)(pg. A4)

Hazim Sharawi, also known as Uncle Hazim, with two of the animal characters from his new children's show on Al Aksa TV in Gaza. (Photo by Khalil Hamra for The New York Times)(pg. A1)

Load-Date: January 18, 2006



I dodged bombs with my 3 babes; Triplets slept as it rained missiles

Daily Star

July 20, 2006 Thursday

Scottish Edition

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Section: NEWS; 9 Length: 450 words

Byline: by PAUL MALLEY and RUAIRI O'KANE

Body

A BRIT mum yesterday told how she dodged bombs with her five-month-old triplets as she fled war-torn Lebanon.

Brave Elise Mazegi cowered in terror with the babies and her three-year-old son Dany as she waited to be rescued from her sister's Beirut home.

"I could hear the shelling, it shook the house, " said Elise, 32. "I could see the planes going overhead."

But amazingly the triplets slept peacefully through the nightmare bombardment.

Elise from Brighton told of her ordeal as she stepped ashore in Cyprus from HMS Gloucester - one of the first 180 Brits to be brought out of devastated Beirut. The evacuees, mainly <u>women</u> - some pregnant - and children were due to fly on to the UK.

Elise who went to Lebanon last autumn to visit her sister had been advised not to travel home after discovering she was expecting the triplets - Isabella, Yasmin and Joey who were born in Beirut.

Last night, she was waiting to be reunited with her businessman husband Fadi, 36, who was in Brussels.

Another rescued Brit, Maria Noujeim, 43, from Portsmouth, fled her apartment just hours before HMS Gloucester sailed along with her husband Joe, a 49-year-old Lebanese, and their three children, Mario, 12, Jessica nine, and five-year-old Michael.

"My concern was the children, " said Maria.

"They were watching the bombing every night - the planes coming over, the bombs dropping and the airport blowing up."

A number of Scottish families were last night making their way to safety after they were finally evacuated.

However, the relatives of other Scots trapped in the region were still waiting anxiously to discover if there loved ones have managed to escape the conflict zone.

Among the lucky ones where Jacqui Kadi, 33, husband Elie, 40, and her children Joe, seven, and Lauren, nine, who boarded a Royal Navy warship bound for Cyprus.

I dodged bombs with my 3 babes Triplets slept as it rained missiles

Andy and Fiona Gleeson, from Inverness, and their two young children were also thought to be among the hundreds of British evacuees taken to safety from Beirut.

But Margaret Inglis, the mother of Carolanne Nehme, who is on holiday with her Lebanese-born husband Camille, 34, and their nine-month-old daughter Melody, had still not heard if her daughter had also been rescued.

They were holed up in a two-bedroom in flat with seven members of Mr Nehme's family in Tyre, 50 miles south of the Lebanese capital and within firing range of the Israeli border. All roads and bridges to Beirut, where the evacuation is being coordinated, have been either destroyed by the Israeli bombardment of <u>Hezbollah</u> strongholds or are currently blocked.

Having run out of water Mrs Inglis said her 33-year-old daughter's last hope was to escape via a helipad at a nearby hotel used by United Nations officials.

Graphic

RESCUED: Eliza and her triplets in Cyprus, while, left, a soldier helps with baggage

OH BABY: The Navy carries a tot safely ashore

TENSION: Carolanne Nehme, her husband Camille and baby girl Melody have been holed up in Tyre

SAILING TO SAFETY: Brits step ashore in Cyprus after their rescue. Below the Gleesons from Inverness and their two young children

Load-Date: July 20, 2006



YOU MUST SAVE MY HUSBAND MR BLAIR; Or there will be blood on your hands, says the wife of hate preacher trapped in Beirut

The Evening Standard (London)
July 21, 2006 Friday

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Section: LSE 04; Pg. 1

Length: 508 words

Byline: ROBERT MENDICK

Body

EXTREMIST Islamic preacher Omar Bakri's wife is begging Britain to get him out of Lebanon.

The man who said the British people brought the 7/7 bombings on themselves is desperate to escape from Beirut.

His wife Hanan Fostok, 43, said: "If something terrible happened then Tony Blair would have blood on his hands." Bakri, 46, went to Lebanon last year when his comments on 7 July caused outrage.

The Home Office then stripped him of his right to live in the UK.

Yesterday he was prevented from boarding a British ship taking <u>women</u> and children to safety as Israel intensified its attacks on fundamentalist group <u>Hezbollah</u>.

Bakri earned the nickname the Tottenham Ayatollah during 22 years of preaching in London.

He said support for America over Afghanistan and Iraq and the re-election of Mr Blair had contributed to the 7/7 attacks, adding: "I blame the British government and I blame the British people."

Mrs Fostok, who lives with their six children in Edmonton, broke her silence in an exclusive interview with the Evening Standard, saying: "He is stuck in Beirut with the bombs going off. My children and I, every time we watch television, we cry."

Mrs Fostok, who lives on state benefits, said her husband was being deprived of his human rights and should be allowed out for the sake of their children, the youngest of whom is eight, and four grandchildren.

A granddaughter was born two weeks ago and she feared her husband would never see the baby.

YOU MUST SAVE MY HUSBAND MR BLAIR Or there will be blood on your hands, says the wife of hate preacher trapped in Beirut

Mrs Fostok added: "We have been in London 22 years and he was living happily here until what happened on 7/7 and they pointed the finger at him.

"He only went to Beirut to see his mother, who was really ill, and then they stopped him coming here. If there is a problem they should bring him here and deal with his case. My goodness, we are frightened that something should happen to him.

"I don't know what he is doing.

When I think about it I feel so frightened. When I hear the news I feel frightened even more."

But despite her impassioned plea, Bakri's words last March will come back to haunt him. He boasted then: "When I left England I bought a oneway ticket out. I never want to see the place again."

Bakri fled to Britain after being expelled from Saudi Arabia in 1988.

He was originally granted indefinite leave to stay in Britain but this was revoked when he left for Lebanon. The Home Office is refusing to allow him back, saying last night: "His presence is not conducive to the public good."

The two biggest Islamic groups in Britain today said that Bakri should not be given a visa to return.

Dr Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, leader of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain, said: "We need to contain the problems we have with extremism, not create more problems for ourselves."

Inayat Bunglawala, a spokesman for the Muslim Council of Britain, said: "Given his previous statements in which he has repeatedly demonised this country and its people, it's hardly surprising that the Government is not rushing to embrace him with open arms. He chose a particular path and he has to deal with the consequences."

Load-Date: July 21, 2006



Wedding day amid bombs of Lebanon

Blackpool Gazette July 29, 2006

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Length: 480 words

Body

A BLACKPOOL woman was today due to marry her Lebanese fiance in war-torn Beirut.

Sarah Shatila will tie the knot with Mazen Mierzer during a simple ceremony at a register office in the bomb-hit capital with just her two cousins for witnesses.

The 35-year-old's family in Blackpool will miss the big day, but say they are relieved that she is happy.

Former Claremont School pupil Sarah, 35, refused to leave Beirut when the rest of her family were dramatically rescued early last week.

ina and Dunia, and brother-in-law Zuheir, were among the first people to be airlifted out of the city.

They have now been joined at their home in Egerton Road, North Shore, by Janice's husband Adnan.

Sarah's three children from her first marriage are staying with their father in Saudi Arabia.

Janice said: "Sarah was going to get married to Mazen anyway, but they decided to bring the ceremony forward.

"It might seem romantic to get married in war-time, but

in times of such uncertainty

it is better that they are married.

"It's very difficult to get in touch with them and today we spoke to Sarah for the first time in a week.

"She said the streets are empty, there is not a lot of food and everywhere is very dirty. It is a war zone.

"But she is very happy that she is getting married.

"We are sad that none of us can be there for her wedding, but there is nothing we can do."

Sarah's sister Dunia added: "Our main fear is that the house Sarah and Mazen are living in is close to the marina which is where the battleships are, which would be a target for bombs."

Mazen, joined by Sarah, is keeping a vigil at the bedside of his sick mother.

The Shatila family are also worried about cousins on their father's side of the family who remain trapped in Beirut.

Wedding day amid bombs of Lebanon

Cousin Mohamad Shatila, 24, suffers from diabetes and is desperate to escape from the country ripped apart by the conflict between Israel and *Hezbollah*.

Dunia said: "Every time the bombs fall he gets more scared. It's not like there is just one or two, they're throwing them down by the dozen.

He has got insulin, but we don't know how long it will last.

"We've been trying to contact the British Embassy to get him a visa so that he can come and stay with us in Blackpool, but we haven't been able to do anything so far."

Meanwhile an aid agency today warned that food shortages and shelling of residential areas has turned the conflict into a major humanitarian situation.

One in five Lebanese has been made homeless by the ongoing violence, according to reports by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP).

An estimated 800,000 people have been displaced in Lebanon - 95,000 in and around the capital Beirut.

Amer Daoudi, the WFP's emergency co-ordinator in Lebanon, said: "There are <u>women</u> and children who face a daily threat not only of shelling and injury, but of having less and less food and water to sustain them.

"We've no time to waste in reaching them."

Load-Date: July 29, 2006



Another Complaint From Cair Is Thrown Out of Court

New York Sun (Archive)
April 12, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 5

Length: 536 words

Byline: By JOSH GERSTEIN, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Body

A federal appeals court yesterday ruled that an Islamic group, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, cannot pursue a \$2 million libel lawsuit against a former Congressman who accused the organization of fund-raising for terrorists and for causing the end of his marriage.

In 2003,the group,known as Cair,sued the then-Congressman from North Carolina, Cass Ballenger, over a newspaper interview in which he alleged that Cair was a "fund-raising arm for <u>Hezbollah</u>," a terrorist group active in the Middle East.

Mr. Ballenger also made the eyecatching claim that the group caused the breakup of his marriage. He said that, after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, his wife, Donna, grew disturbed by the fact that the couple's Washington home was located across the street from Cair's headquarters. Mr. Ballenger said <u>women</u> "wearing hoods" going in and out of the Cair office were a particular source of distress for his spouse.

The ruling handed down yesterday dealt not with Cair's alleged links to terrorism, but with more arcane question of whether the breakup of a lawmaker's marriage has sufficient implications for his official duties as to shroud his comments relating to the divorce from legal liability.

Under federal law, a lawsuit against a federal employee over acts "within the scope of his office or employment" can be automatically converted by the attorney general into a case against the federal government. This effectively ends libel and slander suits because the federal government is immune from such litigation.

An attorney for Cair, Jeremiah Den ton III, argued that Mr. Ballenger's statement about Cair and his marriage was "simply too remote from any Congressional duty" to qualify for protection.

However, the unanimous threejudge panel said there was enough of a connection. "There was a clear nexus between the congressman answering a reporter's question about the congressman's personal life and the congressman's ability to carry out his representative responsibilities effectively," Judges David Sentelle, Judith Rogers, and Thomas Griffith, wrote.

Mr. Denton also argued that granting what is, in effect, immunity to Mr. Ballenger would open the door to "gratuitous slander" of private citizens by government officials. However, the judges said they had no such fear and expected future cases to be decided based on the context in which any allegedly li belous statements were made.

Under the Constitution, members of Congress also enjoy absolute immunity from suits stemming from legislative speech and debate, but that provision was not discussed in yesterdays ruling.

Another Complaint From Cair Is Thrown Out of Court

An assistant to Mr. Denton said he was unavailable for comment yesterday. A spokesman for Cair did not reply to a message seeking an interview. Efforts to reach Mr. Ballenger were unsuccessful.

Critics have accused Cair of using libel suits to intimidate its critics.A \$1.35 million lawsuit the organization brought in Virginia in 2004 against the operator of an "anti-Cair" Website, Andrew Whitehead, petered out last month with both sides agreeing to dismiss the case out of court.The settlement is confidential, but Mr. Whitehead's Website still contains statements calling Cair "a terrorist-supporting front organization."

Load-Date: April 12, 2006



Student documentary shown at Tufts U. gauges Lebanese uncertainty

University Wire

September 16, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Tufts Daily via U-Wire

Length: 532 words

Byline: By Brain McPartland, Tufts Daily; SOURCE: Tufts U.

Dateline: MEDFORD, Mass.

Body

Two Lebanese <u>women</u> came to campus Wednesday evening to present a documentary on the confusion in their country since the February murder of former prime minister Rafiq Hariri.

Marwa Abou-Daya and Remi Raidan, both students at the American University in Beirut, interviewed people on the street in Lebanon to get their reactions to the murder.

The resulting documentary "Shock, Pain and Hope: Valentine's Day in Lebanon," shows the complex opinion people hold as the country enters an uncertain era.

Although it was the <u>women</u>'s first visit to the university, Abou-Daya and Raidan previously participated in Soliya Connect, a videoconferencing program that allows students from the U.S. and the Middle East to speak to each other.

Soliya is the main component Ex College course co-taught by senior Negar Razavi and first year Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy student Matan Chorev.

Hariri, who served as prime minister from 1992-1998 and then again from 2000-2004, was killed on Feb. 14 when a roadside bomb detonated as his car drove by. Hariri helped create last September's United Nations Resolution 1559, which called for the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. His death was widely blamed on Syria. The resolution also called for the disarmament of militias, including *Hezbollah*.

Syrian troops had been in Lebanon since 1976, one year into what became a 14-year civil war. They completed their withdrawal at the end of last April.

"Different people will say different things about the Syrian impact inside Lebanon," Abou-Daya said. She said some people experienced hardships from the Syrian occupation on a daily basis, whereas the lives of others were virtually free of Syrian intervention. Abou-Daya also said the Syrians played a prominent role in influencing Lebanese politics.

The **women** interviewed a man who had camped out for weeks in protest against Syria after Hariri's death.

"There are many theories all around the country," Raidan said after the film ended. "But there is little hard evidence of any link."

German magistrate Detlev Mehlis is currently leading a United Nations inquiry into Hariri's murder.

Student documentary shown at Tufts U. gauges Lebanese uncertainty

The students asked people to compare their perceptions of the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and the U.S. occupation of Iraq. When asked by an audience member why the documentary made the comparison, the students said it was a popular sentiment in the Lebanese press.

One man interviewd in the documentary said Lebanese were not interested in any foreign support, Syrian or American. "Lebanon must be for Lebanon," he said.

The girls were hesitant to predict how the period of uncertainty following Hariri's death would affect the long-term dynamics inside Lebanon. "Right now, it is too early to see the future of Lebanon," Abou-Daya said. "However, many people in the country are ready to take charge."

The Lebanese students are now taking their documentary on a tour of colleges on the East Coast, including a stop at Harvard University on Thursday.

The Soliya Connect Ex College class came out of the New Initiative for Middle East Peace, a student group at the Institute of Global Leadership. The course was taught by the same students last year.

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Load-Date: September 16, 2005



Crowd demands justice for Rafik Hariri: Removal of Syrian-backed president urged

Ottawa Citizen

February 15, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 454 words

Byline: Ramsay Short, The Daily Telegraph

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT - Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese gathered in Beirut yesterday to mark the anniversary of the assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri, as calls mounted for the removal of the Syrian-backed president, Emile Lahoud.

A sea of red and white flags bearing the cedar tree of Lebanon mixed with banners bearing Mr. Hariri's image and anti-Syrian slogans such as "The Truth" and "No to Bashar" -- a reference to Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose regime is widely blamed for the killing.

What had begun as a sombre occasion to show national unity soon became polarized with calls from Sunni Muslim, Druze and Maronite Christian leaders for the resignation of Mr. Lahoud, whose term was extended for three years in 2004 under Syrian pressure.

Saad Hariri, the late prime minister's son and political heir, called Mr. Lahoud "the symbol of (Syrian) domination."

"They left us with the legacy of their domination at Baabda (the presidential palace), but we tell them to remove that legacy, remove the symbol of your oppression," he said.

Walid Jumblatt, the veteran Druze leader, called Mr. Assad a "terrorist tyrant," saying, "The Lebanese are free men. We say to him he can take back his agent Lahoud."

Mr. Hariri returned for the demonstration from Paris, where he has been living in self-imposed exile in fear of his life after a series of assassinations of anti-Syrian MPs and journalists in 2005.

The majority of people at the rally, however, were there to seek justice.

Hussein Abbas, a Muslim from the town of Chtoura said, "I want to find the people who did these terrible crimes and I am here to ask the whole world to help us find the truth."

Oliver Gemayel, 28, from Beirut, said he was there "to remember and to go forward with peace and justice."

Crowd demands justice for Rafik Hariri: Removal of Syrian -backed president urged

Veiled <u>women</u> with families and men wearing the tribal red headdress from the Bekaa Valley shared traditional Lebanese bread with young girls in western clothing.

Zeina Accouma, 40, from Accar, in the north, who had brought along her aging mother and two young sons said, "I am here for the truth and to show that we are united in Lebanon, Muslim and Christian, and I am here to pray for Rafik Hariri."

Young men wearing T-shirts with the Christian Lebanese Forces logo held anti-Syrian placards in a repeat of demonstrations last March that led to Syria's withdrawal of troops from Lebanon in April, after 30 years.

Many in the crowd were buoyed by a promise from Washington to see justice done and the people who killed Mr. Hariri punished.

In a mark of the country's deep divisions, the pro-Syrian Shia group <u>Hezbollah</u> and its allies held a separate commemoration in the southern town of Tyre. They said the Beirut commemoration had become "politicized."

Graphic

Photo: Jamal Saidi, Reuters; Hundreds of thousands of people -- unofficial police estimates put the figure at about 800,000 and organizers at more than one million -- thronged the Lebanese capital in a show of unity yesterday. They came to remember Rafik Hariri, the assassinated former prime minister credited with rebuilding and freeing Lebanon.

Load-Date: February 15, 2006



Democracy's challenge

Ottawa Citizen
June 9, 2005 Thursday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A14

Length: 528 words

Byline: The Ottawa Citizen

Body

It's a sign of how much still needs to be done to bring democracy to the Arab world that a report on freedom and governance in Arab states was delayed for six months as its authors dealt with the controversy it caused.

The basic message of the Arab Human Development Report is that freedom and good governance are lacking in Arab states. That shouldn't be controversial. But Rima Khalaf Hunaidi, a director in the UN Development Program and chairwoman of the group that produced the report, says officials in "donor countries" were upset about criticism of the West's double standard in tolerating despotism in its allies, but not in its enemies.

The report is highly critical of Arab states, refusing to accept any excuse for delaying democratic change. It eventually saw the light of day this spring, word for word as it was written. But despite the controversy, the UNDP should not have delayed the report. The stubborn reluctance of governments inside and outside the region to face and debate these issues can only hold progress back.

There have been scattered signs of reform in recent years. But Ms. Hunaidi says small forward steps do not necessarily mean the region is inexorably moving toward democracy. "It's not a turning point, but it's a start."

Observers are often tempted to see each step as a turning point. The excitement over recent demonstrations in Lebanon that led to the withdrawal of Syrian forces from that country has been tempered by results of the parliamentary election, where voters in southern Lebanon voted for candidates from Syrian-backed <u>Hezbollah</u>. The spirit of self-determination is moving in Lebanon, but a desire to move Lebanon into an era of sovereignty and stability may be lacking.

Sometimes, Ms. Hunaidi says, states will make a positive change in one area, but that might not mean the state is moving toward freedom and democracy. Some states have a relative wealth of political opportunities for <u>women</u>, but do not respect other human and civil rights. Then there is Kuwait, where the parliament had, until this year, refused to recognize the right of <u>women</u> to vote -- despite the ruler's decree granting suffrage.

The danger of half-steps, such as Saudi Arabia's male-only elections, is that they can relieve international pressure, without leading to real change. What is needed is to move forward on all fronts: human and civil rights, democratic institutions, free economic systems. It's possible that the turning point for the Arab world could come in the next few years, but only if citizens there show their leaders that they demand reform. Western governments must keep steady pressure on authoritarian states and not allow it to ease out of expedience.

Democracy's challenge

States can reform one step at a time, but as the UN report says, those first steps must be the right ones. The fundamental and linked freedoms of opinion, expression and organization will open the way for real reform.

Canada can use its aid wisely, to support democratic institutions and to form partnerships with reformers within Arab states. There is a long way to go and no doubt there will be setbacks. But Canada must do all that it can to keep the process on track.

Load-Date: June 9, 2005



Syrian shadow fades, but still darkens Lebanon: Influences politics; Christian-Druze alliance is untested

The Gazette (Montreal)

June 21, 2005 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A16

Length: 465 words

Byline: SAM F. GHATTAS, AP

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

The anti-Syrian opposition's election victory is certain to reshape Lebanon's politics, but that doesn't mean this small country is finally out of Syria's shadow - at least not yet.

Despite international pressure and the withdrawal of its army, Syria continues to wield some influence, albeit a waning one, through its friends and supporters.

The assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri four months ago galvanized the Lebanese people to take to the streets in mass anti-Syrian protests, leading to the troop withdrawal.

Now, the opposition has swept into control of the legislature. Headed by Hariri's son, Saad, and Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, the opposition has a majority of 72 seats out of 128 in parliament after the four-stage election that ended Sunday.

<u>Women</u> and children waved flags and danced in the streets of the northern port city of Tripoli as news spread yesterday that Hariri's bloc swept the 28 seats up for grabs in Sunday's round. Motorcades of honking supporters drove through Beirut, the capital, in celebration.

Claiming victory, Hariri extended a hand to his defeated opponents, saying, "We will not close the door on anyone."

The new majority - made up of diverse Muslim and Christian groups unified mainly by their desire to win and end Syrian interference - has not been tested as a coherent force.

Pro-Syrian factions such as the Shiite Muslim Amal and <u>Hezbollah</u> - together with a bloc of 21 led by their critic, Michel Aoun, who broke from the current opposition and has both anti- and pro-Syrian allies - have the remaining 56 seats.

Aoun already has said he will sit in the opposition benches in the new parliament. "There's a dispute over values," he said.

In the past, Syria took a hands-on role in directing Lebanon's politics, deciding who ran for office and who was appointed, from president and prime minister to the state university deans.

Syrian shadow fades, but still darkens Lebanon: Influences politics; Christian-Druze alliance is untested

With its army out, Damascus has lost its prime leverage in Lebanon and will have to rely on friends and supporters, a much-reduced clout.

One major backer still in place is President Emile Lahoud, accused of being the enforcer of Syria's policy and of giving security agencies allied with Damascus free rein. His term in office - extended last year on orders from Damascus - expires in 2007, and parliament cannot force him out.

The new political landscape has produced surprising alliances that saw pro- and anti-Syrian joining hands.

Aoun, the anti-Syrian former army commander who lost a 1989 war with Syrian forces, now says his problems with Damascus are over.

He allied himself with pro-Syrian groups during the election and declared that the Syrians respect him because "I am an honest adversary," unlike opposition groups that were once Syria's friends and turned on Damascus with the changing public mood.

Graphic

Colour Photo: HUSSEIN MALLA, AP; Anti-Syrian opposition leader Saad Hariri, son of Lebanon's slain former prime minister Rafik Hariri, seen in posters, is destined to control parliament, breaking Syria's domination of the country.

Load-Date: June 21, 2005



Power shifting in Middle East

University Wire

March 9, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Daily Texan via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 526 words

Byline: By Ori Raphael, Daily Texan; SOURCE: U. Texas-Austin

Dateline: AUSTIN, Texas

Body

Muslims, Christians and Druze together have taken to the streets to take back their nation from Syria's grip.

That Syria would promise to leave Lebanon is a development that would have been unthinkable since the '80s when Syria took control of the country. But drastic changes seem to be happening all over the Middle East from the fall of oppressive dictators to free elections. This is just another event in the domino effect that has begun since the beginning of President Bush's involvement in the Middle East. Whether you like him or not, Bush has taken enormous strides in his Middle East policies, and history will view him as a great leader of change.

In the past four years, more changes have occurred in the Middle East than in the past 50. Where previously there was only one true democracy, Israel, now there are three. The Iraqi and Palestinian people both had free elections this year with competing parties. The seeds are still spreading, as we see in Lebanon. It was Bush's policies that facilitated this growth in democracy.

The war in Iraq deposed Saddam Hussein, and the president's policies marginalized Arafat, taking him out of the peace process and into his dark place in history. Even Libya's leader, Muammar el-Qaddafi, has pledged to the world that he no longer desires to be a menace and has not been a problem since. No one in the world thought that these dictators would be deposed or made worthless, but our new international policy changed things for the better.

Bush is unifying the world against the evil intentions of Iran and Syria and showing everyone the two nations' true colors. The president is at the forefront of halting Iran's attainment of nuclear weapons and is the main critic of Syria's grip on Lebanon. Iran's propaganda screams "Death to America," and the two nations are poisoning the region and even the world with their support of terrorist groups such as <u>Hezbollah</u>, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and allegedly al Qaida. These groups are losing strength daily due to the American involvement in the region, and everyone there is being or will be affected for the better.

This series of events has led to a shout of freedom from a diverse population living under tyranny. Lebanon, with no outside help, is feeling the birth pangs of its own democratic formation, and its people realize freedom is attainable, and the world would support them. The Lebanese have seen that Iraqis and Palestinians can try their hand at democracy, and others could follow suit.

While nothing is certain yet, the progress is incredible. Dictators have fallen, elections have occurred and other injustices are being fixed. **Women**'s rights, liberty and the freedom to speak are issues that are being confronted,

Power shifting in Middle East

and that is a change for the better. We do not know where Lebanon and all the other places will end up, or what other problems will arise, but we do know that positive progress has been made in a troubled region.

A song by Genesis best sums up President Bush's view: "This is the world we live in, and these are the hands we're given. Use them, and let's start trying to make this a place worth living in."

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Load-Date: March 9, 2005



'Our Peace Strategy Has Failed'

New York Sun (Archive) January 26, 2006 Thursday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 525 words

Byline: Shoshana Bryen

Body

After hundreds of thousands of deaths, the displacement of about 3 million people, and the destruction of the tribal way of life of the people of Darfur; after the establishment and deployment of an African Union "peacekeeping" force of 7,000 men supported by American logistics and \$170 million; after President Bush called the human catastrophe "genocide" and demanded U.N. action, Jan Pronk, U.N. special envoy to Sudan, has said, "Looking back at three years of killings and (ethnic) cleansing in Darfur, we must admit that our peace strategy so far has failed. All we did was pick up the pieces and muddle through, doing too little, too late."

Mr. Pronk, it appears, has been educated by, or perhaps haunted by the multitude of men, <u>women</u>, and children murdered outright or starved into submission by the Darfur rebels with the active support of the Sudanese government under the protection of the threat of a Chinese veto of Security Council action. (China has a large stake in the oil riches of southern Sudan, and thus supports the government in Khartoum regardless of the depredations it heaps upon its citizens.) According to media reports, Mr. Pronk "appealed to [the U.N. Security Council] to undertake a transition from the African Union mission to a UN force of ... peacekeepers with the authority to use violence to prevent attacks against civilians and disarm militias." (My emphasis)

Aside from the syntactical oddity, Mr. Pronk is on to something.

A "war strategy" - the authority to use violence - might, in fact, be more effective and humane than a "peace strategy." The militias are waging war against the people of Darfur and warriors - people authorized to use violence - are needed to protect the people and kill, yes, kill, the perpetrators. There is no reason to believe anything less will stop the Janjaweed ravaging of an already ravaged people.

One of the most bizarre notions born of the late 20th century is that people who kill, loot, maim, rape, pillage, and blow up buses are driven by circumstance to their evil deeds and can be convinced by diplomacy to stop. There is an implicit assumption that killers have an agenda amenable to compromise or purchase. It further assumes that at least some of the killers' claims have merit that diplomats - and victims - should consider. It is on a par with the notion that sharing power with terrorists will "moderate" them, making them aware of potholes, civil rights, and the requirements for peaceable relations among nations.

But it is often the case that one party's agenda is the death of its enemy and the acquisition of its physical and intellectual space and/or property. Janjaweed, Hamas, <u>Hezbollah</u>, and Al Qaeda give no evidence of interest in the achievement of some of their goals or satisfaction of some of their claims. The benefits of a Western-style "win-win" situation eludes them.

'Our Peace Strategy Has Failed'

To the extent that Mr. Pronk is successful in convincing the United Nations that killing the killers is the fastest route to peace, the people of Darfur may yet have hope.

Ms. Bryen is director of special projects at the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Load-Date: January 26, 2006



Middle East crisis: Cyprus: Lebanese who fled as youngsters forced to flee again with own children

The Guardian - Final Edition
July 20, 2006 Thursday

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Section: GUARDIAN HOME PAGES; Pg. 6

Length: 931 words

Byline: Angelique Chrisafis and Brian Whitaker

Body

Wearing a sweat-soaked vest and beach shorts and clutching a leather briefcase in one hand and a baffled five-year-old in the other, Joe Noujeim cut an odd figure as he walked down the gangplank of a 5,200 tonne British destroyer to a Cyprus tourist spot yesterday morning.

Mr Noujeim, his Portsmouth-born wife, Maria, and their three children were among the first people to arrive at Limassol port in Britain's biggest sea evacuation since Dunkirk. Mrs Noujeim had packed only two rucksacks, full of food and water, and was encouraging her children to be brave in the face of danger. "Our building was shaking," said young Michael, not sure where he was.

For nights on end the family had watched bomb attacks from their flat window 500 metres from the main <u>Hizbullah</u> neighbourhoods of south Beirut. Mr Noujeim, who works for a music radio station, said the worst part of the ordeal had been the private taxi ride through Beirut's bombed streets to get to the port and the British ship.

The HMS Gloucester was the first British naval ship to dock in Limassol at around 7.20am, bringing 180 evacuated passengers - mostly British, with some Germans, Filipinos and Australians. Last night, the destroyer was making its second trip, this time with 650 on board.

But the first voyage was a priority mission of mostly <u>women</u>, children and families, who had travelled in the sailors' mess and been allowed 20kg (45lb) of luggage per family. For safety reasons the navy had only taken them above deck in small batches for occasional "fresh air" breaks during the 11-hour, 140-mile journey. The captain said he had carefully negotiated Israel's naval blockade, staying in touch with Israeli naval ships in a "friendly way".

The families were given tea and sandwiches and soldiers fed babies - including triplets - changed nappies. About 5,000 people will make a similar journey over the next few days. There are up to 12,000 British nationals and 10,000 dual nationals in Lebanon.

But many UK citizens asked why Britain had taken so long to get them out when other countries had already evacuated more than 1,000. "They could have started this operation much faster," said Ragha from Nottingham.

Deja vu

Middle East crisis: Cyprus: Lebanese who fled as youngsters forced to flee again with own children

In Cyprus there was a feeling of deja vu. The Mediterranean island has hosted hundreds of refugees from the Middle East conflict over the past 30 years. Yesterday people who had fled Lebanon with their families in the 1980s as children were now fleeing again with their own children.

Khayri Kaaki travelled on the HMS Gloucester with his Wilmslow-born wife, Maya, and their one-year-old son. They had escaped to the mountains outside Beirut, but said the supermarkets had run out of bread, sugar and water as they waited for days to be evacuated. The family took a taxi at speeds of up to 120mph to reach the port once the embassy had given them the go-ahead.

"It was terrifying. We thought a bridge was going to be bombed as we crossed it," he said. "In 1982, when Israel invaded, I was a seven-year-old. I remember the 15-hour journey to escape into Syria, I remember crying in the car and my mother shouting at me. Now I'm doing the same with my own son."

His friend Tanaz Agha fled to Cyprus from Lebanon in the early 1980s as a child. The family brought no bags and ended up staying for 20 years. Now she has escaped again with nothing but her passport and wallet and is staying in the same Limassol hotel she did as a two-year-old, rinsing her one T-shirt each day. The family are looking for a flat to rent in Cyprus until they can return.

"This will get worse. The terrible thing is that now foreigners are coming out, Israel won't care, they'll do what they like to the place," she said.

The British high commissioner to Cyprus, Peter Millet, defended the decision to evacuate slowly. "We did not want to rush . . . until we knew we could do it safely," he said.

After being questioned by Home Office and immigration officials in a vast hangar at the Limassol port, most people were bussed to the RAF base at Akrotiri where the government had provided a commercial charter flight to Stansted. At first some were told they would have to pay £290, but all were later told they would travel free.

But just as European countries and the US and Australia brought boats to evacuate their citizens, hundreds of Lebanese were trying to travel the other way. Late on Tuesday night at Larnaca port, 100 Lebanese queued to board a French boat to Beirut which earlier that day had evacuated 900 French people and was now going back for more.

"I have to reach my children in Beirut," said Norah, a banker who had been on a training course in Cyprus when the attacks began.

In Beirut yesterday, an anxious crowd was jostling around the door of a hut in front of the British embassy.

Trapped

Seventeen-year-old Najwa Mashar was distraught. "I want to leave but I can't get my passport," she said. Najwa, from Manchester, had been visiting her grandmother in southern Lebanon. Just before the fighting broke out she went to Beirut to see her sister, leaving her passport for safe-keeping with her grandmother in Tyre. There was no hope of going back to retrieve it now.

Embassy officials expect that "the vast majority" of Britons who want to leave will have gone by tomorrow, but have not set a date for the end of the rescue operation. The embassy is still very concerned about 86 Britons trapped in southern Lebanon. Agreeing safe passage with the Israelis is proving difficult. "We are in contact with other international partners, and if we can we'll piggy-back on other people's operations," an embassy official said.

Load-Date: July 20, 2006



Violent reaction to cartoons of Muhammad

The Irish Times

February 7, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 17

Length: 1053 words

Body

Madam, - What appears to be an unbridgeable gulf has opened up between those who support freedom of expression and those whose Muslim beliefs deem respect for the Prophet to be paramount. This raises important questions for Europe, for the many millions of Muslims who live here and the millions of Turks who want to join the EU.

Freedom of expression is a right which took millennia to achieve. It is now being directly challenged by those who would relegate it below respect for religion. But it is that very right to freedom of expression which guarantees the rights of all minorities to practise their religion. If Muslim protesters succeed in preventing the publication of ideas they deem offensive, what is to prevent other groups attempting to censor Islamic publications?

Muslims living in Europe must understand that freedom of expression is one of the cornerstones of European freedom. Christians and Christian symbols have been lampooned and satirised for years. But the majority of Christians, who may be deeply offended, accept that the right of some to engage in such satirising is a basic freedom in Europe. Such satirising neither threatens nor weakens their belief. It may even strengthen it.

Freedom of expression allows for the dissemination of ideas which are unpopular, unpalatable, vulgar and offensive. For if ideas were pleasant and agreeable, they would not need protection. Western civilisation has reached its present level of freedom because ideas which in their time were unpopular and offensive were spoken and published. Had those radical voices from the past been silenced, Europeans today might be enduring the same lack of freedom experienced in most Muslim states.

Europeans need to remain true to their cherished freedoms and Muslims living in Europe must accept that the rights of Europeans are not those dictated by religion. - Yours, etc,

TREVOR TROY, Connaught Place, Athboy, Co Meath.

A chara, - A Danish cartoon depicting Islam as fundamentalist leads to an outburst of anti-European violence in Islamic countries - an extraordinary reaction that can only reinforce the caricature. Extraordinary because the free press in Europe is more sympathetic to Muslim causes than is the press almost anywhere else. One example is its criticism of the invasion of Iraq.

Moreover, it is extraordinary that some of the most militant protests came from Palestine, whose government has been bankrolled by Europe for years.

I personally think the cartoons were ill-judged, but as a sequel may I suggest a sketch of a rabid mouth severing the hand that feeds it? - Is mise,

CIARÁN MAC AONGHUSA, Churchtown, Dublin 14.

Madam, - Will we ever learn that when we insult somebody we hurt them? Sometimes we do this accidentally, in which case we are genuinely sorry and apologise. When, however, we insult deliberately, apologies are difficult to accept.

Were these cartoons published accidentally or deliberately? Good manners are taught basically so that we can survive in harmony with others. These same manners require us to desist from hurting or offending beliefs held dearly by others.

Of course we believe in "freedom of speech". But where does this end? Is it not time we asked ourselves whether or not we should want to accept that any of us who hold our religious beliefs dearly can do so without ridicule. In doing so we would allow all beliefs or disbeliefs to mature in a calm and peaceful manner, and hopefully live together in a happier world. - Yours, etc,

MARGARET TURVEY, Abbey Terrace, Howth, Co Dublin.

Madam, - Suicide bombers killing men, <u>women</u> and children in the name of Islam; Islamic groups beheading kidnap victims; members of al-Qaeda evoking the name of the Prophet to justify the 9/11 slaughter in the US and those in in Bali, Madrid and London - none of these provoked mass demonstrations or public protest across the Muslim world.

Yet, five months after its first publication in a Danish paper, a cartoon conveying the concern of many in Europe that Islam has been obscenely hijacked and distorted by radical barbaric fundamentalists results in violent demonstrations, a boycott of Danish goods, embassies being torched, flags burnt, Denmark and its people being threatened with "a bloody war" by the al-Masri Brigade and the EU offices in Gaza being threateningly surrounded by Palestinian gunmen.

Apparently publication of the cartoon is a greater insult to the Prophet than the murder of innocent men, <u>women</u> and children in His name.

Political leaders in the Middle East and in other predominantly Muslim countries have rushed to the verbal barricades to both support and encourage their local protesters, whose anger is easily distracted from the responsibility of many of the same leaders for the political and economic failures which blight the demonstrators' lives. The demonisation of others is always a good distraction from culpability and its political consequences.

Iran's President, who never misses an opportunity to declare his desire to "wipe Israel off the map" and who has nuclear ambitions, demands "a firm response" to the cartoon. The leader of Lebanon's <u>Hizbullah</u> attributes the Danish fall in standards to the failure of Muslims to murder Salman Rushdie as decreed by a fatwa issued 17 years ago.

And European politicians and newspaper owners, are they acting firmly to assert the rights to press freedom and freedom of speech? Predictably, the managing editor of France Soir is sacked for republishing the cartoon and European Commissioner Peter Mandelson, reflecting the views of many European politicians, condemns the newspapers which reprinted it for being "provocative and offensive".

What is truly not only "provocative and offensive" but also entirely indefensible is the death, mayhem and destruction that has been perpetrated in recent years wrongly in the name of Islam. What is frightening is the ease with which some people in the Western world succumb to Taliban-style political correctness and self-censorship and the extent to which people who should know better are willing to suspend their critical faculties and their commitment to democratic values and human rights.

When will the lesson be finally learnt that appeasing intolerance and extremism is a slippery slope that leads to disaster? - Yours, etc,

ALAN SHATTER, Upper Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Load-Date: February 7, 2006



Global Warning

The New York Times
February 6, 2005 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 7; Column 2; Book Review Desk; Pg. 28; CHRONICLE / POLITICAL ISLAM

Length: 2018 words

Byline: By Noah Feldman

Noah Feldman, a professor at the New York University School of Law and fellow of the New America Foundation, is the author of "What We Owe Iraq: War and the Ethics of Nation Building."

Body

GLOBALIZED ISLAM
The Search for a New Ummah.
By Olivier Roy.
Columbia University, \$29.50.

THE WAR FOR MUSLIM MINDS Islam and the West.
By Gilles Kepel.
Harvard University, \$23.95.

UNHOLY ALLIANCE Radical Islam and the American Left. By David Horowitz. Regnery, \$27.95.

AT THE HEART OF TERROR Islam, Jihadists, and America's War on Terrorism. By Monte Palmer and Princess Palmer. Rowman & Littlefield, \$24.95.

PAKISTAN'S DRIFT
INTO EXTREMISM
Allah, the Army, and
America's War on Terror.
By Hassan Abbas.
M. E. Sharpe, cloth, \$69.95; paper, \$25.95.

Global Warning

The globalization of Islam is nothing new. The Prophet Muhammad himself confronted Jews, Christians and pagans in his Arabian milieu -- and within a couple of generations, Islam, spread by conquest and conversion alike, came into fruitful contact with the legacies of Persian, Greek and Roman civilizations.

Nevertheless, since 9/11, the pace of the engagement between global Islam and other, mostly Western, forces and ideas has quickened, and the stakes have grown. The latest round of books on Islam and the West attempts to make sense of this most recent and intense episode of global interaction and conflict. Mostly, these books reveal a powerful undercurrent of concern -- ripening into panic -- about the unintended consequences of civilizational encounters played out in an environment of violence. They offer diagnoses, but few prescriptions.

In an influential pre-9/11 book, "The Failure of Political Islam," Olivier Roy, a French student of contemporary Islam, argued that utopian Islamic revolutions in Muslim countries failed during the 1980's and 90's. Now, in "Globalized Islam: The Search for a New Ummah," he pushes the point farther, suggesting that the important events in the world of Islam are taking place not in the regions we ordinarily think of as Islamic but in Europe. As Exhibit A, Roy points to today's global terrorists, who, he says, are overwhelmingly likely to have studied and lived in Europe (or occasionally the United States) and to have embraced radical Islamic ideas there, not in the Muslim countries where they were born.

Indeed, he traces contemporary Islamic terrorism itself to the European terror of the Baader-Meinhof gang and other leftist movements of the 1960's and 70's. Global Islamic terror, for Roy, is not only born of the interaction between Islam and the West, but also reflects the aspiration of displaced Muslims living in Europe to create a transnational Islamic identity, forged in revolution.

Roy is right to focus on the ways that both the techniques and ideologies of terror have crossed borders and grafted themselves onto an Islam that, in the past, was largely unfamiliar with them. (He points out, for instance, that suicide bombing was popularized not by Muslims, but by the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, and adopted by Al Qaeda only after it had been borrowed, to devastating effect, by Palestinian radicals as part of their intifada.) It is also true that the small number of Muslim terrorists who have committed acts of terror in Europe or the United States includes several who were radicalized in Europe. (As Roy notes, however, this was not true of the 15 Saudis who were the muscle, not the pilots, on 9/11.)

Roy's Eurocentric focus and his impulse to link Islamic terror to Marxist-inspired radicalism obscure the extent to which satellite television and the Internet have spread Western ideas into the Islamic world. Utopian violence may arguably be on the decline in most majority Muslim countries (although Saudi Arabia is a notable exception, and the Iraqi insurgency includes its share of jihadis); but ideas from free speech to text messaging to brand-name consumerism are affecting the daily lives of larger and larger numbers of non-Western people, who remain fully comfortable with their own national as well as religious identities. Surely the future of global Islam is to be found where most Muslims live, and where today's ideologies of both radical and moderate Islamism are developed, even if they are adopted by emigres abroad.

If the United States seems missing from Roy's story at times, Gilles Kepel puts America's reaction to 9/11 front and center in "The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West." Kepel's central thesis can be summed up simply: the United States is losing the war, and badly. Instead of encouraging resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Bush administration has played directly into Al Qaeda's hands by invading Iraq. It failed to recognize that the war would further inflame the Muslim world, convincing more Muslims than ever before that the United States was their enemy. Now, Kepel says, Europe will inherit the whirlwind, in the form of growing Islamic extremism and terrorist acts like the Madrid bombings.

Kepel and Roy are frequently mentioned in the same breath -- because of their French nationality and their tendency to publish books at the same time -- but their approaches are starkly different. Kepel, one senses, is addressing an American audience, in order to show us the error of our ways through an outsider's critical evaluation. One chapter is devoted to an analysis of the neoconservatives, and another of comparable length to what he considers "the calamity of nation-building in Iraq."

Global Warning

But Kepel is best when on familiar ground, as when he analyzes the growing skill of European Muslim leaders like the controversial Tariq Ramadan, who defend religious freedom while demanding special recognition for their religious community as a distinct group within Europe. Kepel barely suppresses his frustration with this two-sided political strategy, or with the French government's willingness to play along by recognizing quasi-official clerical spokesmen for Muslims in France.

Forbidding Muslim girls to wear headscarves in French schools while simultaneously trying to control French Muslims through officially recognized Islamic organizations gets matters exactly backward, as most Americans will easily see. Our constitutional combination of freedom to practice one's religion, coupled with the strong separation of church and state, has worked far better in accommodating religious diversity than anything Europe has yet dreamed up. The United States may be alienating Muslims worldwide with its foreign policy; but at home a new generation of Muslim-Americans is demonstrating the ability to criticize American policy while maintaining steadfast loyalty to the democratic values they share with other American citizens from different backgrounds.

It would be nice if the extremes of the American right and left showed some of the same measured ability to argue against mistaken American policies without impugning the integrity of the other side; but perhaps this is asking too much of ideologues caught up in the past. David Horowitz is one such relic of traditional left-right struggles (and like many of the toughest grapplers, he has been on both sides). In "Unholy Alliance: Radical Islam and the American Left," this leftist-turned-conservative provocateur aims to discredit his old allies by arguing that the left is in bed with Osama bin Laden because of their shared anti-Americanism. He writes that "self-described progressives" have formed "inexplicable alliances . . . with Arab fascists and Islamic fanatics in their war against America and the West."

Horowitz's book would be little more than a tiresome exercise in quote-gathering and guilt by association were it not for the fact, noted by Roy, that the Islamic extremists have indeed drunk from the well of old-fashioned Marxist anti-Americanism. Militant Islamists do in fact share some common themes and language with homegrown radicals, especially in their condemnations of American imperialism. What is interesting about this is not that it demonstrates some alliance between the old (once the new) left and Islamic terror, but that it shows how ideas lose their provenance as they travel across time. The worldwide critics of American empire today are no more likely to think of themselves as Marxists than the antiwar critics of the 1960's thought of themselves as belonging to the American anti-imperialist movements of 1900 or 1790.

A more sensible and productive set of proposals for understanding Muslim extremism comes to us from two Americans who have considerable experience in the Middle East. An academic and a World Bank consultant respectively, Monte Palmer and Princess Palmer are particularly good at describing the Lebanese and Palestinian jihad movements. In "At the Heart of Terror: Islam, Jihadists, and America's War on Terrorism," they analyze jihadi strategies with a nuanced common sense all too hard to come by in the sometimes sensationalist literature on the topic. They provide, for example, a detailed chapter on Israeli counterterrorism efforts that identifies both its successes (large numbers of suicide bombings thwarted) and its shortcomings (no significant reduction in Palestinians prepared to undertake terrorist acts).

These authors pose an increasingly tough question for United States policy: Will we, can we "accept rule by Islamic parties dedicated to the establishment of an Islamic state"? In Lebanon, for example, <u>Hezbollah</u> has made itself into a political party without abandoning its violent stance toward Israel or its willingness to use terror; in Palestine, Hamas may well follow a similar course. The Palmers call such groups "radical-moderates." Unlike the Shiite Islamic democrats poised to take power in Iraq, or Turkey's thoroughly Islamic-democratic Justice and Development Party, **Hezbollah** has been prepared to pursue simultaneous strategies of violence and political participation.

The Palmers opt for engagement with <u>Hezbollah</u> -- not because they trust them, but on the realist grounds that "efforts to eliminate them will only increase terrorism and push the United States into a war with Islam." In fact, it may be possible to negotiate with the radical-moderates on the condition that they abandon any active involvement in terror. This approach would require us to distinguish true Islamic democrats, who reject violence as a mechanism of political change, from fellow travelers like Moktada al-Sadr, who haunt the edges of participatory politics. But, as

Global Warning

the Palmers note, Muslim support for jihad against enemies perceived as oppressing Muslims is ubiquitous, even among moderate-moderates.

Even more specific is an engaging, quirky book on terrorism's largest growth market: Pakistan. Hassan Abbas, the author of "Pakistan's Drift Into Extremism: Allah, the Army, and America's War on Terror," served in the Pakistani police in the still-wild North-West Frontier Province, and did stints in the governments of both Benazir Bhutto and Pervez Musharraf. He therefore has an insider's angle on the story of the gradual infiltration of Islamic ideology into the government over the last several decades.

What's most significant about this book, however, is its insight into the Pakistan military's perspective on the country's politics and history. Each time we are introduced to a new character from the military, we hear the opinion of the officer class. And every officer has a precisely calibrated reputation: this one a drunkard, this one an honorable man, this one a brave soldier with a weakness for <u>women</u>. Increasingly, after the ruling general, Zia ul-Haq, died in an airplane crash in 1988, the newly promoted senior officers had reputations as Islamist sympathizers or activists. These reputations matter crucially for questions ranging from promotion to coup d'etat. For Abbas, the Pakistani Army is political Pakistan itself.

The picture that emerges from the details of Pakistan's military politics is one of the transformation of a traditional, British-trained and British-inflected professional army into a more complex institution that both permeates politics and, in turn, falls under the influence of political movements like Islamism. This, too, is an instance of globalization - the kind that comes after the empire has folded itself up and gone home.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Drawing (Drawing by Viktor Koen)

Load-Date: February 7, 2005



Guardian Weekly

March 18, 2005 - March 24, 2005

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Section: The Week; Vol. 172, No. 13; Pg. 2

Length: 971 words

Body

Americas

Rice won't run for presidency

Condoleezza Rice insisted that she would not seek the presidency, disappointing those who had looked forward to an all-woman race for the White house in 2008 between the secretary of state and Senator Hillary Clinton.

Farc leader extradited to US

Omaira Rojas, a senior member of Colombia's main rebel group, Farc, who allegedly knows details of its drug trafficking operations, was extradited to the US. A federal judge in Washington indicted her in December 2003 on charges of drug trafficking and supporting illegal activities.

Venezuela to seize 'idle' land

The Venezuelan government is to press ahead with plans to expropriate land from a British-owned farm, part of the Vestey Group, after the national land institute ruled that the owners did not have a legitimate claim to the land. The takeover is part of a move to hand 96,440 hectares of land to the poor.

Manhunt after court killings

Police in the American state of Georgia arrested a man believed to have shot dead four people, including a judge, at an Atlanta courthouse, after one of the largest manhunts in recent US history. Brian Nichols was arrested at a flat in a city suburb where a young mother whom he had taken hostage at gunpoint persuaded him to surrender.

Jewish treasure claim settled

The US has agreed to acknowledge its role as part of a \$ 25.5m settlement of claims by Hungarian Holocaust survivors that American soldiers plundered a trainload of Jewish family treasures seized by the Nazis.

Europe

Pope returns to Vatican

The Pope left hospital after speaking briefly in public for the first time since an operation last month to insert a tube in his windpipe. Although the 84-year-old pontiff has returned in time for Easter, for the first time in his papacy almost all his Easter duties have been delegated.

Freedom party loses ground

The Freedom party, formerly led by Jorg Haider, lost almost half its support in local elections in the southern Austrian province of Styria. The defeat came just a week after the party lost in local elections in Lower Austria.

Investigation into Concorde crash

A French magistrate formally placed Continental Airlines under investigation for the suspected role played by one of its jets in the Concorde crash in July 2000.

Portuguese PM takes office

Jose Socrates was sworn in as Portugal's prime minister, vowing to maintain good relations with the US despite naming a foreign minister who has compared President Bush to Adolf Hitler.

Mussolini barred from election

Alessandra Mussolini, the granddaughter of Italy's wartime fascist dictator, was barred from contesting an election after electoral referees decided that hundreds of the signatures she needed to allow her to stand had been faked.

Middle East

Mubarak lets rival out of jail

The Egyptian government of President Hosni Mubarak has released a jailed opposition leader on bail after pressure from the US and the EU. Ayman Nour, an MP, was imprisoned in January on suspicion of forging election papers, charges that his supporters say are trumped up.

Hamas enters election battle

Hamas has announced that it will contest the Palestinian parliamentary elections, a decision that could undermine attempts by the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, to renew the peace process with Israel.

Bigger protests in Lebanon

The battle for the streets of Lebanon reached new heights when hundreds of thousands of anti-Syrian protesters swamped the centre of Beirut. It was the biggest demonstration in the city, easily outstripping a recent pro-Syrian *Hizbullah* rally, which drew a crowd of about 500,000.

Africa

761,000 accused in Rwanda

The secretary general of the Rwanda justice ministry said at least 761,000 people should stand trial for their role in the 1994 genocide. General Johnston Busingye claimed that almost one in 10 of the country's population took part in the 100 days of violence in which more than 500,000 minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates died.

39 saved after quake strikes mine

After hours of frantic digging 2.5km below ground, rescuers saved 39 of 40 miners trapped in shafts that collapsed after an earthquake in a South African gold mining area.

Kenya village raid kills 30

At least 30 people, mainly <u>women</u> and children, were killed in their beds when rival ethnic Somali clansmen attacked a village outside Mandera on the Somali border in northeast Kenya.

Togo holds state funeral

Togo officially mourned its former president, Gnassingbe Eyadema, who ruled for 38 years, with a funeral attended by regional leaders working to calm the country's presidential-succession struggle.

Asia

Hundreds arrested in Nepal

Police beat protesters and arrested hundreds during nationwide rallies in Nepal against King Gyanendra's emergency rule, while communist rebels set buses alight and threatened to step up their attacks against the government.

Death penalties restored

Pakistan's highest Islamic court reinstated the convictions of five men sentenced to death for raping a woman on orders from a village council. Mukhtaran Bibi was raped in June 2002 after village elders ordered the attack on her as punishment for an illicit affair by her brother.

Inmates shot in Manila jail siege

Police officers in the Philippines shot dead 22 prisoners as they stormed a Manila jail to end a 24-hour stand-off with Islamic militant suspects.

Snack kills school children

At least 27 primary school children died and another 100 were taken to hospital after eating a cassava snack during the morning break in a remote village in the southern Philippines.

Korea gets first fish hospital

South Korea opened its first licensed fish hospital, the Yosu Fisheries Clinic, with specialists trained to treat trout with fungus and grouper with gill infections. The hospital will serve commercial fish and shellfish farms in the region.

Graphic

Picture, Council and the Climate Group that includes this picture of Mount Kilimanjaro, showing its snowy cap lost to global warming, Photo: Alex Majoli/Magnum Photos

Load-Date: March 28, 2005



Is political Islam on the march?

Christian Science Monitor June 6, 2006, Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 1113 words

Byline: Fawaz A. Gerges

Dateline: BRONXVILLE, N.Y.

Body

Since the Sept. 11 terror attacks nearly five years ago, Americans have come increasingly to believe that political Islam is a mortal threat to the West, an aggressive and totalitarian ideology dedicated to random destruction and global subjugation. Fueling Western fears is the migration of political Islam into tiny, but important, communities of Muslims living in Europe. The victory by Hamas in Palestinian parliamentary elections and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt reinforced perceptions that political Islam is inexorably on the march.

Some American commentators have called for an all-out war against all manifestations of political Islam. Disentangling myth from reality about this movement, whose goal is to establish governments based on sharia, Koranic law, is an intellectual challenge fraught with difficulties. Here are five facts to consider:

Fact 1: The political Islamist movement is highly complex and diverse. It encompasses a broad spectrum of mainstream and militant forces. Mainstream Islamists - that is, Muslim Brothers and other independent activists - represent an overwhelming majority of religiously oriented groups (in the upper 90th percentile, whereas militants or jihadists are a tiny but critical minority); they accept the rules of the political game, embrace democratic principles, and oppose violence.

In the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s the Muslim Brotherhood - the most powerfully organized of all Islamists, with local branches in the Arab Middle East and Central and South and Southeast Asia - flirted with violence. But since the early 1970s Muslim Brothers have increasingly moved to the political mainstream, and aim to Islamize state and society through peaceful means. Although Muslim Brothers are often targeted and excluded from politics by ruling autocrats, they no longer use force or the threat of force to attain their goals.

Fact 2: Mainstream and enlightened Islamists are playing an active role in expanding political debate in Muslim societies. They have forced existing secular dictatorships - such as those in Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Jordan, and even Saudi Arabia - to respond to their challenge to open up the closed political system and reform government institutions. Without such pressure, these authoritarian Arab rulers would have no incentive to respond to demands for inclusion and transparency.

Historic opponents of Western-style democracy, Islamists have become unwitting harbingers of democratic transformation. They formed alliances with their former sworn political opponents, including secularists and Marxists, in calling upon governments to respect human rights and the rule of law.

Is political Islam on the march?

Mainstream or traditional Islamists are not born-again democrats and never will be. They are deeply patriarchal, seeing themselves as the guardians of faith, tradition, and authenticity. In Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Islamists have vehemently opposed efforts to give <u>women</u> the right to vote or to drive cars. In Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Pakistan, and other Muslim countries, they denounce any legislation that would enable <u>women</u> to divorce abusive husbands, travel without male permission, or achieve full representation in government.

Nonetheless, many Islamists are gradually becoming initiated into the culture of political realism and the art of the possible. They are learning to make compromises with secular groups and rethink some of their absolutist positions. Events have forced them to come to grips with the complexity and diversity of Muslim societies. More and more, they recognize the primacy of politics over religion and the difficulty, even futility, of establishing Islamic states.

Fact 3: There is a tendency among Western observers to stress the "Islamic" factor in Muslim politics. Most Muslim governments are secular and hostile to political Islam and Islamists.

Governments which claim to be "Islamic," such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sudan, and, formerly, Afghanistan under the Taliban, though fully clothed in Islamic dress, have much in common with their secular authoritarian counterparts elsewhere. There is nothing uniquely "Islamic" about their internal governing style except the rhetoric and the symbolism. They have not offered up an original model of Islamic governance. Political Islam is more an ideal type than a concrete, well-delineated sociopolitical program. Once in power, Islamists face a Herculean task of coping with political reality. Their ideal model of an Islamic state does not translate into the concrete currency of jobs and bread and butter.

Fact 4: Mainstream Islamists may serve as a counterweight to ultramilitants like Al Qaeda. Immediately after Sept. 11, leading mainstream Islamists - such as Hassan al-Turabi, formerly head of the Islamic National Front and now of People's Congress in Sudan who, in the early 1990s, hosted Osama bin Laden and Sayyed Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah (spiritual founding father of Lebanon's *Hizbullah*) - condemned Al Qaeda's Sept. 11 attacks on the United States as harmful to Islam and Muslims, not just to Americans.

Youssef al-Qardawi, an Egyptian-born conservative Islamic cleric based in Qatar, issued a fatwa denouncing Al Qaeda's "illegal jihad" and expressed sorrow and empathy with the American victims: "Our hearts bleed because of the attacks that have targeted the World Trade Center, as well as other institutions in the United Stated." Mr. Qardawi, who is widely listened to and read by a huge Muslim audience, wrote that the murders in New York could not be justified on any ground, including "the American biased policy toward Israel on the military, political, and economic fronts."

Little wonder why Al Qaeda's leaders, including bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, often attack mainstream Islamists and accuse them of treachery.

Fact 5: Like their secular counterparts, Islamists are deeply divided over tactics and strategy. They do not see eye to eye on the pressing issues facing their communities and societies. Lumping all Islamists together is not only simplistic but also false. The depth and intensity of internal fault lines within the Islamist and jihadist movements are very real.

These internal fault lines are as important, if not more so, than the so-called clash of cultures or religions between the Christian West and the world of Islam. Instead of a clash of civilization, there exists a clash of fundamentalism - tiny minorities in both camps who are beating the drums of a cultural war.

- * Fawaz A. Gerges, author of the recent "Journey of the Jihadist: Inside Muslim Militancy," is a Carnegie scholar.
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Load-Date: June 5, 2006



Israeli hostage dilemma: negotiate with Hamas?

Christian Science Monitor June 27, 2006, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 7

Length: 974 words

Byline: Ilene R. PrusherStaff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Highlight: Palestinian militants linked to the organization are holding an Israeli soldier captured Sunday.

Body

With one of their soldiers in captivity for the first time in more than a decade, Israeli officials are facing one of the greatest dilemmas in a time of conflict: whether or not to negotiate with a group who has taken someone hostage.

The predicament arose Sunday when Palestinian militants kidnapped Cpl. Gilad Shalit and then dragged him away to a kilometer-long tunnel infiltrating Israel from Gaza.

Three Hamas-linked militant groups demanded Monday that Israel release all Palestinian <u>women</u> and minors in exchange for the soldier. A spokesman for one of the groups said the message was authentic.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and other government ministers have been quick to reiterate the official policy of Israel as well as a plethora of Western nations, including the US: no negotiations with terrorists, including an exchange of prisoners.

But Israel's history with its regional foes shows that the country's line on negotiating over hostages and prisoners of war is fuzzy and complex. And the hard-to-swallow reality, some observers here argue, is that negotiations may be the only route to ensuring the captive gets out alive.

"We can come to terms with Israeli soldiers being killed, but we can't come to terms with Israelis being taken as prisoners of war," explains Anshel Pfeffer, a senior analyst for the Jerusalem Post. The last time an Israeli soldier was kidnapped, in 1994, the army launched a rescue operation that ended in the death of both the kidnapped soldier, Nahshon Wachsman, and an officer involved in the failed rescue attempt.

"The popular feeling is that an Israeli citizen or soldier must not be in the hands of the enemy, so some impossible mission has to be done," says Mr. Pfeffer. "The reality is, grin and bear it, and deal with terrorists."

That raises ethical questions, he acknowledges, that many here are afraid to touch. But they are issues that have come up in the past, when Western hostages were held in Iran and in Lebanon, and are being raised with increasing frequency vis-à-vis Iraq, presenting governments, employers, and families with the conundrum of how to deal with hostage-takers.

Israel's message on this is mixed. While Mr. Olmert says that he isn't interested in exchanging Cpl. Shalit for Palestinian prisoners, other sources here suggest that his very statement of refusing to negotiate can be read as an

Israeli hostage dilemma: negotiate with Hamas?

opening to the people holding the kidnapped soldier. Moreover, Israel has a long history of negotiating with groups it considers to be terrorist organizations, even making lopsided exchanges to bring soldiers and other citizens home.

In 2004, the Lebanon-based *Hizbullah* won the release of several dozen of its militants held by Israel in exchange for one Israeli citizen, Elhanan Tannenbaum, who was lured to Lebanon as part of a drug deal gone awry. The exchange also included the remains of three Israeli soldiers. Israeli experts of prisoner exchanges also point to the Jibril Deal of 1985, in which Israeli won the release of three of its soldiers in return for setting free more than 1,100 Palestinian and other prisoners.

Some Israeli critics say this has set a worrying precedent, while others say that it shows the lengths to which Israel is willing to go bring its boys home. Moreover, cultural norms have shaped past exchanges.

In Judaism, if a married man goes missing in action, his wife is unable to remarry. Even if it is highly likely that he died in the field, the family is forbidden to hold the traditional week of mourning unless they have buried him. Meanwhile, many religious Jews hold that it is unethical to placate kidnappers, citing a Talmudic discussion on the matter, because this will only encourage more kidnapping.

Indeed, this has been the logic behind the reluctance of many nations to negotiate with hostage takers. Still, it is a door that Israel has left open before, and that might be left open now.

"In this case, because it's Hamas, the prime minister has already declared that he is not going to release prisoners, and I personally feel that it is better not to say anything," says Zeev Schiff, a military commentator with the Haaretz newspaper. "He drew a line ... but from a tactical point of view, experts will usually tell you, don't say no, but don't promise."

This will make life much more difficult for Olmert. Israel has threatened a major military operation in retaliation for the kidnapping, during which two other soldiers were killed, and there has been a significant buildup of forces around the Gaza Strip.

The territory, from which Israel withdrew last August, has seen increasingly deadly clashes, with at least 14 Palestinian civilian casualties over the past two weeks. More than 150 rockets have been fired by Palestinians on southern Israeli towns in the past month.

Israel has accepted Egypt's offer to intercede in an attempt to win the soldier's release. And according to Hebrew University political scientist Shlomo Aronson, Israel will wait out the diplomatic efforts, both because of failed rescued operations in the past, and because it currently has time on its side.

"Since the legitimacy of the Hamas government is at stake, Israel can afford to wait a little bit, to find out where the soldier is being held, and to let international pressure be brought to bear on them," says Prof. Aronson. "And there is a lot of internal Palestinian pressure as to whether it was a wise decision to do this, even on the eve of the agreement on the prisoners' document," referring to a proposal drawn up by prisoners from all Palestinian factions in support of a Palestinian state along the 1967 borders.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has called for a referendum July 26 on the document, which implies support for a two-state solution.

Material from wire services was used in this report.

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Load-Date: June 26, 2006



Iraqi Leader's Needs vs. President's Policy

The New York Times
July 25, 2006 Tuesday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 1316 words

Byline: By EDWARD WONG; David S. Cloud and Jim Rutenberg contributed reporting from Washington for this

article, and Mona Mahmoud and Qais Mizher from Baghdad.

Dateline: BAGHDAD, Iraq, July 24

Body

When Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki visits the White House on Tuesday for the first time, he is expected to make requests that clash sharply with President Bush's foreign policy, Iraqi officials say, signaling a widening gap between the Iraqis and the Americans on crucial issues.

The requests will include asking President Bush to allow American-led troops in Iraq to be tried under Iraqi law, and to call for a halt to Israeli attacks on Lebanon, according to several Iraqi politicians, and to a senior member of Mr. Maliki's party who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak for the prime minister.

Mr. Maliki is also expected to demand more autonomy for Iraqi forces, though he will not ask for a quick withdrawal of the 134,000 American troops here, the officials say.

The growing differences between Iraqi and American policies reflect an increasing disenchantment with American power among politicians and Iraqis, according to several politicians, academics and clerics. Sectarian violence has soared despite the presence of the Americans, and recent cases where American troops have been accused of killing civilians or raping Iraqi <u>women</u> have infuriated the public.

Mr. Maliki and other top Shiite leaders also want to maintain strong ties to Iran, whose influence is rising across the Middle East, officials say.

Mr. Maliki, who was installed in May, presides over a relatively weak government, divided among Shiite, Sunni Arab and Kurdish blocs that oppose one another on important issues. There are even deep splits within the leading Shiite bloc and Mr. Maliki's political party, Dawa.

To forge unity and win the confidence of the Iraqis, officials say, he has to take some stands that conflict with those of the White House, while relying on the American military to ward off the Sunni-led insurgency.

But in Washington, administration officials said they viewed Mr. Maliki's public breaks with American policy positions as proof that he was his own man leading his own government, and was not a prop of the Americans.

"We hope he comes with his own plan," said a senior administration official, who requested anonymity because of a general policy limiting public comments in advance of presidential meetings.

Mr. Maliki also depends heavily on the American government for financial aid; he will almost certainly express appreciation to President Bush and Congress in his public appearances in Washington.

Even many Sunni Arab leaders now say they need American troops to remain here to prevent the country from sliding into full-scale civil war.

But one issue on which Iraqis agree is that American troops should no longer receive legal immunity. Pressure for Mr. Maliki to negotiate an end to that immunity has been growing, especially in light of an inquiry into the killings of 24 civilians in Haditha and the prosecution of a rape-murder case in Mahmudiya. The Bush administration, though, has strongly resisted allowing American troops to be tried under international or foreign laws when deployed overseas.

"He will talk to the American side about immunity," said Mahmoud Othman, a senior Kurdish legislator. "The Iraqi people are really complaining about it."

Alaa Makki, a legislator from the main Sunni Arab bloc, said: "There is a lot of pressure on the prime minister on that issue. It will make people feel the Iraqi government is doing something for them."

Several American officials said Monday that they also expected Mr. Maliki to raise the issue of immunity, but added that there was little prospect the administration would agree to turn over responsibility for prosecuting Americans to Iraqis.

Another thorny subject is amnesty for Iraqi insurgents, an idea that Mr. Maliki has made the centerpiece of his political program. He has to balance demands by some Iraqi leaders to give amnesty to insurgents who have attacked American troops, with fervent opposition from American politicians to any such policy.

"I personally think whoever kills an American soldier in defense of his country would have a statue built for him in that country," the speaker of Parliament, Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, a conservative Sunni Arab, said at a news conference on Saturday. "The parties that we cannot conciliate with are those who deliberately killed an Iraqi citizen."

Tensions have also risen over Mr. Maliki's break with President Bush on the Israeli assault in Lebanon. Iraq, a predominantly Shiite nation, has denounced Israel's retaliation against <u>Hezbollah</u>, a militant Shiite group supported by Iran. By contrast, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, predominantly Sunni Arab nations, have been restrained.

By siding with <u>Hezbollah</u>, Mr. Maliki stands to gain popular support here. On Monday he delivered his strongest condemnation yet of Israel in a radio interview with the BBC in London, where he was meeting with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"I can't find enough justification for what is happening," Mr. Maliki said. "The destruction of the infrastructure is not even consistent with the rules of war, even if we can say there is a war. I will talk about the issue in a way that we try to reach a cease-fire and start negotiations."

Barham Salih, a deputy prime minister of Iraq, called Prime Minister Fouad Siniora of Lebanon on Monday to pledge \$35 million for relief efforts, an aide to Mr. Salih said.

Here in Iraq, scores of civilians are dying every day, many in Baghdad, despite a security plan promoted by Mr. Maliki for the last six weeks that has put 7,200 American and 50,000 Iraqi troops in the capital.

"It has not achieved its objectives," Tony Snow, the White House spokesman, said of the plan. American commanders have said more troops will be moved from other parts of Iraq to Baghdad as part of a new strategy President Bush might announce during Mr. Maliki's visit.

"There's chaos, terror and bad services, especially electricity," said Khamis al-Badri, a former professor of political science at Baghdad University. "But you can't just blame Maliki. You have to blame all the political forces that are participating in the government."

With Iraq needing American troops more than ever, Mr. Maliki may have to water down the demands he makes, Iraqi officials said. On the immunity issue, for example, Mr. Maliki could end up asking for an Iraqi presence at American-run trials involving Iraqi victims, rather than a complete end to immunity, Mr. Othman said.

Yet the anti-American forces pulling on Mr. Maliki are formidable. His political group, the Islamic Dawa Party, relies on support from the organization of the radical Shiite cleric Moktada al-Sadr, who led two rebellions against the Americans in 2004. American and British forces have been cracking down on Mr. Sadr's militia in recent weeks, and Mr. Sadr called on Mr. Maliki last week to cancel his trip to Washington.

Mr. Sadr controls important ministries and at least 30 seats in Parliament. One word from him can send thousands of armed men into the streets. Because of that, and because of Mr. Maliki's close ties to Sadr politicians, he could ask President Bush to roll back the American military's recent offensive against the Sadr militia, Iraqi officials said.

As for amnesty, many Iraqi leaders, especially Sunni Arabs, say the violence will continue unless pardons are given to those who say they took part in legitimate resistance against foreign occupiers.

To appease American politicians, Mr. Maliki has said he does not endorse amnesty for insurgents with American blood on their hands. But when meeting with President Bush, some Iraq officials say, Mr. Maliki may have to broach the subject.

"There should be less limitations on amnesty," Mr. Othman said. "If you say anybody who has killed Americans or anybody who has killed Iraqis cannot get amnesty, then who should get amnesty?"

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki yesterday at the Foreign Office in London. He arrives today for his first visit to the White House. (Photo by Odd Andersen/Agence France-Presse -- Getty Images)

Iraqis buried their dead yesterday from another suicide bombing. Prime Minister Maliki has tried without success to end such violence. (Photo by Alaa al-Marjani/Associated Press)

Load-Date: July 25, 2006



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

June 13, 2005 Monday

National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1; Peter Goodspeed

Length: 2143 words

Byline: Peter Goodspeed, National Post

Series: Iran on the Edge

Body

Iran is at a crossroads. It is surrounded by U.S. allies, its economy is flat and much of the youthful population is demanding reform. On Friday, a new president will be elected in another effort to force change on the conservative mullahs who hold ultimate authority. In a five-part series that begins today, Peter Goodspeed examines the pressures pulling at the country and its people.

- - -

The drumbeat of war throbs in the background of Iranian politics. From the graffiti still visible on the walls of the old U.S. embassy in Tehran, declaring "USA is Great Evil," to the public appearances of ruling religious leaders who regularly denounce the West, Iran remains in a state of perpetual crisis.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, constantly reminds Iranians that the theocracy he heads is under threat.

"Our people say 'Death to America,' " he said recently in a speech carried on national television. "This is like saying, 'I seek God's refuge from the accursed Satan,' which is recited before any chapter of the Koran ...

"Why is this? So the believer will never forget, even for a moment, the presence of Satan. So he will never forget, even for a moment, that Satan is ready to attack him and to destroy his spiritual shield and his faith. The saying 'Death to America' is for this purpose."

He was interrupted by ritual chants of "Allah Akbar" (God is Great), "Death to America," "Death to Israel" and "Death to those who reject the rule of the jurisprudent."

Twenty-six years after they deposed the Shah and created the Islamic Republic, the ruling mullahs still seek to rally Iranians to confirm their faith and profess their patriotism by nurturing perceptions of an unrelenting external threat.

This Friday's presidential election is no exception.

After two decades of tense and uncertain relations with the West, Iran's leaders find themselves hemmed in by the U.S. military -- with 150,000 U.S. troops next door in Iraq, another 20,000 in Afghanistan, a series of new U.S.

military bases in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia and the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet patrolling the Persian Gulf.

Even more threatening are the repeated hints from the United States and Israel that they could launch pre-emptive military strikes to prevent Tehran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

Since last summer, there have been reports of U.S. Special Forces commandoes carrying out secret reconnaissance missions deep inside Iran, from bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as part of an effort to identify targets for military strikes.

Dick Cheney, the U.S. Vice-President, fuelled Iran's fears further in January when he said the country is "right at the top of the list" of potential world trouble spots and suggested Israel "might well decide to act first and let the rest of the world worry about cleaning up the diplomatic mess afterward."

Weeks later, Israel was reported to be stocking up on bunker buster GBU-28 bombs that can attack hardened underground targets, similar to some of Iran's nuclear facilities buried nearly a kilometre underground.

Iran has responded by conducting high-profile military exercises and upgrading its Shahab-3 intermediate missile, which can hit Israel and U.S. forces in the Middle East.

While Ayatollah Khamenei has glorified shahada (self-sacrifice), religious conservatives have encouraged more than 25,000 Iranians to sign up as volunteers for "suicide attacks" against the United States or Israel.

Ali Shamkhani, the Iranian Defence Minister, has also warned his commanders won't sit back like Iraq's Saddam Hussein and wait for the U.S. to strike the first blow. If it feels threatened, Iran may attack first.

"We will not sit to wait for what others will do to us," he told the al-Jazeera television network last month. "Some military commanders in Iran are convinced that preventive operations which the Americans talk about are not their monopoly."

Ever since a dissident group exposed Iran's secret research facilities in 2002, its nuclear power program has been a source of serious concern in the West. It is a debate that is all too reminiscent of the 12 years of crisis that surrounded Saddam Hussein's intermittent quest for weapons of mass destruction.

While Tehran insists it is pursuing a peaceful nuclear energy program and remains well within its rights as a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, substantial doubts remain about its real intentions.

Two years of international inspections have uncovered a pattern of concealment and deception stretching back over 18 years.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says Iran systematically lied about its nuclear program. It secretly bought equipment on the black market and hid nuclear enrichment technology that could be diverted into weapons production in secret bomb-proof bunkers.

At every step, Iran concealed crucial aspects of its program and in at least two instances Iranian officials refused to let international inspectors tour suspected sites, while incriminating material was being removed.

Still, IAEA officials managed to find evidence of secret experiments and issued a report harshly criticizing Iran's numerous "breaches" of its treaty obligations.

Many experts believe Iran may be only a year away from mastering the technology to build nuclear weapons. But, so far, IAEA inspectors and western intelligence agencies have not found conclusive evidence it has actually tried to build a bomb.

"Nobody knows exactly how they are doing it, where they are doing it and how far along they are -- all the stuff which is critical to know, if you were to launch a [pre-emptive] strike," says Kenneth Pollack, a former analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency, now an Iran expert at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Those uncertainties limit the military options.

It may be impossible to effectively target Iran's nuclear program because sites are widely dispersed and well protected. Bombs might delay Tehran's nuclear ambitions, but they won't necessarily end them.

"Given the farce over U.S. intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, proving that Iran has the bomb will be very difficult, unless Iran obliges by doing something reckless and out of character such as testing a nuclear device," says Geoffrey Kemp, director of strategic studies at the Nixon Center in Washington.

In the long run, any military strike could unify Iranians around the government and guarantee their country becomes a nuclear power.

For many Iranians, the nuclear issue isn't about military strategy or threats of proliferation. It's widely regarded as a symbol of modernity and national pride.

The fact the United States and Israel are the chief opponents deepens their suspicion that the dispute is driven more by hostility than reason.

"Ultimately, there is no way that the United States, Europe or the UN Security Council can stop a proud country of 70 million people with abundant resources from getting the ingredients for a nuclear bomb, if that is what its leaders believe must happen," says Mr. Kemp.

"There is a strong likelihood that while a military campaign against Iran would cause great damage, the net effect would be to reinforce Iran's determination to get nuclear weapons."

So what happens if Iran does get nuclear weapons?

In the worst-case scenario, experts believe a nuclear-armed Iran may be more assertive and aggressive. Its religious hardliners could suddenly and erratically start to throw their weight around. And given its long history of support for radical groups, Tehran could threaten to pass its nuclear capability on to terrorists. That thought chills U.S. officials who have described Iran as the "most active state sponsor of terrorism" for the last nine years.

The United States has been infuriated by Iran's continued arming of <u>Hezbollah</u> in Lebanon and its support for Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in destabilizing the Middle East and attacking Israel.

More recently, the official U.S. commission into the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, claimed Iranian support of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorist network dates back to a meeting in Sudan in 1991.

By 1993, Iranian-backed <u>Hezbollah</u> trainers were instructing al-Qaeda operatives in intelligence-gathering, security and explosives, especially in "how to use truck bombs," the report said.

Iran has also been accused of easing the passage of al-Qaeda through its territory to and from Afghanistan.

"Elements of al-Qaeda and the global jihadist movement are tied to Iran, while both Iranian intelligence agents and surrogates are actively undermining U.S. interests in stabilizing Iraq," says Matthew Levitt, director of the Washington Institute's Terrorism Studies Program

"Iran is apparently a common and convenient meeting place for radical Sunnis affiliated with global jihadist groups and other terrorist organizations, including Hamas and *Hezbollah*.

"The sheer scope of Iranian terrorist activity is remarkable, including both the terrorism carried out by Iraniansupported terrorist groups and by Iranian agents themselves."

More immediately, a nuclear- armed Iran would force the United States to rethink its conventional military operations in the Middle East.

U.S. Navy battle groups in the Persian Gulf and land troops in Iraq would become vulnerable targets.

A nuclear-armed Iran could also threaten the oilfields of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates -- nearly half the world's known oil reserves. It would also dominate the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway at the foot of the Persian Gulf, through which 40% of the world's oil travels each day.

Another possibility might be the intimidation of the Gulf Arab states on issues such as oil pricing and production levels. Iran could press its neighbours to withdraw the basing rights they have granted to the U.S. military.

Iran's historic enmity with Iraq and its hostility toward Israel could further enflame the Middle East, while raising the stakes for any future U.S. involvement there.

In the United States, concerns over a nuclear-armed Iran will immediately spur Washington's demands for developing and deploying a space-based national missile defence.

If Iran crosses the nuclear threshold, it will embolden other would-be nuclear powers, such as North Korea, and could easily set off a regional arms race as Iraq, Turkey and Saudi Arabia seek to counter the new Iranian threat.

For now, the United States and Europe are seeking to freeze Iran's nuclear programs through a combination of diplomatic and economic incentives and threats of far-reaching sanctions.

But in the long run, the standoff may degenerate into a new Cold War. It may be impossible to verify whether Iran is making nuclear weapons or not, or to hammer together an international coalition capable of imposing strong sanctions on Tehran. Veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council, such as Russia and China, have growing economic ties with Iran and may not be prepared to sacrifice them to ease U.S. concerns.

The practical impacts of a nuclear Iran may transform the politics of the Middle East. But, perhaps more importantly, they might also entrench the Islamic Republic's theocracy.

"As in the Cold War, the United States would face an overtly hostile nuclear power," says Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control.

"It would therefore be in America's interest to weaken that power as much as possible without resorting to force. To do so, we would probably embark on a new policy of containment. America would use its resources and influence to undermine Iran on every front."

The mullahs' perception of an unrelenting external threat could then become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

In early June, in a nationally televised address to students, Ayatollah Khamenei lashed out at the West, accusing it of meddling in Iran's affairs and called on his people to elect an anti-Western president.

"Look for a candidate who displeases the enemy," he urged voters. "Do the opposite of Washington's wishes."

IRAN AT A GLANCE:

- Islamic republic ruled by Shiite clerics since 1979 when the Shah was overthrown
- In attempts to create a theocracy, strict adherence to Muslim observance is enforced, with <u>women</u> forced to cover their hair, and Western movies and music forbidden.
- But demographics are against the ayatollahs: in a population of 69.8 million, 50% are under the age of 21
- Voting age is 15

- Young Iranians have embraced new technology as a way of avoiding religious strictures.
- There are more than four million cellphone subscribers, about five million Internet users and 80,0000 webloggers. Weblogs in Farsi are the third most common on the Net, after English and French
- Iranians enjoy the world's cheapest gasoline, at a subsidized price of 8 cents a litre, but the economy has shrunk since the days of the Shah.

Source: National Post

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Morteza Nikoubazl, Reuters; Iranian <u>women</u> walk by an election poster for Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Tehran. Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has called on his countrymen to support conservative religious candidates as an endorsement of the country's clerical establishment.; Black & White

Photo:

Load-Date: June 13, 2005



Agony of waiting ends for former Socceroo

The Australian (Australia)
July 24, 2006 Monday
All-round First Edition

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Section: LOCAL PHOTO; Pg. 2

Length: 583 words **Byline:** David King

Body

MATP

FORMER Socceroos striker Abbas Saad went to watch the World Cup in Germany while his wife and their two sons enjoyed a holiday with relatives in Beirut.

He visited his family as he travelled back to Sydney for work and made plans to pick them up from the airport a few days later.

But soon after he left them to enjoy the last days of their holiday, war broke out in Lebanon. He spent the next week watching harrowing TV footage of Israeli jets attacking Beirut and worrying about them.

Yesterday, Mr Saad was reunited with his wife, Rania, and boys, Mohammed Ali, 4, and Malek, 2, as they returned to Sydney on a plane chartered by the federal Government.

"It's been the hardest 10 days. I've never watched TV that much in my life," Mr Saad said. "It's just very sad, mate, everything that's happening."

He praised the efforts of the Australian Government, saying: "People don't understand how hard it is for the embassy staff in Beirut."

The Saad family were among 500 Australians who arrived in Sydney to a flood of tears from anxious family.

Wadad Mourad hugged her son Adam and cried as she walked through the arrival gate of Sydney airport. "I didn't think that I'd come back alive," she said.

"I'm just grateful to be reunited with my family back in Australia."

Mrs Mourad, a mother of five, was one of the first evacuees to return to Australia, landing in Sydney early yesterday morning on one of three chartered flights.

Mrs Mourad and her family had been holidaying in the southern border town of Aitaroun when Israeli jets began pounding the village.

After hiding in a tiny storage area underneath a house for a week, they made the perilous trip to the port at Beirut.

Agony of waiting ends for former Socceroo

"They told us the ship we were supposed to take, somebody else took it," she said.

Eventually they were taken to Cyprus on a Greek warship.

"I came from Aitaroun. If you have seen it, there's so many children that have died. <u>Women</u> and children," she said. "It's very stressful and very sad."

Mrs Mourad said there was anger towards the Israelis for their attacks.

"They are targeting civilians, not *Hezbollah*," she said.

Her son Adam, 22, said the week spent waiting for his mother and family had taken its toll.

"We've been up all night. It's been very stressful," he said. "We honestly thought I would never see them again."

Najah Haidar said it had been a tough choice to leave the Australian-Lebanese enclave of Aitaroun and take the dangerous mountain road to Beirut.

"You have to make the decision, die inside your house, or die on the road," she said.

Initial reports of two young boys being lost in the war zone proved unfounded yesterday.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer confirmed Sayed brothers Ali, 11, and Abbas, 8, had been found alive and were safe.

- * 2800 Australians have been evacuated from Lebanon since Friday
- * A further 3000 berths were available yesterday on three ships commissioned by DFAT
- * Evacuees are being taken to Larnaca in Cyrpus or the Turkish port of Mersin. Numbers arriving at each destination are unclear because of security concerns
- * 500 evacuees arrived at Sydney airport yesterday on three chartered flights from Cyprus
- * Another charter flight is expected to arrive in Perth today
- * On Wednesday, 234 Australians were taken to Cyprus aboard a Greek naval vessel. Another 60 were taken to Cyprus on British military helicopters
- * Last Monday, about 160 Australians travelled in two buses to Damascus in Syria and then on to Amman in Jordan. Some arrived back in Australia last week

Load-Date: July 23, 2006



Blair calls for a global terror war

THE AUSTRALIAN March 23, 2006 Thursday All-round Country Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 628 words

Byline: Philip Webster

Body

The Times

London

BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair has called for worldwide action to defeat terrorism and criticised those who see the setbacks in Iraq and Afghanistan as reasons why Saddam Hussein and the Taliban should have been left in power.

Proposing an global battle of "values and ideas", Mr Blair condemned what he called "the doctrine of benign inactivity" that portrayed the US response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, as a gross overreaction.

"This is not a clash between civilisations. It is a clash about civilisation." he said.

"We' is not the West. 'We' are as much Muslim as Christian or Jew or Hindu. 'We' are those who believe in religious tolerance, openness to others, to democracy, liberty and human rights administered by secular courts."

Mr Blair's speech in London was the first of three he plans to make on terrorism and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The second will be delivered in Canberra next week, and the third in the US.

As Mr Blair was speaking, US President George W. Bush held a surprise White House press conference as part of a drive to reverse falling public support for the Iraq war.

The Prime Minister said of terrorism: "The only way to win is to recognise this phenomenon is a global ideology; to see all areas in which it operates as linked and to defeat it by values and ideas set in opposition to those of the terrorists."

He said a belief in an "activist approach" to foreign policy, based on values and interests, was the theme underlying the British Government's approach to issues from Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan to climate change and poverty in Africa.

Mr Blair's spokesman played down fears the speech might ring alarm bells in Iran, which is being confronted by the US and Europe over its nuclear program.

Blair calls for a global terror war

"On Iran, we are engaged in an activist, interventionist approach," the spokesman said. "It isn't just sitting back waiting for Iran, it is trying to enforce through diplomacy."

Mr Blair said the terrorists knew that if they succeeded in Iraq or Afghanistan or Lebanon, or anywhere else wanting to go the democratic route, the choice of a modern future for the Arab or Muslim world would be dealt a potentially mortal blow.

"Likewise, if they fail and those countries become democracies and make progress, then not merely is that a blow against their whole value system but it is the most effective message against their wretched propaganda about America, the West and the rest of the world."

He attacked terrorist ideology for its "absurd" anti-Americanism, its feudal approach to government and its stand on the role of **women** and intolerance of other faiths.

An interventionist approach was an essential precondition to future prosperity and stability, Mr Blair said. The alternative of "benign inactivity" ignored the "life choices" each country faced between completing the transformation to democracy or returning to misery for millions.

Mr Blair said people must recognise extremism for what it was and not pander to it.

"The struggle against terrorism in Madrid, or London or Paris, is the same as the struggle against terrorist acts of *Hezbollah* in Lebanon, of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Palestine or rejectionist groups in Iraq," he said.

Extremism was deep-rooted and its impact felt worldwide, with about 40 to 50 countries subjected to regular terrorist attacks loosely linked to extremist ideology.

"We are better to take a strong view at the beginning and be prepared to act, rather than wait until, certainly in my judgment, we may have to act in a far more fundamental way," he said.

"This terrorism, in my view, will not be defeated until its ideas, the poison that warps the minds of its adherents, are confronted, head on, in their essence and at their core."

Load-Date: March 22, 2006



Families arrive in Phila. from war-torn Lebanon

The Philadelphia Inquirer July 23, 2006 Sunday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Length: 579 words

Byline: Leonard N. Fleming, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Body

For seven hours Saturday, George Fares waited at Philadelphia International Airport for the arrival of his wife and three children, who had endured what he called "four days in a journey of hell" in escaping their native Lebanon.

He broke down in tears as his wife, Salwa, pushing a stroller carrying their 1-year-old daughter, Mia, came into view. He clutched her as she cried tears of joy.

"It's good to be home," he said, speaking for his family, who live in Somerset, N.J.

The Fares family was among hundreds of men, <u>women</u> and children who fled Lebanon on chartered flights into Philadelphia to reunite with loved ones here or connect with friends and family members in other parts of the country.

Local Red Cross officials helped with the difficult transition for the 200 to 300 people arriving on each of five flights since Friday evening. Two more flights are expected today, Red Cross officials said.

The Lebanese-American Fares family had been on vacation in Byblos, a seaside town near Beirut.

George Fares, 47, returned to the United States on July 4, but his family had stayed "to enjoy the culture, the heritage, the weather, and the peace," he said.

Eight days later, fighting broke out when <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas captured two Israeli soldiers and killed three others in a cross-border raid. Israel responded with an aerial and ground offensive.

"It's something to remember for life," said Salwa Fares, 37, who spent seven hours in the hot sun during a stopover in Cyprus. "It was very emotional to leave the country. We're looking back and we're seeing the smoke."

Her voice cracked and quivered as she continued: "I have all my family there. Going back there, who knows?"

George Fares recalled the difficulty of waiting for word on his wife and children. "I have not stopped crying. What can I tell you?"

Families arrive in Phila, from war-torn Lebanon

Jennifer Lee, a spokeswoman for the Southeastern Pennsylvania chapter of the Red Cross, recalled meeting a family that had a wedding with 200 people in Lebanon before the situation turned dire.

"There's a lot of tears," said Tom Foley, chief executive officer of the local Red Cross chapter. "I'm amazed at the good form the people are in after the days of waiting, the turmoil that they left, the stress about their loved ones."

Ghazi Eid, 46, of Kendall Park, N.J., was also waiting for his wife, Odilla, 40, and sons Fared, 17, and Phillip, 14, who were on the same flight as the Fareses. He had last seen his family 25 days earlier, when they went back to Lebanon for a vacation.

"It's terrible," he said of the Israeli bombing.

His sister, aunt and uncle and his wife's parents live in a town 40 minutes north of Beirut. When asked if he was going to try to get them out, he asked incredulously, "To leave to where? They have nowhere to go."

More than 1,000 U.S. evacuees were expected to arrive at McGuire Air Force Base in Burlington County in coming days, a spokesman for the Air Force's 305th Air Mobility Wing said Saturday. Tech Sgt. Dwayne Gordon said a C-17 with about 100 passengers from Germany was scheduled to land Saturday night.

Planes from Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina and McChord Air Force Base in Washington state are also aiding in the evacuation.

There were 25,000 Americans in Lebanon when fighting began earlier this month. The U.S. Embassy there said more than 8,000 had since evacuated.

Contact staff writer Leonard N. Fleming at 856-779-3223 or <u>Ifleming@phillynews.com</u>. This article includes information from the Associated Press.

Load-Date: July 23, 2006



A 'making-of' documentary that will make your night; 'Jump into the air force clobber and hit the deck grinning.'

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 20, 2006 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 21

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Byline: DOUG ANDERSON

Body

STORYLINE AUSTRALIA 8.30pm, SBS: Rolf de Heer's remarkable film Ten Canoes resonates with wisdom and deep reflections. Wondrous landscapes provide the setting for a story involving individuality being subordinated by nature and tribal tradition. It deals with impetuosity and primal instincts held in check by conformity to unwritten rules, spiritual matters and customary law. The film's production was almost as complex, involving hardship, cooperation, tolerance and patience. The director's ability to extract performances from his untrained cast, and to bend with the breeze in appreciating their idiosyncrasies, is remarkable. All the more so given these imperatives are often vague with no equivalent in white culture - unless the Just Do It idea of celebrity indulgence and indifference is a comparable concept. De Heer accepts things that, on a normal film set, would be disastrous in terms of time, money and discipline. And his acceptance pays off - not just in terms of the finished product but in wrapping the project almost a week ahead of schedule. It's a terrific film and this "making-of" doco is like none you've ever seen.

THE WEST WING 8.30pm, ABC: The actual US President has been overheard suggesting that the appalling situation in Lebanon should be sorted out right now by Kofi Annan. Munching on a bread roll, George Bush summed it up for Tony Blair - very fetching in a blue shirt with a lovely pink tie. "What they need to do [they being someone other than the world's most powerful - and lacklustre - individual] ... is get Syria to get *Hezbollah* to stop doing this shit, and it's over!" Yeah, right. Too easy! Jump into the air force clobber and hit the deck grinning. Peace in our time! Yo dude! The actuality is rather more complex, alas - and so is life for President Bartlet, who tonight is joined aboard Air Force One by ex-presidents D. Wire Newman and Glenallen Walken for a flight to the funeral of another former US leader, Owen Lassiter. Robust discussions ensue regarding dud policy initiatives in the Middle East, threats to oil supplies and an annoying push for democracy in Saudi Arabia. Back in Washington Toby is polishing the final draft of Bartlet's upcoming State of the Union address as rumours emerge that Pentagon bodgies have been conducting illicit experiments in mind control. Do these clandestine tests involve Mr Deng and Fox News?

OPRAH WINFREY 1pm, Ten: Oprah, who has been obliged to state that her close friendship with Gayle King is platonic and not sexual - does anyone really care tuppence either way? - recently spoke to a range of men who revealed their secret thoughts and frustrations in coping with fatherhood. Today a range of <u>women</u> reveal how these admissions altered their perceptions of their partners. Expectation and maintenance of an image are difficult when we are led to believe our behaviour should conform to notions of perfection set out in margarine commercials and glossy <u>women</u>'s magazines written by relationship "experts". Surely when we begin to mistrust our instincts

A 'making-of' documentary that will make your night 'Jump into the air force clobber and hit the deck grinning.'

and follow a script we're surrendering our individuality. Would you be prepared to play a role if you didn't know who wrote the script? Obviously this searing hour in the Palais de Pain will cure most of the world's ills - and don't talk to me about the kids while I'm watching Oprah, honey.

Graphic

DRAWING: Rocco Fazzari

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Last-minute rush for Canadian evacuation effort in Lebanon

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

July 28, 2006 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. C11

Length: 556 words

Byline: Canadian Press

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT (CP) -- Wealthy tourists sporting designer shades mingled with war-weary evacuees with nothing but the clothes on their backs under a baking sun Thursday as a last-minute rush hit the Canadian evacuation centre in Lebanon.

More than 1,700 people arrived at the gate at Beirut's harbour to board four ships and embark on a journey to Canada through Turkey and Cyprus, and soldiers organizing the evacuation said they hadn't seen such a rush since the early days of the exodus a week ago.

The Canadian evacuation effort now is in its final phase. Foreign Affairs said there would be ships today and Saturday to ferry Canadians from Beirut, but that those would be the last planned daily trips.

On Thursday, high-heeled <u>women</u> nonchalantly pulled up in Mercedes-Benz sedans and clicked along the asphalt at the waterfront, while bedraggled evacuees from the south clutched a few belongings salvaged from bombed-out homes -- most precious among them, their Canadian passports or citizenship cards.

"I'm worried. My passport is no longer valid. Do you think that will be a problem for me?" said Ali Tohme, who braved the treacherous road to Beirut after missing the Canadian boat that left the southern city of Tyre on Wednesday with his son and wife.

Tohme said he was visiting an aunt before the war, and became separated from his family. His ancestral village is 85 kilometres south of Beirut, but the journey was fraught with danger.

"I came with a driver -- he's really a hero," Tohme said. "It's scary, very risky. . . . People were fleeing. The shelling, the bombing. All the bridges are gone."

Many of the last-minute evacuees said they had been clinging to hope that Wednesday's meeting in Rome involving high-profile world leaders might lead to a ceasefire in the conflict between Israel and <u>Hezbollah</u> militants.

"I didn't contact the embassy because I thought there might be a ceasefire or something, but (Wednesday) there was no declaration," said Amal Jawhar, a graduate student at Concordia University in Montreal. "We expected this to last a few days, not a few weeks."

Last-minute rush for Canadian evacuation effort in Lebanon

Thursday's evacuations brought the number of Canadians who have fled Lebanon to 11,500 out of an estimated 40,000 in the country.

Other countries began winding down their evacuations days ago, with about half their citizens fleeing the war zone.

Officials have not explained why Canada's rate of rescue is so much lower.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper predicted the bulk of the evacuation would be over by now, with about 10,000 evacuees. Several evacuees said Foreign Affairs officials told them the last ship would leave today, although officials would not confirm that plan Thursday.

Officials have also said they will not end the process until every Canadian who wants to leave is gone, leaving some to suggest a scaled-down version of the evacuation might continue into next week.

On Thursday, officials expressed concern that some in Lebanon's Bekka Valley might not yet know of the Canadian evacuation effort.

Not all of Lebanon is in flames, with the violence mainly concentrated in the southern reaches of the country and a suburb of Beirut. In the rest of the country, business is slow but life carries on.

Many Lebanese-Canadians staying behind say they are doing so for a variety of reasons, ranging from medical problems to wanting to keep families together.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Associated Press; Canadian citizens board a Canadian chartered ship in the port of Beirut

Load-Date: July 28, 2006



Blogosphere abuzz with tales of Rapture, end of the world

Ottawa Citizen

July 19, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 606 words

Byline: Charles Enman, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

Have you heard of the Rapture? That's the moment when Jesus Christ will take true Christians into heaven prior to his Second Coming. Many of those who believe in the Rapture see great portent in what is now happening in the Middle East.

On the Internet, raptureready.com says it is time to "fasten your seatbelt." Its Rapture Index is now at 157 -- and those seatbelts needed fastening when the 145 threshold was passed.

The index has been higher. Just after the terror attacks on the United States in September 2001, the index hit 182.

Raptureready.com does not claim infallibility, but it does call the Rapture Index "a Dow Jones Industrial Average of end time activity." The higher the index, "the faster we're moving towards the occurrence of pre-tribulation rapture."

Raptureready.com looks at plagues, volcanoes, crime rates, and even globalism as precursors of the end times.

For some observers in the blogo-sphere, the current hostilities between Israel, Hamas and Hezbolloh are eerily reminiscent of images from the 14th chapter of the Book of Zechariah.

One, who calls himself "Dr. Dominguez, M.D.," and whose blog is at biblia.com, points out that the chapter "is about the horrible struggle between Israel, particularly Jerusalem, and the surrounding countries with the Second Coming of Christ."

The second verse says nations will fight against Jerusalem. "The city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the <u>women</u> raped. Half of the city will go into exile." But the Lord will come and save Jerusalem. "Never again will it be destroyed," the 11th verse says. "Jerusalem will be secure."

The nations that fought Jerusalem will suffer terrible punishment. "Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths," the 12th verse predicts.

Dr. Dominguez cites <u>Hezbollah</u>'s declaration of war on Israel, the rumours of Iranian involvement, the attack on an Israeli warship, and the pounding Israeli counterattack as apparent signs that the prophecy of Zechariah may be in the process of being realized.

Gerald Flurry, editor of Thetrumpet.com, an online publication of the Philadelphia Church of God, seems to believe the world is stumbling unwittingly toward the fulfilment of the prophecies of Zechariah. He points out that the United

Blogosphere abuzz with tales of Rapture, end of the world

Nations, many individual nations, and even many Israeli Jews are saying that Israel must give up East Jerusalem if Israel is to live peacefully with its Palestinian neighbours. This means, he writes, that "the prophecy in Zechariah is now in the early stages of being fulfilled, even though the world doesn't know it!"

Even U.S. politicians seem to be getting apocalyptic. Paul Schmelzer, editor of eyeteeth.blogspot.com, points out that Newt Gingrich, former Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, believes World War III is now in process. "We're in a war!" Mr. Gingrich told a Fox News interviewer. Moreover, "it's clearly worldwide."

He referred not only to violence in the Middle East, but to the recent train bombings in Mumbai, ongoing problems in Iraq and Afghanistan, and even to the recent arrests of 17 alleged terrorists in Toronto. "You have Canadians plotting to blow up the Canadian Parliament and behead the prime minister," he said.

A measured response is not appropriate, Mr. Gingrich said. Referring to the rain of missiles upon Israeli territory, he said, "if the president of the United States had 50 missiles hit south Florida (from Cuba) today, he would do something decisive. He would not show restraint."

Prophecies aside, in this heavy moment, maybe seatbelts would help.

Load-Date: July 19, 2006



<u>Citizens party as Lebanese voters break with Syria: Opposition candidates</u> take all 28 northern seats

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

June 21, 2005 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 648 words

Byline: Sam Ghattas, Associated Press

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT -- The anti-Syrian opposition captured control of Lebanon's parliament Monday, breaking Syria's long domination of the country, said official results.

Interior Minister Hassan Sabei declared opposition candidates had won all 28 seats in north Lebanon in Sunday's polling, the fourth and final round of the country's elections. He read out the results seat by seat, confirming earlier predictions from the opposition alliance.

"The north has decided the character of the new parliament and given the absolute majority to the opposition," opposition leader Saad Hariri told a news conference Monday evening.

Anticipating victory, men, <u>women</u> and children waved flags and danced in the streets of Tripoli, the provincial capital of the north, earlier Monday. In Beirut, the national capital, opposition supporters drove through the city, cheering and honking in celebration.

Asked whether he would seek the prime ministership, 35-year-old Hariri said he would consult his allies.

The election was marred by vote-buying and other shortcomings. The head of the European Union observers, Jose Ignacio Salafranca, said his team of about 100 personnel had "directly witnessed a few attempts at vote-buying" in the three previous rounds of voting. He also said the electoral system needs "a very serious reform to be closer to the democratic standards."

The buying of votes was a "very serious concern" for the EU team, Salafranca said.

However, Sabei told reporters: "The Ministry of Interior has accomplished free, honest and neutral elections."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said the elections were an important step toward Lebanese freedom and democracy. While the polls were free of foreign interference for the first time in 30 years, there remained misgivings about a "lingering Syrian intelligence presence" in Lebanon.

Citizens party as Lebanese voters break with Syria: Opposition candidates take all 28 northern seats

Ereli said the United States and the United Nations Security Council would continue to press for full implementation of Resolution 1559, which effectively demanded withdrawal of Syrian troops and intelligence, and disarming of the <u>Hezbollah</u> militia.

President Emile Lahoud called on the new parliament Monday to reform the electoral law to "put an end to votebuying and give an equal opportunity to all candidates."

The opposition's victory capped four months of political upheaval since the Feb. 14 assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri. The killing provoked mass demonstrations against Syria which, backed by UN and U.S. pressure, led to Damascus's withdrawing all its troops from Lebanon by late April, ending 29 years of military and political dominance.

The opposition blamed Syria and pro-Syrian elements in the Lebanese security services for blowing up Hariri's motorcade, killing him and 20 others on a Beirut street. Syria denied involvement.

The new parliament will face the challenge of healing Lebanon's long-standing divisions, as well as new sectarian tensions that arose during the campaign.

"What happened is a hurricane that aims at destroying Lebanese unity, and this is the danger facing us all and we must avoid," said Mikhail Daher, a former opposition legislator who was defeated by the main opposition alliance. Daher, a Christian blamed his loss in the mainly Muslim Akkar region on vote-buying and sectarian incitement by the Future Movement of Hariri, a Sunni Muslim.

Christian leader Michel Aoun, who broke with the anti-Syrian alliance to form his own list, said he would sit in opposition. "There's a dispute over values," he said of his rivals.

Hariri said Monday he will negotiate with other parliamentary blocs to broaden his alliance.

Extending a hand to his defeated opponents, Hariri said: "We have to maintain dialogue with everybody. We will not close the door on anyone."

The parliament also will elect a new speaker and nominate a new prime minister. The outgoing speaker and prime minister are pro-Syrians.

Load-Date: June 21, 2005



Lebanon escape relief as first Britons sail to safety; I want to go home, says mother

Daily Post (North Wales)
July 20, 2006, Thursday
Mersey Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 19

Length: 563 words

Byline: CAROLINE GAMMELL Daily Post Correspondent

Body

EXHAUSTED Britons last night spoke of their relief to be heading back to the UK after a terrifying week trapped in Lebanon as bombs rained down around them.

The Royal Navy destroyer HMS Gloucester arrived in Cyprus yesterday, carrying a first sea-borne wave of 180 evacuees, mainly **women** and children, from the capital Beirut.

A charter flight carrying them back to the UK was due to land at Gatwick airport last night as HMS Gloucester and her sister ship, HMS York, returned to Lebanon for more British citizens.

The Government has launched a large-scale operation to rescue the thousands of Britons still remaining in Lebanon, telling them to make their way to Beirut port for evacuation.

Among those disembarking at Cyprus's southern port of Limassol was Elise Mazegi, who made the 11-hour crossing with her five-month-old triplets and three-year-old son.

She said: "I'm exhausted but I'm very glad to be out. The trip was long but it was OK. The babies slept most of the time.

"The crew on the ship were amazing, they really helped me out a lot. I'm looking forward to going back to Brighton. I just want to go home."

Mrs Mazegi, 32, was living with her sister in a Beirut suburb when the Israeli air strikes started overnight on July 12.

"I could hear the shelling, it shook the house. I could see the planes going overhead," she said.

Another evacuee, Maya Kaaki, 30, from Wilmslow, Cheshire, criticised the British Embassy.

"There was nothing being done," she said. "If it hadn't been for me calling 20 to 30 times a day, me, my son and my husband would still be in Lebanon.

"My heart goes out to those still in Lebanon, as it is going to get worse."

Lebanon escape relief as first Britons sail to safety I want to go home, says mother

Commander Mike Patterson, captain of HMS Gloucester, said the evacuees were anxious and tired when they embarked last night, but left "fairly buoyant and in high spirits".

British High Commissioner Peter Millet greeted the Britons as they arrived in Cyprus just before 7.20am local time (5.20am BST).

He defended the delay before Britain started evacuating its citizens amid criticisms that France and Italy had responded much more quickly.

Mr Millet said:

"We did not want to rush bringing out British citizens until we knew we could do it safely," he said. "We have got far more people in Lebanon than many other c o u n t r i e s. "

Prime Minister Tony Blair said the events in Lebanon were "tragic and terrible", but declined to call for an immediate ceasefire.

Speaking at Prime Minister's Questions, he said: "If it is to stop, it has to stop by undoing how it started, and it started with the kidnap of Israeli soldiers and the bombardment of northern Israel, and if we want this to stop, that has to stop."

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell urged him to condemn Israel's "disproportionate" military response.

Mr Blair replied: "Of course it is important that the response of Israel is proportionate and it does its best to minimise civilian casualties.

"But I have to say this would stop now if the soldiers that were kidnapped wrongly, when <u>Hezbollah</u> crossed the United Nations blue line, were released."

There are up to 12,000 British nationals and a further 10,000 dual-nationals living in Lebanon.

Sixty-three elderly and ill Britons have already been airlifted from Lebanon.

The warships were due to rescue more British citizens and their immediate families last night, and further evacuations will start at 9.30am today.

Graphic

British nationals board the destroyer HMS York for evacuation to Cyprus from the Beirut seaport in Lebanon - Britain's second evacuation after HMS Gloucester took 180 Britons from Lebanon

Load-Date: July 20, 2006



The West's fear of Islamism backfires; Mideast democracy

The International Herald Tribune September 1, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 638 words

Byline: Jonathan Power

Dateline: LONDON

Body

In Washington and other Western capitals a view is gaining ground that a popularly elected government in the Middle East is better than a shaky autocratic client. Maybe there is some element of truth in this. Yet there is still a marked reservation about going the extra mile and accepting that a free and open poll might bring Islamist parties to power.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said a few measured things about the need for the result of Egypt's presidential election on Sept. 7 not to be a foregone conclusion, but the United States is hardly keeping the pressure on, presumably fearing an opening will be exploited by the Muslim Brotherhood with its "secret agenda." International Herald Tribune

We have still not come far enough from the attitudes that followed the 1990 elections in Algeria. France, the former colonial master, and the United States ignored the fact that the Islamists had clearly won a majority, and turned a blind eye when the army rejected the result, sparking a bloody civil war.

Yet the truth is that Islamist parties in many countries have faced enough persecution, prosecution, imprisonment, torture and repression to form an instinctive empathy for the calls and cause of democracy and human rights. Human rights, if the West is clever, should be the wedge that keeps the door open if and when Islamist parties come to power.

The platform of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood calls for parliamentary rule, separation of powers and the protection of minorities. In Lebanon the militant <u>Hezbollah</u> has adopted progressive stands on social and religious issues, and like Hamas in Palestine is participating vigorously in electoral politics. In Morocco, Islamists are firmly behind the government's efforts to expand <u>women</u>'s rights.

As Reza Aslan wrote in a recent issue of Prospect magazine, "It is pluralism that defines democracy, not secularism. And Islam has had a long and historic commitment to religious pluralism." No other monotheistic religion can match the reverence with which the Koran speaks of other religious traditions.

Of course, there is no doubting that all over the Islamic world some born-again Muslims have been seduced by the call of violence. But the predominant trends in Islamic societies remain nonviolent, even more so following the havoc wrecked by Al Qaeda and despite rising anti-Americanism brought on principally by the invasion of Iraq.

The West's fear of Islamism backfires; Mideast democracy

The important trends to watch in contemporary Islamist theology are toward what Westerners call human rights. Islamist intellectuals like Rashid Ghanoushi, the Tunisian leader, and Abdal-Wahhab el-Affendi, the Sudanese writer, are now arguing that restoring Shariah law "from above" by political action is a "recipe for tyranny and violence."

Many Islamic scholars are now revisiting the influential writings of the Iranian scholar Jamal al-Din al-Afgani, who lived from 1838 to 1897. He preached a message of reform that has been dubbed the "Protestant Islam." He argued that just as Islam had been open to absorbing Greek philosophy in the Middle Ages, so it should be open to European ideas today.

Fundamentalism, as Edward Mortimer wrote in his magisterial "Faith and Power," should be properly seen as "an effort to define the fundamentals of one's religion and a refusal to budge from them once defined. Surely anybody with serious religious beliefs of any sort must be a fundamentalist in this sense." The West will not progress in its effort to replace autocratic regimes with democratic ones until it sheds its knee-jerk antipathy to Islamic fundamentalism. The likes of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, with their rigged elections, will continue to feel secure until the West faces up to this fact squarely.

Jonathan Power is a commentator on foreign affairs.

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Load-Date: September 1, 2005



<u>Donaldson murder: IRA informer has been silenced but his death raises</u> questions for Sinn Fein's leadership: The thorn in the republicans' side

The Guardian - Final Edition

April 8, 2006 Saturday

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Section: GUARDIAN HOME PAGES; Pg. 15

Length: 1091 words

Byline: Rosie Cowan and Owen Bowcott

Body

For a man renowned for his sense of humour, Denis Donaldson would have appreciated the irony. Had he lived, he would have been crowned Survivor of the Year by a leading Dublin magazine at a gala award ceremony last Tuesday.

But even as the guests gathered at the fashionable Buswells hotel in the Irish capital, news reached them that Donaldson was dead, killed 200 miles away in the bleak hills of Donegal, in the ramshackle cottage he had called home since his exposure as a British spy.

Death by shotgun was an ignominious, though hardly unexpected, end for a man once at the heart of the republican political machine, trusted implicitly by its leaders, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness.

His admission four months ago that he had been a British spy for 20 years sent shockwaves through the republican movement, and some believe it signed his death warrant, regardless of the IRA cessation of all "offensive activities".

"He was in the middle of the Good Friday agreement negotiations and a lot of people felt if he was carrying Sinn Fein's bottom line back to the British all that time the agreement was worthless," one source close to republicans said.

The IRA insisted it had not carried out or sanctioned the murder. One source with republican links said it had probably been "one guy, maybe Provo, maybe not, who blamed Donaldson for his time in jail or the death of one of his comrades".

Time of unrest

But the death has also raised questions about the grip that Adams and McGuinness now have over the movement. Both security and republican sources have told the Guardian that the IRA leadership was recently reorganised into three independent cell structures: politics, fundraising - eg the Northern Bank robbery - and discipline. "If the IRA killed Donaldson, it's highly probable that those who weren't directly involved had no idea," a security source said.

The reorganisation has taken place at a time of unrest within mainstream republicanism about Sinn Fein's tactics. It was evident in the open opposition at Sinn Fein's annual conference to the party joining the Northern Ireland policing board, the likely price of

Donaldson murder: IRA informer has been silenced but his death raises questions for Sinn Fein's leadership: The thorn in the republicans' side

re-entering the Stormont government.

The exposure of someone as close to the heart of formulating party strategy as Donaldson also heightened suspicions about how far the movement had been penetrated by special branch and British intelligence.

Dissent is also being shown in small, but significant ways. For months a large lorry has been parked beside the main Dublin to Belfast motorway just south of the border, bearing the graffito: "Adams Must Go - Controlled By RUC." It is in

Co Louth, the dissident republican heartland, but no one has removed it.

But even if Donaldson's murder was timed to unsettle Adams and McGuinness at a difficult political juncture, some republican sources insist it will prove no more than a temporary hiccup.

"They may not have wanted Donaldson dead, but he was a problem and they won't shed any tears for him," one source said.

Donaldson's betrayal was seen as particularly galling, given his impeccable republican credentials. Born in 1950 in the Short Strand, a staunchly republican enclave of east Belfast, he joined the IRA in his teens. In 1971 he was caught trying to bomb a distillery and government buildings in Belfast and jailed for four years. In Long Kesh, later known as the Maze, he befriended Bobby Sands, posing for a famous photograph with him. His time in the Kesh also saw the start of his 30-year friendship with Gerry Adams.

Ten years later he was arrested at Orly airport, Paris, on his way back from a <u>Hizbullah</u> terrorist training camp in Lebanon, but strangely no charges followed. Some think this was when the British "turned" him as a spy but others think his recruitment came a few years later, as a result of his incorrigible womanising. Despite his marriage to Alice, and young son and daughter, Donaldson was a "chaser", in Belfast parlance.

In the mid-80s, the RUC raided a house in west Belfast expecting to find an arms cache but instead stumbled upon Donaldson with a woman. Officers told Alice and she allegedly threatened retribution if he transgressed again, which he did, giving special branch their opportunity. But another security source told the Guardian: "It takes more than sexual indiscretion to turn a man like Donaldson."

But what the 5ft nothing Donaldson lacked in height, he made up for in charm. Feminist Marie Mulholland recalls a hilarious night out at the Falls Road <u>Women</u>'s centre, when she dressed up as Blind Date host Cilla Black, clutching Donaldson under her armpit as Action Man - one of the eligible "dates".

"He had charm, buckets of it, not the schmoozing of an operator, but real charm, a blend of wit, generosity, mischief," she wrote, explaining her shock when Donaldson was exposed as a spy.

Powers of persuasion

But Donaldson also used his charm and powers of persuasion as Sinn Fein's head of international affairs. In 1987 he returned to Lebanon to negotiate for the release of the Belfast hostage Brian Keenan. He was unsuccessful, but Keenan later credited Donaldson and Terry Waite with having risked their lives for him.

After the 1994 ceasefires, Bill Clinton overlooked Donaldson's prison record to allow him to open Sinn Fein's first US office, where he played an influential role in the gradual acceptance of Adams and McGuinness on Capitol Hill. After the Good Friday agreement in 1998, Donaldson became Sinn Fein's senior legislative aide at Stormont.

In his dramatic televised "confession" last December, Donaldson dismissed the Stormont spy ring as a figment of the British security services' imagination. But others claim it was real, and that Donaldson took part, whether to protect his cover or to keep a foot firmly in both camps, and police had no choice but to arrest him, and three other men, when the ring was exposed by another agent.

Donaldson murder: IRA informer has been silenced but his death raises questions for Sinn Fein's leadership:

The thorn in the republicans' side

However, the announcement in December 2005 that it was not in the public interest to prosecute brought special branch scurrying to Donaldson's door, warning he was about to be outed. Adams, according to a source, was "initially appalled" by the betrayal, but soon got over it in a sphere where double crossing is common.

The British offered to relocate Donaldson but he took his chances in his son-in-law's Donegal cottage, where a journalist tracked him down a fortnight ago, a bedraggled shadow of his former self, spending his days alone drawing water from a well and collecting peat

for the fire, and nights reading by oil lamp. His next visitor may well have been his killer.

Load-Date: April 8, 2006



Terror boss pushes for civil war: Al-Zarqawi calls on Sunnis to fight back against Shia 'snakes'

Ottawa Citizen

June 3, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 540 words

Byline: Solomon Moore, The Los Angeles Times; with files from The Associated Press

Dateline: BAGHDAD

Body

BAGHDAD - The leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq railed against leaders and paramilitary forces affiliated with Shia Muslims and urged his fellow Sunnis to confront the rival Islamic sect, according to statements from a new recording that emerged yesterday.

"The Badr Brigades and Mahdi Army are storming the houses of Sunnis under the pretext of searching for the mujahedeen," Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said. "And even if they didn't find any, they kill men and arrest <u>women</u>, put them in prison and rape them and steal everything from the houses of the Sunnis."

The tape appeared aimed at sabotaging the Iraqi government's efforts to name a unity government -- but was also intended to enflame rising Shia-Sunni tensions across the Arab world.

"There's a civil war going on in Iraq, but it will not become truly fierce until it's exported outside Iraq. This tape is trying to do just that," said Dawood al-Shirian, a Saudi political commentator, said from Cairo.

Mr. al-Zarqawi's insurgent followers have carried out some of the deadliest suicide bombings in Iraq's conflict and have often targeted Shia civilians and mosques in an attempt to spark civil war. In his statements, the Jordanian-born militant often vilifies Shiites as infidels.

But the tape posted yesterday was an unprecedented screed that chronicled what Mr. al-Zarqawi said was a Shia campaign throughout history to destroy Islam and help foreign invaders of Muslim lands.

"Sunnis, wake up, pay attention and prepare to confront the poisons of the Shiite snakes," Mr. al-Zarqawi said. "Forget about those advocating the end of sectarianism and calling for national unity."

Mr. al-Zarqawi called Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most prominent religious authority, an "atheist" and lambasted Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who is also a Shiite, for failing to follow through with his stated desire to see Israel destroyed.

Terror boss pushes for civil war: Al-Zarqawi calls on Sunnis to fight back against Shia 'snakes'

Responding to the recording during a news conference with a U.S. congressional delegation, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki described Mr. al-Zarqawi's thinking the result of "a fossilized mentality that has strayed from true religion."

"I believe the Iraqi people won't listen to such miserable words," he told a news conference in Baghdad.

"Reconciliation is the hope for all Iraqis, and all Iraqis welcome it."

Mr. al-Zarqawi appeared to be aiming at a wider audience, seeking to rally Sunni radicals by tapping into mistrust of Shiites and non-Arab Shia Iran.

He denounced Shiites across the Mideast, saying they were "the same as Jews, with secret meetings" and loyalty to a "mother country" -- Israel for the Jews, Iran for the Shiites.

He called the Lebanese Shia group <u>Hezbollah</u> the "enemy of Sunnis" and accused it of working to protect Israel from Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon.

Mr. al-Zarqawi is believed to have masterminded or facilitated dozens of attacks in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. His rebellion has been aimed at the Iraqi government, now led by majority Shiites, as well as against U.S. forces.

The recording emerged amid a surge in violent attacks in Iraq. At least 100 Iraqis were reported killed since Sunday.

The Health Ministry reported yesterday that 657 civilians were killed between April 30 and May 21.

Graphic

Photo: The Associated press; In his latest statement, terror leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi railed against Sunnis who refuse to confront their enemies.

Load-Date: June 3, 2006



3 Palestinians accused of smuggling explosives

The International Herald Tribune
May 28, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 620 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: TEL AVIV:

Body

Israeli troops on Friday arrested three Palestinians trying to smuggle explosives through checkpoints in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli Army said.

One of those arrested, named by Palestinians as Thair Abu Assap, 20, was stopped at the Beit Iba checkpoint west of Nablus on Friday afternoon when he was considered to be acting suspiciously, the army said. Assap was carrying four pipe bombs with about two kilograms, or 4.4 pounds, of explosives and two batteries fashioned into an explosive belt of the kind typically used by suicide bombers, the army said.

The New York Times

Earlier Friday, two Palestinian men, also aged 20, were arrested at the Qalandiya checkpoint north of Jerusalem when they attempted to leave Ramallah carrying three Molotov cocktails.

Despite a truce between Israel and the Palestinians declared on Feb. 8, there have been a number of violations and some firefights, especially in Gaza. But there have also been continuing efforts by Palestinians to smuggle explosives and regular alerts in Jerusalem.

Senior Israeli Army and intelligence officials say that the Iranian-supported <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrilla group is continuing to try to recruit suicide bombers in the West Bank with political appeals and promises of financial support to their families in an apparent effort to disrupt the truce.

Three days ago, the army arrested a 15-year-old Palestinian at the Hawara checkpoint south of Nablus, after he was discovered to be carrying two pipe bombs in an explosive belt. The teenager was acting for the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, which is a militant group affiliated with the main Palestinian movement, Fatah, the army said.

Two days before that, on May 22, a 14-year-old was stopped at Hawara checkpoint and discovered to be wearing an explosive belt with two pipe bombs and carrying a lighter to ignite it, the army said.

In the last two months, there have been 15 attempts by Palestinians under the age of 18 to detonate explosives at Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank or smuggle explosives through them, the army said.

The Palestinians, the World Bank and the United Nations say that the network of Israeli checkpoints, closures and permits throughout the West Bank, though reduced somewhat since February, are major obstacles to free travel,

3 Palestinians accused of smuggling explosives

employment and business activity and help to keep Palestinians in poverty. Israel insists they are required so long as efforts continue to attack Israeli civilians.

In a report released in Geneva on Friday, the International Labor Organization, a UN agency, said unemployment among Palestinians worsened last year, with the number of jobless people actively seeking work reaching 224,000, up from 203,000 a year earlier.

In 2004, according the report, fewer than 50 percent of Palestinian men in the West Bank and Gaza were actively employed; among **women**, fewer than 10 percent were employed.

Some 40 percent of Palestinian youths between 15 and 24 are unemployed. "Idleness among young people faced with military occupation makes a fertile breeding ground for extremism and violence," the report said.

The report blamed the increase in unemployment primarily on the closures, checkpoints, roadblocks, work permits and other aspects of Israeli control.

"Any economy is dependent on movement," Philippe Egger, an author of the report, told The Associated Press. "The Palestinians basically cannot move their goods or export."

International agencies are raising similar concerns about the ability of Palestinians to work in Israel and to products from the Gaza Strip after Israel pulls its settlements out this summer. They say that the economy of Gaza cannot grow if Israel does not markedly improve the speed at which it inspects goods and people leaving Gaza.

Load-Date: May 29, 2005



Nats in search of a way ahead

Manawatu Standard (New Zealand)

July 22, 2006 Saturday

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Section: FEATURES; EDITORIAL; Pg. 9; OPINION

Length: 560 words

Body

SO once more the party faithful are going to be exhorted to show discipline and unity in the interests of the greater good. This time it will be done during National's 70th birthday bash (otherwise known as its annual conference) as the party looks ahead to the next election, scheduled for 2008.

Ordinary members might well mutter that it is all very well for the party hierarchy to demand such behaviour of them, but what about the MPs, for after all it is they who are in the public domain? But they won't say it out loud, of course, for that might undermine discipline and unity. National is not unique, in this respect. Far from it.

It is the way modern political parties are run in the western world, with very few exceptions. The rank and file are door-knocking and pamphlet-delivering fodder. It is their task to smile, no matter what they might be feeling on the inside over the latest leadership change or losing election result.

Consultation and transparency are notions that don't apply in the dark rooms and behind the locked doors of political party caucuses, especially when you're in opposition and trying to figure out how to fix things. Being in opposition can be a pretty soul-destroying job, especially once you've been in politics for a few years. At least in New Zealand it is only a maximum of three years between elections. So National should not despair, even if 2008 seems a long way off just now. And a conference gives you the opportunity to have some fun.

Nevertheless National is going to have to resolve its leadership conundrum sooner, rather than later, and is going to have to come up with some policies that put daylight between it and the Government. It should not be forgotten that Helen Clark had some horrendous single-digit polling results in the 1990s and look at her now. So there is more to Don Brash -- or ought to be -- than his personal ratings. But other question marks surely hang over his tenure, not least the presence of plausible alternatives to his leadership.

National could take a punt on the electorate turfing out Labour simply because people have become sick of the sight of the Government after nine years. Or it could be more proactive, through emphatic policy and personnel changes, and carry the fight to Labour. The next few months should tell the story of which strategy it decides on even if the conference this weekend offers few such clues.

One more thing: Even the United States, ever the faithful bankroller of Israel, must be feeling uneasy at the deadly arithmetic of the latest violence in the Middle East. The world, of course, has got used to many more Palestinians dying or being maimed in their decades-long conflict with Israel. But the kind of collective punishment that is now being visited on the people of Lebanon is redolent, ironically, of how the Germans behaved during World War II in occupied Europe -- for every one of our soldiers who is killed, for example, we'll take out 10 villagers, men, <u>women</u> and children -- that was the mentality and what they did.

Nats in search of a way ahead

<u>Hezbollah</u> sparked the latest round of fighting and it hides amongst the civilian population of Lebanon. But do these things justify what the state of Israel has done, and is doing (at last count at least 310 people had died in Lebanon and hundreds of thousands had been displaced. A total of 29 Israelis were confirmed dead)?

Load-Date: July 24, 2006



3 Palestinians accused of smuggling explosives

The International Herald Tribune
May 28, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 620 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: TEL AVIV:

Body

Israeli troops on Friday arrested three Palestinians trying to smuggle explosives through checkpoints in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli Army said.

One of those arrested, named by Palestinians as Thair Abu Assap, 20, was stopped at the Beit Iba checkpoint west of Nablus on Friday afternoon when he was considered to be acting suspiciously, the army said. Assap was carrying four pipe bombs with about two kilograms, or 4.4 pounds, of explosives and two batteries fashioned into an explosive belt of the kind typically used by suicide bombers, the army said.

The New York Times

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Despite a truce between Israel and the Palestinians declared on Feb. 8, there have been a number of violations and some firefights, especially in Gaza. But there have also been continuing efforts by Palestinians to smuggle explosives and regular alerts in Jerusalem.

Senior Israeli Army and intelligence officials say that the Iranian-supported <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrilla group is continuing to try to recruit suicide bombers in the West Bank with political appeals and promises of financial support to their families in an apparent effort to disrupt the truce.

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Two days before that, on May 22, a 14-year-old was stopped at Hawara checkpoint and discovered to be wearing an explosive belt with two pipe bombs and carrying a lighter to ignite it, the army said.

In the last two months, there have been 15 attempts by Palestinians under the age of 18 to detonate explosives at Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank or smuggle explosives through them, the army said.

The Palestinians, the World Bank and the United Nations say that the network of Israeli checkpoints, closures and permits throughout the West Bank, though reduced somewhat since February, are major obstacles to free travel,

3 Palestinians accused of smuggling explosives

employment and business activity and help to keep Palestinians in poverty. Israel insists they are required so long as efforts continue to attack Israeli civilians.

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In 2004, according the report, fewer than 50 percent of Palestinian men in the West Bank and Gaza were actively employed; among *women*, fewer than 10 percent were employed.

Some 40 percent of Palestinian youths between 15 and 24 are unemployed. "Idleness among young people faced with military occupation makes a fertile breeding ground for extremism and violence," the report said.

The report blamed the increase in unemployment primarily on the closures, checkpoints, roadblocks, work permits and other aspects of Israeli control.

"Any economy is dependent on movement," Philippe Egger, an author of the report, told The Associated Press. "The Palestinians basically cannot move their goods or export."

International agencies are raising similar concerns about the ability of Palestinians to work in Israel and to products from the Gaza Strip after Israel pulls its settlements out this summer. They say that the economy of Gaza cannot grow if Israel does not markedly improve the speed at which it inspects goods and people leaving Gaza.

Load-Date: May 31, 2005



Evacuees arrive in Phila.

The Philadelphia Inquirer
July 23, 2006 Sunday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: PHILADELPHIA; Pg. B08

Length: 577 words

Byline: Leonard N. Fleming, Inquirer Staff Writer

Body

For seven hours yesterday, George Fares waited at Philadelphia International Airport for the arrival of his wife and three children, who had endured what he called "four days in a journey of hell" in escaping their native Lebanon.

He broke down in tears as his wife, Salwa, pushing a stroller carrying their 1-year-old daughter, Mia, came into view. He clutched her as she cried tears of joy.

"It's good to be home," he said, speaking for his family, who live in Somerset, N.J.

The Fares family was among hundreds of men, <u>women</u> and children who fled Lebanon on chartered flights into Philadelphia to reunite with loved ones here or connect with friends and family members in other parts of the country.

Local Red Cross officials helped with the difficult transition for the 200 to 300 people arriving on each of five flights since Friday evening. Two more flights are expected today, Red Cross officials said.

The Lebanese Americans had been on vacation in Byblos, a seaside town near Beirut.

Fares, 47, returned to the United States on July 4, but his family had stayed "to enjoy the culture, the heritage, the weather, and the peace," he said.

Eight days later, fighting broke out when <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas captured two Israeli soldiers and killed three others in a cross-border raid. Israel responded with an aerial and ground offensive.

"It's something to remember for life," said Salwa Fares, 37, who spent seven hours in the hot sun during a stopover in Cyprus. "It was very emotional to leave the country. We're looking back and we're seeing the smoke."

Her voice cracked and quivered as she continued: "I have all my family there. Going back there, who knows?"

George Fares recalled the difficulty of waiting for word on his wife and children. "I have not stopped crying. What can I tell you?"

Evacuees arrive in Phila.

Jennifer Lee, a spokeswoman for the Southeastern Pennsylvania chapter of the Red Cross, recalled meeting a family that had a wedding with 200 people in Lebanon before the situation turned dire.

"There's a lot of tears," said Tom Foley, chief executive officer of the local Red Cross chapter. "I'm amazed at the good form the people are in after the days of waiting, the turmoil that they left, the stress about their loved ones."

Ghazi Eid, 46, of Kendall Park, N.J., was also waiting for his wife, Odilla, 40, and sons Fared, 17, and Phillip, 14, who were on the same flight as the Fareses. He had last seen his family 25 days earlier, when they went back to Lebanon for a vacation.

"It's terrible," he said of the Israeli bombing.

His sister, aunt and uncle and his wife's parents live in a town 40 minutes north of Beirut. When asked if he was going to try to get them out, he asked incredulously, "To leave to where? They have nowhere to go."

More than 1,000 U.S. evacuees were expected to arrive at McGuire Air Force Base in Burlington County in coming days, a spokesman for the Air Force's 305th Air Mobility Wing said yesterday. Tech Sgt. Dwayne Gordon said a C-17 with about 100 passengers from Germany was scheduled to land about 11 last night.

Planes from Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina and McChord Air Force Base in Washington state are also aiding in the evacuation.

There were 25,000 Americans in Lebanon when fighting began earlier this month. The U.S. Embassy there said more than 8,000 had since evacuated.

Contact staff writer Leonard N. Fleming at 856-779-3223 or <u>Ifleming@phillynews.com</u>. This article includes information from the Associated Press.

Load-Date: July 23, 2006



Israelis Arrest 3 Palestinians Trying to Smuggle Explosives

The New York Times
May 28, 2005 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 619 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER

Dateline: TEL AVIV, May 27

Body

Israeli troops on Friday arrested three Palestinians who were trying to smuggle explosives through checkpoints in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli Army said.

One of the Palestinians, Thair Abu Assap, 20, was stopped at the Beit Iba checkpoint west of Nablus on Friday afternoon when he was considered to be acting suspiciously, the army said. Mr. Assap was carrying four pipe bombs with 4.4 pounds of explosives and two batteries fashioned into an explosive belt of the kind typically used by suicide bombers, the army said.

Earlier Friday, two Palestinian men, also 20 years old, were arrested at the Qalandiya checkpoint north of Jerusalem when they tried to leave Ramallah carrying three Molotov cocktails.

Despite a truce between Israel and the Palestinians declared on Feb. 8, there have been a number of violations and some firefights, especially in Gaza. There also have been continuing efforts by Palestinians to smuggle explosives, the army said.

Senior Israeli Army and intelligence officials say that <u>Hezbollah</u>, a Shiite Muslim guerrilla group, is continuing to try to recruit suicide bombers in the West Bank with political appeals and promises of financial support to the bombers' families in what appears to be an effort to disrupt the truce.

Three days ago, the army arrested a 15-year-old Palestinian at the Hawara checkpoint south of Nablus after he was discovered to be carrying two pipe bombs in an explosive belt. The boy was acting for Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group affiliated with Al Fatah, the main Palestinian movement, the army said.

Two days before that, on May 22, a 14-year-old was stopped at the same Hawara checkpoint and discovered to be wearing an explosive belt with two pipe bombs, and carrying a lighter to ignite it, the army said.

In the last two months, there have been 15 attempts by Palestinians under the age of 18 either to detonate explosives at Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank or to smuggle explosives through them, the army said.

The Palestinians, the World Bank and the United Nations all contend that the network of Israeli checkpoints, border closings and permit requirements throughout the West Bank, although reduced somewhat since February, constitute a major obstacle to free travel, employment and business activity, and help to keep Palestinians in

Israelis Arrest 3 Palestinians Trying to Smuggle Explosives

poverty. Israel insists that it must keep the checkpoints and restrictions in place so long as efforts continue to attack Israeli civilians.

In a report released in Geneva on Friday, the International Labor Organization, a United Nations agency, said unemployment among Palestinians worsened last year, with the number of unemployed actively seeking work reaching 224,000, up from 203,000 a year earlier.

In 2004, according the report, fewer than 50 percent of Palestinian men in the West Bank and Gaza were actively employed, and fewer than 10 percent of the **women**.

Some 40 percent of Palestinian youths ages 15 to 24 are unemployed, the report said. "Idleness among young people faced with military occupation makes a fertile breeding ground for extremism and violence," it said.

"Any economy is dependent on movement," Philippe Egger, an author of the report, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "The Palestinians basically cannot move their goods or export."

International agencies are raising similar concerns about the ability of Palestinians to work in Israel and to export agricultural and other products from the Gaza Strip after Israel pulls out of region later this summer. They say that the economy of Gaza cannot grow if Israel does not markedly improve the speed at which it inspects goods and people leaving Gaza.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: May 28, 2005



Protestors throng consulates - Correction Appended

The Toronto Star July 30, 2006 Sunday

Correction Appended

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A02

Length: 485 words

Byline: STEVE RENNIE, Toronto Star

Body

Palestinian and Lebanese flags

fluttered in the breeze as more

than 1,000 demonstrators on

Bloor St. W. chanted slogans

condemning the Israeli attacks

in Lebanon and blasted Prime

Minister Stephen Harper for

not demanding a ceasefire.

The demonstrators were

mostly a mix of Lebanese and

Palestinian supporters, some

carrying signs reading "Stop Israel's

Attack On Gaza" and "End

Israeli Apartheid." Others

waved anti-Harper posters and

signs.

The protest was organized by

Protestors throng consulates

the Canadian Arab Federation,
which accuses Harper of failing
to protect Canadians in Lebanon
and of not condemning Israel's
role in the conflict.

Harper has called Israel's attacks

on Lebanon and *Hezbollah*

a "measured" response to

the kidnapping of two of its soldiers

and the killing of eight others.

Ali Mullah, vice-president of

the Canadian Arab Federation,

took the stage shortly after 1

p.m. yesterday, standing on the

bed of a white flatbed truck

parked across the street from

the Israeli consulate.

He was flanked by a host of

speakers from several likeminded

organizations, who

condemned the United States,

Britain and Canada for failing to

put an end to the violence in the

Middle East.

"If Stephen Harper had any

shame, we'd say 'Shame on you,

Stephen Harper,' " Mullah

shouted.

Restaurateur Sammy Salhia,

who has family in Gaza, said he

Protestors throng consulates

joined the demonstration to show his support for the Lebanese and Palestinians. He said he wants the Canadian government to put an end to the violence by calling for an immediate ceasefire.

"Canada was always known as the peacekeeper of the world and Stephen Harper demolished that," Salhia said.

On the other side of the street, against the backdrop of the Royal Ontario Museum, a 3-yearold boy clad in military fatigues stood atop an orange newspaper box waving a tiny Palestinian flag.

The boy's father, Sam, who declined to give his last name, stood close by waving a larger one. Sam said 14 of his family members in the Middle East were killed during past conflicts with Israel. He said he wants the violence on both sides to end. "We're here just for peace, nothing else," Sam said, hoisting his son onto his shoulders.

Barricades between the protest

Protestors throng consulates

and the Israeli consulate cordoned off the area. Dozens of police officers stood behind the crowd. One of the officers said there were enough police in the area to "keep the crowd safe."

The police cavalcade accompanied

the demonstrators when

they moved to the U.S. consulate.

The throng of protestors

flooded University Ave. and

brought traffic to a halt, chanting

and pounding drums as they

marched.

Doug Evans sat on a bench on

University Ave. and watched

them pass. Evans had been visiting

a hospitalized family member,

but the crowd had shut

down the street when he returned

to his car so he opted to

watch and wait.

"I'm surprised. I didn't expect

to see so many people," he said.

Similar protests took place

outside the Israeli consulate on

July 14 and 22, and the Canadian

Arab Federation plans to

hold another demonstration

Aug. 12.

Correction

A story published Sunday about a demonstration outside the Israeli consulate in Toronto misspelled the name of the vice-president of the Canadian Arab Federation, Ali Mallah. The Star regrets the error.

Correction-Date: August 3, 2006

Graphic

CHARLA JONES/TORONTO STARA group of <u>women</u> joined about 1,000 other protestors in a march against Israel's attacks on Lebanon.A mix of Palestinian and Lebanese supporters showed up for the demonstration.Demonstratorsblast Harperfor not seekinga ceasefirein Mideast

Load-Date: August 4, 2006



chat room

The Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

July 25, 2006 Tuesday

Main Edition

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Section: Pg. 18

Length: 626 words

Body

WE can't wait for Howards next wave of IR deformity, bring on the election. Bob the fruiterer and Con the builder.

TO the idiot Will, Nerang: I was sayin drinkin in clubs doesn't affect non drinkers health ie kidneys, unlike smokin in clubs which does affect non smokers lungs.

BEWARE FHB to chek yr broker that they know their product? It wil cost u l000s of \$s. - Donna Nevin

HOW dare these people abuse the Aussie Government, y r there so many over there? Very suspect isnt it? - Wal, Mermaid.

IN a NSW town approx 40 under age teens, some as young as 12 deliberately getting pregnate and having babies to get the \$4000 govt payment to support drug & alcohol habits. What happens to these unwanted babies? Govt must bring in minimum age limit? But what 16? - Bill

MICK, why would these Lebanese tough guys go back. They've got it 2 good over here. They just collect the dole and live off us Aussies.

TO Madden, I oppose the new smoking rule in clubs! I feel I should be able to smoke where and when I want! I love smoking! I would smoke in my sleep if I could! Madden, go and smoke the new rule! - Raward, Currumbin.

TO Mick: Well said but our Government bends over backwards for Lebs. We saw on the news Lebs flying a <u>Hezbollah</u> war flag on our soil, no arrests. It's funny how 400 police can turn up to stop 4 people from supporting the Aussie way of life, and when Lebs march in support of terror, or when they riot, the police let them! The problem is Mick, our Gov and police only care about them, not Aussies. They prove it daily. - SM

WHAT'S the big deal ova the Aussie contenda 4 Miss Universes boob shots. U can c much more in any Newsagent mag or on the beach. Leave the girl alone. - Nick

THAT beautiful txt message re-<u>women</u> in the past all had a lovely nature and were real ladies is true not like today's bad attitude <u>females</u>. Also with his txt to The Bulletin he said he still loves his wife after all those years together since 1963. That is so romantic. I admire and envy both of you. - Suzzanne York

MY rights 2 enjoy peace + quiet + fresh air? - G Beale, Maudsland

chat room

I WAN 2 hav a bitch about asbestos. I live in Burleigh Waters and behind our house a fence got half pulled down. My concern is that no one notified us and I do believe there was no safety precautions carried out. Should I go to the council and what do you

the public think about it all. - Concernd resident

AS a manager of a retail store it amazes me to see children willingly presenting their bags for checking when asked but a lot of adults act like little brats with self reightous attitudes. Just who are the real children here? - Diddy

25000 Australians in Lebanon on holiday. I think not. Do we now call Australia home? - Dawn Griffiths

GOOD on you Mick, completely agree with you! Before anyone comes to Australia to live, they should be put on a 10-year good behavior list. They break our laws, send them back, the whole family. Sick of there religious beliefs. It's all hate related. How are these people going to react when religion is proved to be a sham. Leave ya crap in your own country and enjoy try Aussie way of life. Have a barby and a beer, watch the footy and try to get along! - Atheist

HEY do u get away with drink-driving while being off your scone at the same time? Buy a Harley-Davidson.

2 KJ, your comment on David Hicks not being a terrorist but a young Australian legionaire on adventure, u live by the sword u die by the sword, why dou think we are in Iraq, fighting scum like this so-called Aussie citizen. He should have joined the Labor party2. - Proud Kiwi

THE person stating that Howard only survives on Costello's nouce at being treasurer made me laugh, what do u think Howard was before he became PM? Uidiot! - Sm Boadbeach

LIVE and let live I say. Malcolm

Load-Date: July 25, 2006



Comforting the young & afflicted; When American evacuees of war-ravaged Lebanon arrived on U.S. soil last week, two Lancaster countians were there to provide a crucial yet often-overlooked service: child care at the airport.

Lancaster New Era (Pennsylvania)

July 26, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Lancaster Newspapers, Inc.

Section: B; Pg. 1

Length: 613 words

Byline: Timothy D. Smith, New Era Staff Writer

Dateline: Lancaster, PA

Body

"She said she could hear the bombs, and she could feel the house shake."

Sheryl Faus recalled the chilling words from a conversation she had last week with a young girl from Lebanon.

Residents of the war-torn Middle East country have endured two weeks of fighting between Israel and the <u>Hezbollah</u> militia. Hundreds of Lebanese have been killed and more than half a million more have become refugees.

Faus and Velma Shenk, longtime members of Chiques Church of the Brethren near Manheim, traveled to Baltimore Washington International Airport last week, where thousands of those evacuees were arriving by the plane-load.

Many Lancaster County residents may feel that the plight of the people caught in the crossfire in Lebanon is too remote to do anything about.

But the two Lancaster County <u>women</u> found a way to ease the suffering of American evacuees fleeing Lebanon. As members of Disaster Child Care, a program offering aid to children during crisis, the <u>women</u> joined other volunteers at BWI at the request of the Red Cross.

"In this situation we were caring for the children whose families did not have transportation from BWI," said Faus.

While red-eyed parents scrambled to check flight times and tried to connect with loved ones, their children played safely with Faus, Shenk and other members of Disaster Child Care.

A program that often works under the umbrella of groups like the Red Cross and FEMA, Disaster Child Care is a service of Church of the Brethren Emergency Response.

"When families have gone through a disaster they are under a lot stress, they have a lot of things to think about," Faus said. "Our goal is to provide a safe and fun place for the children."

Volunteers such as Faus and Shenk employ a kit of comfort, loaded with a variety of toys and activities, to occupy the children and help them to express what they are feeling.

Comforting the young & afflicted When American evacuees of war-ravaged Lebanon arrived on U.S. soil last week, two Lancaster countians were there to provide a c....

The friends live a few miles apart, between Manheim and Elizabethtown. Faus, a 66-year-old retired elementary school teacher, is married to the Rev. Glen Faus, a minister at the Chiques Church of the Brethren. They have three grown children between the ages of 30 and 40, and a grandson who will turn three in September.

Shenk has retired as a foster mother, but keeps busy doing office work out of her home. She is single and mother to her four, now grown, adopted children, between the ages of 21 and 36.

Shenk arrived at BWI Thursday in time to comfort the children arriving on an early morning flight.

Arriving later that day, Faus stayed at BWI for two days, often forgoing sleep in order to help with late night flights.

"I went without sleep for about 26 hours," she said, adding that the volunteers helped keep each other upbeat.

An airport official said that 3,568 evacuees had passed through BWI on 15 flights as of early this morning, and the influx continues with planes arriving each day. BWI expects two flights carrying evacuees to arrive later today.

"The children were really quiet and shy, until they started playing with the toys," said Shenk, whose passion for helping children permeates all aspects of her life.

Over the years, Shenk has raised about 40 foster children, adopting four of them. But even as a single mother she didn't do it alone. "The Lord helped," she said.

Faus has traveled the nation providing aid to children as part of the disaster relief program Critical Response Child Care. Her efforts have helped children cope with disasters from plane crashes, to earthquakes to hurricanes and even terrorist attacks.

Faus spent two weeks in New York City after the 9/11 attack.

Both <u>women</u> traveled to Pensacola, Fla., in September to help children evacuated from New Orleans in the hurricane Katrina aftermath.

Graphic

a suitcase loaded with childrens' toys and activities. Andrew P. Blackburn Sheryl Faus (left) and Velma Shenk pose with one of Disaster Child Care's Kits of Comfort, New Era

Load-Date: July 27, 2006



Ten shows you can't miss

Sunday Mail (South Australia)

July 30, 2006 Sunday

State Edition

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Section: TV GUIDE; Pg. G06

Length: 656 words

Body

Enough Rope: On The Road

Monday, 9.35pm,

ABC-TV

Andrew Denton's brilliant chat show heads bush for a yarn with the good citizens of the northwest Victorian town of Rainbow. The battling wheat-sheep town on the edge of the Mallee has a population of 550, and some wonderful characters. There's the local hairdresser and graffiti artist Val Dickson, hardware proprietor Ron Ismay, who wants the town silos restored to their former glory, *female* dog trapper Marg Krelle, footy hero Potsy Gould, and reigning Miss Rainbow, 18-year-old Rebecca McLean! The genius of Denton is he knows everyone has a story to tell and they open up to him like nobody else.

Quizmania

Monday, midnight,

Channel 9

Late-night TV has gotten more interesting with Nine finally following in Ten's footsteps with an interactive quiz show. Brodie Young, Amy Parks and Nikki Osborne wheel out the trivia, games and questions. You can ring in, chat and play games to win cash - and at least there'll be some fresh faces to get used to.

Yasmin's Getting Married

Tuesday, 7pm,

Channel 10

Yasmin Dale wants a ring on her wedding finger - and she doesn't care who puts it there. In a twist on the reality TV genre, the sexy Sydneysider starts the countdown to her October 1 wedding as the people of Australia - and a panel of experts including the likes of sports guru Ryan Phelan - try to find her a husband from among the thousands of strangers who applied to say "I Do".

Israel's Generals - Ariel Sharon

Monday, 2pm,

SBS

With the current Israel-<u>Hezbollah</u> crisis unfolding in Lebanon, this timely three-part documentary series looks at leaders such as Ariel Sharon, Moshe Dayan and Yitzhak Rabin. Israel's Generals is a comparison between the three leaders and explores why Israel continues to choose generals as its political leaders. The final episode is a timely look at one of Israel's most loved and most loathed figures, Ariel Sharon.

The Closer

Tuesday, 9pm,

Channel 9

This was one of 2005's best new cop shows, and it's terrific Kyra Sedgewick is returning as pain-in-the-butt Deputy Police Chief Brenda John. She's kind of like Columbo on speed, and doesn't shut up or miss a trick. Her personal life is limited and generally hell, but she knows how to close a case. But it is G.W. Bailey as Lt. Provenza who has the best line of the show: "I've been waiting my entire career to say this . . . the butler did it!"

First Tuesday Book Club

Tuesday, 10.05pm,

ABC-TV

Jennifer Byrne is back in town with a show she hopes won't be put down. First Tuesday Book Club will provide a bookworm forum about every genre - from thriller, biography and romance to history, fiction and non-fiction. Guest panellists Jacki Weaver, Marieke Hardy, Jason Steger and Peter Cundall will discuss Roger McDonald's colonial saga The Ballad of Desmond Kale, which won the 2006 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Japanese Story

Friday, 8.45pm,

Channel 7

For all her Hollywood success, Toni Collette's best work has been done in Australia, and this movie confirms her development as a fine and versatile actress. She plays a geologist who reluctantly takes a Japanese businessman into the Outback in the Pilbara region.

Big Brother - Finale

Monday, 7pm,

Channel 10

There's been sexual harassment evictions, mum-and-daughter boob jobs, gay housemates, tanned flesh and finally it comes down to one more eviction. Just another year with Gretel Killeen and Big Brother.

24

Thursday, 9.30pm,

Channel 7

Ten shows you can't miss

Imagine what Jack Bauer would miss if he took a sickie! The Government agent can fit more action into 24 hours than a European bus tour. In this season finale, Jack tries to take down the terrorists, stop a missile launch and do whatever it takes to get a confession from President Logan.

South Park

Monday, 9pm,

SBS

Will Smith "guest stars" when he moves to South Park and encourages rich black friends such as Snoop Dog and Oprah to follow suit. The residents aren't impressed and, in true redneck style, team up to drive them out.

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



FAST FORWARD

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

July 23, 2006 Sunday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Extra; Pg. 56

Length: 617 words

Byline: TERRY SMYTH

Body

Jacko v the wacko ex

Michael Jackson's former wife is suing him.

THE STORY SO FAR

Former dermatology nurse Debbie Rowe met Michael Jackson during treatment for his skin conditions. They married in 1996 and divorced in 1999. Rowe is the mother of Jackson's two children, Prince, 9, and Paris, 8. She gave up her parental rights in 2001 but sought to reinstate them in 2003 after Jackson's child molestation charges.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

Rowe has filed a lawsuit claiming that in 2003 Jackson stopped making payments of \$1 million a year promised when they divorced. Rowe says cryptically: "My biggest fears I can't talk about, and my biggest fear is that those fears happen and I can't stop it".

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

In the divorce settlement on Wednesday Rowe got Jackson's Beverly Hills mansion and every year will get US\$8.5 million (\$11.4 million); and still she wants a court to order Jackson to pay \$50,000 for the next four months to fund her custody fight.

Play 'money' for me

The guitar that set the course of pop history is for sale.

THE STORY SO FAR

In 1957, a 15-year-old Liverpool lad named Paul McCartney held a guitar for the first time. It belonged to his schoolmate, lan James, who taught Paul his first few chords. Paul demonstrated his new-found skill at the Woolton church fete to a group called the Quarrymen, led by a young John Lennon.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

FAST FORWARD

Paul McCartney says: "I showed [Lennon] a few more chords he didn't know. Ian James had taught me them, really. Then I left. I felt I'd made a good impression, shown them how good I was." James says he almost played with Lennon and McCartney on the day of the fete, "but I changed my mind and went home".

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The Rex acoustic guitar, bought for a few shillings by Ian James's grandparents in the 1950s, is expected to fetch about \$250,000 at auction on Friday at London's Abbey Road Studios. McCartney has signed a letter authenticating the instrument. James, 64, who kept the guitar in an attic, is selling it to fund his retirement.

Begging for mercy

Judgement day for Aussie on drug charges

THE STORY SO FAR

Barbara Kathleen Higgs, 43, who with her husband owned a hotel in the Indonesian beach resort of Senggigi, was arrested in February on charges of possessing 50 grams of marijuana and a smoking pipe. Police said she admitted buying the drugs locally.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

After five months behind bars, Higgs, through her lawyers, has begged for mercy on humanitarian grounds, claiming that as a result of unsanitary conditions in Lombok <u>women</u>'s prison she had caught typhoid, kidney infections and a skin disease.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

An Indonesian court will hand down its verdict on Higgs on Thursday. While the prosecutor has asked for a one-year jail term instead of the maximum penalty of death, because she has been a pillar of the community and a model prisoner, her lawyers ask that she be found not guilty as an act of compassion.

> INSTANT REPLAY

See, the irony is what they need to do is get Syria to get <u>Hezbollah</u> to stop doing this shit and it's over.

George Bush to Tony Blair

I don't have the strength, I don't have the stamina. I don't have everything that I took for granted before.

Kylie Minogue

These dogs are bred for pigs; that's why I don't trust them.

Tom Wilson, owner of the hunting dogs that killedfour-year-old Tyra Kuehne

The only way to learn is to have your head shoved in places it shouldn't be ...

Wallabies veteran Bill Young, who has hung up his boots after a neck injury

At first I thought it was a stampede of buffalo.

Mary Gilleece, witness to the tsunami on Java's south coast

We came on holidays two weeks ago and the last week has been just terrible.

Alfred Haddad, of Blacktown, on being trapped in Beirut

FAST FORWARD

Load-Date: June 20, 2007



The way we war; Middle East II

The International Herald Tribune
July 19, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 618 words

Byline: Etgar Keret

Dateline: TEL AVIV

Body

Yesterday I called the cable people to yell at them. The day before, my friend told me he'd called and yelled at them a little, threatened to switch to satellite. And they immediately lowered their price by 50 shekels a month (about \$11).

"Can you believe it?" my friend said excitedly. "One angry five-minute call and you save 600 shekels a year."

The customer service representative was named Tali. She listened silently to all my complaints and threats and when I finished she said in a low, deep voice: "Tell me, sir, aren't you ashamed of yourself? We're at war. People are getting killed. Missiles are falling on Haifa and Tiberias and all you can think about is your 50 shekels?"

There was something to that, something that made me slightly uncomfortable. I apologized immediately and the noble Tali quickly forgave me. After all, war is not exactly the right time to bear a grudge against one of your own.

That afternoon I decided to test the effectiveness of the Tali argument on a stubborn taxi driver who refused to take me and my baby son in his cab because I didn't have a car seat with me.

"Tell me, aren't you ashamed of yourself?" I said, trying to quote Tali as precisely as I could. "We're at war. People are getting killed. Missiles are falling on Tiberias and all you can think about is your car seat?"

The argument worked here too, and the embarrassed driver quickly apologized and told me to hop in. When we got on the highway, he said partly to me, partly to himself, "It's a real war, eh?" And after taking a long breath, he added nostalgically, "Just like in the old days."

Now that "just like in the old days" keeps echoing in my mind, and I suddenly see this whole conflict with Lebanon in a completely different light.

Thinking back, trying to recreate my conversations with worried friends about this war with Lebanon, about the Iranian missiles, the Syrian machinations and the assumption that <u>Hezbollah</u>'s leader, Hassan Nasrallah, has the ability to strike any place in the country, even Tel Aviv, I realize that there was a small gleam in almost everyone's eyes, a kind of unconscious breath of relief.

And no, it's not that we Israelis long for war or death or grief, but we do long for those "old days" the taxi driver talked about.

The way we war Middle East II

We long for a real war to take the place of all those exhausting years of intifada when there was no black or white, only gray, when we were confronted not by armed forces, but only by resolute young people wearing explosive belts, years when the aura of bravery ceased to exist, replaced by long lines of people waiting at our checkpoints, women about to give birth and elderly people struggling to endure the stifling heat.

Suddenly, the first salvo of missiles returned us to that familiar feeling of a war fought against a ruthless enemy who attacks our borders, a truly vicious enemy, not one fighting for its freedom and self-determination, not the kind that makes us stammer and throws us into confusion.

Once again we're confident about the rightness of our cause and we return with lightning speed to the bosom of the patriotism we had almost abandoned. Once again, we're a small country surrounded by enemies, fighting for our lives, not a strong, occupying country forced to fight daily against a civilian population.

So is it any wonder that we're all secretly just a tiny bit relieved? Give us Iran, give us a pinch of Syria, give us a handful of Nasrallah and we'll devour them whole. After all, we're no better than anyone else at resolving moral ambiguities. But we always did know how to win a war.

*

Etgar Keret is the author of "The Nimrod Flip-Out." This article was translated by Sondra Silverstone from the Hebrew.

Load-Date: July 19, 2006



Letter - Evil men are using religion to pursue their own global agenda;

Irish News March 20, 2006

Copyright 2006 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 22

Length: 667 words

Body

I was shocked at the outrageous way many decent, law-abiding and otherwise peace-loving Muslims reacted to 12 satirical cartoons in a Danish newspaper.

These caricatures merely depicted what many peoples and nations are experiencing - fanatical 'Muslim martyrs' carrying explosives annihilating innocent men, <u>women</u> and children including themselves and fellow Muslims.

But where are the angry Muslim protests after these atrocities?

How many Hamas, Hezbollah and Al-Qaida flags have been burned?

If ordinary decent Muslims and their Imams are afraid to oppose these extremists what hope is there for the rest us mere infidels?

How many Syrian and Iranian embassies have been torched in protest by decent Muslims in response to state sponsored terrorism?

What about the many anti-Semitic (satirical?) cartoons in numerous Arab/Muslim media outlets?

Of course the Israelis have a lot to answer for in the treatment of Palestinians but who protects the Dome of Rock from Jewish extremists and Christian fundamentalists?

The Jews do and get no thanks for protecting Islam's second holiest of places.

Imams, where are you?

Oh yes ... that statement about 'wiping the Jewish State off the map?

The same president of Iran, who remains unapologetic for his racist remark, wants to have button access to a nuclear bomb!

Foolish, irreverent satirical cartoons in newspapers are unlikely to kill people - Inflammatory words do.

We in Ireland have bitter experience of such like - our 30 years of terror followed someone's stupid political and religious rhetoric.

Destruction, death and misery for Protestants, Catholics and dissenters alike.

Letter - Evil men are using religion to pursue their own global agenda;

Peaceful protests and the burning of a few flags is one thing.

But, tolerant imams, don't you think that worldwide Islamic boycotts of Danish exports, torching embassies and threatening the Danish, Norwegian and others with Jihad is a little extreme?

Those involved in the torching of the British embassy in Dublin in 1972 were condemned as terrorists but their action 'logically' followed the murders (by British state terrorism) of 14 innocent Catholic men during a peaceful Civil Rights march in Derry.

I served with United Nations forces in Cyprus and the Lebanon. I met Norwegians, Danish and Swedish personnel.

Never once did I hear from them a derogatory word against Muslims or the Islamic faith.

They are among the most tolerant and fair-minded people in the world and have proved it in respect to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

I believe this violent backlash has been orchestrated by fanatics, terrorists and foreign government interests and the Danes provided a 'soft' target.

I am reminded of Nazi Germany and Communist eastern Europe. These extremely dangerous people are trying to establish Taliban-type Islamic states throughout the world - by force if necessary!

During my life I have mingled with many people of different nationalities, politics and faiths including Muslims and Jews, Turkish and Greek Cypriots, Iraqis, Protestants, Catholics, Christians and Dissenters.

I also served with the UN in Iraq and was there in 1989 to assist with the body exchange of Iraqi/Iranian war dead.

I saw both sides haggling over the decomposing remains of their fallen soldiers lying patiently to attention in lines of open coffins.

Most of the people I met wanted only peace and prosperity for themselves and their children.

We need to encourage each other to work for 'the common good'.

We all have a short life time in an ever shrinking, ecologically threatened world.

And - oil or no oil - if we don't live together in peace we will perish together.

If God, Allah, Yahweh, Buddha and the Holy Prophets have been offended, then let him/her or them deal with the 'evildoers' in the next life.

I grew up in Belfast in the sixties and seventies and plucked the lesson of peaceful coexistence from a society where religious bigotry was in abundance, civil rights denied to one third of the citizens and tolerance was in short supply.

JOE O'NEILL - Taghmon, Co Wexford.

Load-Date: March 20, 2006



Isolating Iran will only strengthen hardliners

The Toronto Star

June 26, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: OPINION; Pg. A17

Length: 702 words

Dateline: BERLIN

Body

The Bush administration paints Iran as a totalitarian state run by dictatorial mullahs itching to get their hands on a nuclear bomb.

This view is echoed by two pro-American factions of the 3 million-strong Iranian diaspora: the terrorist Mujahideen on the left and the monarchists on the right, who daydream of installing the late shah's son on a restored Persian throne. This unholy troika, however, has little credibility outside the U.S.

Europe, and Germany, in particular, has a more nuanced view.

Unlike Washington, it does not consider outgoing president Mohammed Khatami to have been a total failure.

The Conservatives, who control key parts of the government did, indeed, checkmate him at every turn. Frustrated, he was reportedly ready to give up after his first term in 2001 but was persuaded to carry on.

Now, according to a well-informed source, Khatami may, in fact, leave Iran and return to Germany, where he spent his exile years during the reign of the Shah and learned to speak German. Or, he may move to Vienna.

Despite all that, Khatami did make a difference. He argued for the compatibility of democracy and Islam. As he elegantly put it: "The perceived dichotomy between liberty and religion has been removed."

By being a moderate and intellectually refined cleric, he de-legitimized the hardliners who, since the 1979 revolution, had been invoking Islam to justify their harsh policies.

He empowered voters to demand accountability from their leaders.

He helped end secret executions and assassinations, as Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi said last week. He had the fatwa against author Salman Rushdie revoked. He opened relations with Saudi Arabia and other Arab neighbours. He normalized relations with Germany and most of Europe.

But Khatami failed in his primary goal: establishing the rule of law. He did not stop censorship, the closing down of newspapers and the jailing of intellectuals and writers.

Khatami also stood by as the conservatives stole back control of parliament and, now, the presidency.

Isolating Iran will only strengthen hardliners

The election to choose his successor has been tainted by credible reports of vote buying and stuffing of ballot boxes to eliminate moderates from the final round of balloting Friday.

Yet, Iran's democracy is far more advanced than the minimalist steps in Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan that George W. Bush hails as proof of his drive to democratize the region.

Iranian <u>women</u>, while disbarred from the presidential election, have made impressive gains compared to their counterparts in Arab lands.

Bush also never mentions that while the governments he cites are pro-American, their publics are anti-American. The opposite is true of Iran.

A majority of Iranians want to normalize relations with the U.S. But most disagree with Bush's reasons for demonizing Iran: its nuclear program and its support for <u>Hezbollah</u> in Lebanon and Hamas in the Israeli-occupied territories, both branded terrorists by America but considered by Iran as legitimate resistance groups.

Iranians are also averse to any hint of American intervention. That's the legacy of the 1953 pro-Shah coup organized by the CIA. Bush's belligerency, therefore, only strengthens the hardliners.

Iran did mislead the world on its nuclear program but it has not violated any international treaty. It will agree to strict international supervision but will not give up its right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Nor will it agree to be a vassal of Washington.

Europe understands. Germany, in particular, is also sensitive to Iran's security concerns.

American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq surround Iran. Nuclear Israel, India and Pakistan refuse to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Iran wants to be vigilant.

Iran is an important regional power. Its population is three times that of Iraq. It is an old civilization with a great intellectual and cultural tradition and a strong sense of its Shiite identity. Under Khatami, it has seen the potential to develop into a democracy and become the Shiite equivalent of moderate Sunni Turkey and Malaysia.

Isolating Iran is the worst possible course to follow.

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

Load-Date: June 26, 2005



Rice silent on women's rights in Middle East

Sunday Times (London) June 26, 2005, Sunday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited **Section:** Overseas news; News; 22

Length: 691 words

Byline: Tony Allen-Mills and Jon Swain

Body

SHE may be America's most powerful woman but Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, made clear during her tour of the Middle East last week that she is not about to become its most outspoken supporter of <u>women</u>'s rights.

During her week-long sweep through Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Rice steered clear of confrontation over one of the region's most volatile issues -the role of <u>women</u> in Islamic societies.

Her admission that there were "boundaries" to the US drive for democratic reform in the region -notably in Saudi Arabia, where she declined to take up the cause of <u>women</u>, who are barred from driving cars -spurred accusations of American hypocrisy.

Critics claimed it also reduced the effect of a hard-hitting speech in Cairo, where Rice urged Middle Eastern rulers to "abandon the excuses" they had advanced for avoiding the "hard work" of democracy.

She warned the leaders of Egypt and Saudi Arabia -both American allies -that Washington was no longer ready to "pursue stability at the expense of democracy", as it had done for the past 60 years.

But chatting to reporters as she flew from Riyadh to Brussels, Rice was asked why she had "very pointedly" declined to take a public position on the issue of Saudi <u>women</u>.

"It's just a line I've not wanted to cross," she replied. "The United States has to recognise that even after democratic processes have taken place, places are not going to look like the United States ... I think it's important that we do have some boundaries about what we're trying to achieve."

Her response fuelled complaints by human rights activists such as Shirin Ebadi, the Iranian feminist who won the 2003 Nobel Peace prize. Earlier this year Ebadi accused the administration of "hypocrisy" in its attitude to unfriendly nations such as Iran.

"Given the longstanding willingness of the American government to overlook abuses of human rights, particularly <u>women</u>'s rights, by close allies in the Middle East such as Saudi Arabia, it is hard not to see the Bush administration's focus on human rights violations in Iran as a cloak for its larger strategic interests," Ebadi said.

State department officials insisted that Rice had spoken out repeatedly about <u>women</u>'s rights around the world. "<u>Women</u>'s rights are not a '<u>women</u>'s issue'," Paula Dobriansky, undersecretary of state for global affairs, told a

Rice silent on women's rights in Middle East

recent meeting of Arab businesswomen. "They are a fundamental building block for democracy, prosperity and stability."

Others noted that while Rice made no mention of Saudi discrimination against <u>women</u> in her discussions in Riyadh, she had pressed Saudi officials on the fate of three dissidents who were jailed for presenting officials with a petition calling for a new constitution. In the past Washington has been criticised for ignoring the treatment of opponents to the royal family.

"Condi doesn't see herself as someone who is supposed to carry the torch for <u>women</u>'s rights," said one of her associates. "She knows that the absence of <u>women</u>'s rights is a major component of backwardness in the Arab world," the associate added. "But just because she's a <u>female</u> I don't think she sees herself pushing disproportionately this part of the democratisation agenda."

Rice pressed the case for greater democracy in Egypt by meeting Ayman Nour, a more moderate dissident figure who intends to challenge President Hosni Mubarak in elections called for September.

Nour goes on trial this week on charges of forging the signatures he needed to register a political party. Most outsiders view the trial as a politically calculated effort to eliminate a potential rival to Mubarak. Despite Rice's intervention, the Egyptian authorities last week barred Nour from leaving the country to address the European parliament.

"The main dilemma that US policy faces is what to do if the democratic process brings to the fore parties taking anti-western, anti-US and anti-Israeli positions," Rice's associate said. US officials are already in a quandary over how to deal with the potential emergence as mainstream political parties of militant groups such as <u>Hezbollah</u> in Lebanon and Hamas in the Palestinian territories.

Load-Date: June 27, 2005



The Way We War

The New York Times
July 18, 2006 Tuesday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 2; Editorial Desk; Pg. 21

Length: 604 words

Byline: By Etgar Keret

Etgar Keret is the author of "The Nimrod Flip-Out." This article was translated by Sondra Silverstone from the

Hebrew.

Dateline: Tel Aviv

Body

YESTERDAY I called the cable people to yell at them. The day before, my friend told me he'd called and yelled at them a little, threatened to switch to satellite. And they immediately lowered their price by 50 shekels a month (about \$11). "Can you believe it?" my friend said excitedly. "One angry five-minute call and you save 600 shekels a year."

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That afternoon I decided to test the effectiveness of the Tali argument on a stubborn taxi driver who refused to take me and my baby son in his cab because I didn't have a car seat with me.

"Tell me, aren't you ashamed of yourself?" I said, trying to quote Tali as precisely as I could. "We're at war. People are getting killed. Missiles are falling on Tiberias and all you can think about is your car seat?"

The argument worked here too, and the embarrassed driver quickly apologized and told me to hop in. When we got on the highway, he said partly to me, partly to himself, "It's a real war, eh?" And after taking a long breath, he added nostalgically, "Just like in the old days."

Now that "just like in the old days" keeps echoing in my mind, and I suddenly see this whole conflict with Lebanon in a completely different light. Thinking back, trying to recreate my conversations with worried friends about this war with Lebanon, about the Iranian missiles, the Syrian machinations and the assumption that <u>Hezbollah</u>'s leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, has the ability to strike any place in the country, even Tel Aviv, I realize that there was a small gleam in almost everyone's eyes, a kind of unconscious breath of relief.

The Way We War

And no, it's not that we Israelis long for war or death or grief, but we do long for those "old days" the taxi driver talked about. We long for a real war to take the place of all those exhausting years of intifada when there was no black or white, only gray, when we were confronted not by armed forces, but only by resolute young people wearing explosive belts, years when the aura of bravery ceased to exist, replaced by long lines of people waiting at our checkpoints, **women** about to give birth and elderly people struggling to endure the stifling heat.

Suddenly, the first salvo of missiles returned us to that familiar feeling of a war fought against a ruthless enemy who attacks our borders, a truly vicious enemy, not one fighting for its freedom and self-determination, not the kind that makes us stammer and throws us into confusion. Once again we're confident about the rightness of our cause and we return with lightning speed to the bosom of the patriotism we had almost abandoned. Once again, we're a small country surrounded by enemies, fighting for our lives, not a strong, occupying country forced to fight daily against a civilian population.

So is it any wonder that we're all secretly just a tiny bit relieved? Give us Iran, give us a pinch of Syria, give us a handful of Sheik Nasrallah and we'll devour them whole. After all, we're no better than anyone else at resolving moral ambiguities. But we always did know how to win a war.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: July 18, 2006



A blind eye to Tamil terrorism

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

January 18, 2005 Tuesday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A15

Length: 656 words **Byline:** National Post

Body

In Australia, Britain and the United States, belonging to or attempting to raise funds for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) -- better known as the Tamil Tigers -- can lead to arrest or imprisonment. Given the track record of this vicious terrorist group, that makes sense. But while other countries have banned the LTTE outright, Ottawa turns a blind eye. Our government bars known Tigers from entering Canada and freezes the group's assets when officials stumble on them. But more than three years after the passage of the federal Anti-Terrorism Act, the governing Liberals still refuse to place the LTTE on Canada's official list of banned terrorist groups.

Ottawa's failure to act cannot stem from ignorance. Until a recent shaky ceasefire took effect, the Tigers' two-decade long war with the Sri Lankan government had led to 60,000 deaths, many from LTTE terror bombings and ambushes. World leaders in suicide bombings, the Tigers are known for targetting civilians -- particularly **women** and children. And they press-gang children into doing much of their fiercest fighting: The LTTE's "Leopard Brigade" contains as many as 3,000 seven- to 14-year-olds who were taken from their parents as toddlers and fed a steady diet of anti-government propaganda and nihilism.

To fund all this, the LTTE extorts money from the Tamil diaspora in over 50 countries, including Canada, threatening to torture or kill loved ones back home if Tamil immigrants don't pay up. They are also notorious for drug-running and people-smuggling.

The LTTE is particularly active within the Tamil communities in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Just this week, the National Post revealed that Canadian and U.S. authorities had broken up a major Tiger-run smuggling ring that had sought to sneak Tiger agents and fundraisers into Canada via Bangkok, Mexico City and the United States.

Pierre Pettigrew, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, explained Monday that to outlaw the Tigers now would derail a heretofore-unknown Canadian-Norwegian initiative to broker peace between the Tamils and Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese. But the Liberals' ambivalence toward the Tigers predates any secret Ottawa-Oslo treaty negotiations. In 2000, against the strong objections of the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, then-finance minister Paul Martin, then-international co-operation minister Maria Minna and several other government MPs attended a Toronto fundraising event for the Federation of Associations of Canadian Tamils (FACT) -- an organization identified by the U.S. government as a front for the LTTE. The reason was obvious: Courting the support of a vote-rich ethnic community was more important than worrying about which elements of it the Liberals were rubbing shoulders with.

A blind eye to Tamil terrorism

To his credit, Mr. Martin resisted calls to visit the region of Sri Lanka under Tiger control during his current tour of tsunami-ravaged Asian nations. But he permitted Toronto-area Liberal MP Jim Karygiannis -- who joined him at the 2000 fundraiser -- to visit, with a spokeswoman saying the Prime Minister was "very keen" to hear Mr. Karygiannis's report on his trip. And before he left the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo yesterday, Mr. Martin himself met with three Tamil parliamentarians affiliated with the Tigers, two of whom were denied visas to enter Canada last year.

Until 2002, the Liberals clung to the notion that the Islamic extremists of <u>Hezbollah</u> were not terrorists, either. It took nearly six months of public and parliamentary pressure to convince the government to do what would have come naturally to anyone not trawling for votes in ethnic communities. Given that the Liberals seem even more entrenched in their sentiments toward the Tigers, convincing them to outlaw the LTTE could prove an even tougher battle. But sooner or later, Mr. Martin must surely recognize that a few extra votes don't merit cozying up to the friends of terrorists.

Load-Date: January 18, 2005



WHY SEXIST GEORGE HAS GOT IT WRONG

Independent on Sunday (London)
August 7, 2005, Sunday

Copyright 2005 Independent Print Ltd

Section: Final Edition; COMMENT; Pg. 23

Length: 674 words

Byline: JOAN SMITH

Body

They won't thank me for it, but I can't help entertaining the bizarre thought that Ayman al-Zawahiri, George Galloway, Ken Livingstone, Tony Blair and George Bush have something in common: they'd all like to see British and American troops out of Iraq. Of course Bush and Blair can't say any such thing, but Bush's poll ratings have slumped, and Blair knows that many people think his support for the war was a cause, if not the sole cause, of last month's terrorist attacks on London. In both capitals, frantic calculations must going on behind the scenes, trying to work out how soon the troops can be pulled out without giving the appearance of submitting to Zawahiri's threats, which he has just repeated in another stagey video.

Twenty-one marines from Ohio died last week, bringing the death toll in a single reserve battalion to 41 since it was deployed to Iraq in May. Galloway dismisses such people as 'foreign invaders' who are being targeted by the Iraqi 'resistance'. That doesn't alter the fact that the young soldiers found with their throats cut outside the town of Haditha on Monday had families, who are grieving their loss. Nor do I believe that every American serving in Iraq is a sadistic torturer, itching to get his or her hands on defenceless prisoners. I should think most of them are as keen to leave the country as Galloway and Livingstone are to see them go.

They will be forced out in time, just as Israel was eventually driven out of Lebanon by the suicide-bombers of <u>Hezbollah</u>. But I am getting tired of a knee-jerk, troops-out rhetoric based on the proposition that because the war was a mistake in the first place, the only solution is for foreign soldiers to withdraw as soon as possible. Things have changed since February 2003, when at least a million people, myself included, marched against the war, unconvinced by claims about WMD.

What now exists in Iraq is a shattered society, struggling to emerge from 35 years of Arab fascism. Civil institutions are being painfully constructed in the face of attacks by 'insurgents', actually merciless killers inspired by Zawahiri and bin Laden who make no distinction between combatants and civilians. (Incidentally, isn't it interesting that while Galloway condemns the attacks by Islamic extremists in London, his language in interviews broadcast by three Arab TV stations is as sexist and suffused with notions of sexual purity as that of any Muslim cleric? Describing Jerusalem and Baghdad as 'two of your beautiful daughters', with whose 'rape' some Arab leaders are collaborating, exposes precisely the kind of patriarchal assumptions that generations of feminists have fought against for years.)

By no accident, the position of <u>women</u> is absolutely central to the question of what should happen next in Iraq. That the current Iraqi government is arguing over a constitution that may impose Islamic law is bad enough, but withdrawing foreign troops would be to abandon the country to full-scale civil war and an Iranian-style Islamic republic in which <u>women</u> would have no rights at all.

WHY SEXIST GEORGE HAS GOT IT WRONG

So be it, some anti-war campaigners say, as if the fact that Iraqi <u>women</u> are being terrorised and murdered for refusing to be veiled is a regrettable by-product of the war. This is an abrogation of responsibility akin to the West's decision to hold its nose when the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in the autumn of 1996. We all know where that led: to a safe haven for bin Laden, Zawahiri and their followers and a disgusting form of sexual apartheid in a country where <u>women</u> had previously enjoyed considerable freedom, as they did in pre-war Iraq.

That we should even contemplate making a similar mistake is breath-taking. Millions of Iraqis defied the terrorists to vote at the beginning of this year, and while British and American troops are in the country, democracy at least has a chance. The very worst outcome of this costly war would be for the deaths of thousands of soldiers and civilians to end in the replacement of one type of totalitarian regime by another.

Load-Date: August 7, 2005



INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER; News & Views in Record time

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

May 14, 2005 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A2; NEWS

Length: 644 words

Body

SHORT HITS: Brief news items from around the world. A14

CINEMA SHOWTIMES: C2-C3

JOEL RUBINOFF: He loved Raymond, too; the listings. C4

CLASSIFIED: Find it fast! D1

NEWS A3-A16, D17-D18

ONTARIO BUDGET: University funding has strings attached. A6

SAINT JOHN PAUL?: Pope begins fast-track for late pontiff. A7

THE RECORD

UZBEKISTAN: Protest turns ugly as shots fired. A8

LEBANON: <u>Hezbollah</u> and Israel exchange fire. A9

CHILD CARE MONEY: PM wants Newfoundland's support. D18

LOCAL B1-B6

COMMONS REPORT: Ottawa urged to rethink prostitution laws. B1

PORN CASE: Search of rooms was necessary, court told. B6

ARTS C1-C5

STUDIO PROFILES: Iranian-born artist bridges east and west. C1

LORD OF THE RINGS: Show won't disappoint, says producer. C3

SPORTS E1-E8

HIGH SCHOOL: Glenview rugby player proves size irrelevant. E1

NBA: Nagging injuries keep Shaq on the sidelines. E2

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER; News & Views in Record time

FOOTBALL: East West Bowl brings CFL scouts to Waterloo. E4

SCOREBOARD E6

BUSINESS F1-F5

FOR SALE: ATS puts precision metals division on the block. F1

SOMETHING VENTURED: Blinds maker wins \$50K contest F1

GRAND RIVER LIFE G1

ART AND CRAFT: Quilting bridges style and function. G1

MARTIN MANOR: St. George man is friend to purple martins. G3

TRAVEL: Easter Island remains a wonderful mystery. G12

PERSPECTIVES P1-P8

DIVERSECITY: Foreign students find Canada challenging. P1

FAITH: Pope's focus on Christian unity poses questions. P8

TODAY'S FEATURES

Antiques G3

Auctions E7

Bill Bean G2

Births/deaths B7

Books P3

Bridge column D19

Celebrations G8-G9

Susan Chilton B1

Classified D1-D18

Close to Home G3

Al Coates F2

Comics D19

Crossword D19

Kevin Crowley F1

Dear Ellie G5

Editorials A18

Faith P8-P7

Garden column G6

Lynn Haddrall A18

Horoscopes D20

Insight A19

New York Times Crossword D20

Joel Rubinoff C4

TV listings C4

Weather D20

Wines and Spirits G6

COMING UP MONDAY

SPORTS

The best in Canadian university football take the field tomorrow in Waterloo for the annual East-West Bowl game In baseball, the Kitchener Panthers will take on the Toronto Maple Leafs in Intercounty Baseball League action.

THAT'S INTERESTING . . .

WORTH QUOTING

Give us the luxuries of life, and we will dispense with its necessities. J.L. Motley

TODAY IN HISTORY

May 14 has historically been a big day for inventions that are still important today. On this date in 1796, an eight-year-old boy received the first vaccination against smallpox, administered by English physician Edward Jenner. Fifty-seven years later, in 1853, New York dairyman Gail Borden applied for a patent for the process of making condensed milk. In 1878, petroleum jelly received its Vaseline trademark.

Also on this date in:

1907 -- Anne Jarvis arranged for a special church service in Philadelphia to honour mothers, an idea that caught on and became Mother's Day.

1984 -- Jeanne Sauve was sworn in as Canada's first female governor general.

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

The Winnipeg General Strike began 86 years ago today, in 1919, and paralysed the city for 41 days. An armed charge by the RCMP on June 21, which became known as Bloody Saturday, killed one person and injured 30. A number of labour leaders were jailed under wartime sedition laws.

Also on this date in:

1948 -- The day-old state of Israel was attacked by Transjordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

1995 -- China conducted an underground nuclear test, just days after it had agreed to an extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

STATISTICS CANADA

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER; News & Views in Record time

After five consecutive years of strong growth, average after-tax income reached a plateau for almost every type of family in Canada, remaining virtually unchanged for the second year in a row in 2003.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Our minister announced that admission to a church social event would be \$6 per person.

"However, if you're over 65," he said, "the price will be only \$5.50."

From the back of the congregation, a woman's voice rang out: "Do you really think I'd give you that information just to save 50 cents?"

Graphic

Photo: East-West Bowl game

Load-Date: May 14, 2005



'We must be active against terrorism'

The Times (London)

March 22, 2006, Wednesday

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Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 45

Length: 687 words

Byline: Philip Webster Political Editor

Body

Tony Blair called yesterday for a worldwide interventionist approach to defeat terrorism as he criticised those who saw setbacks in Iraq and Afghanistan as reasons why Saddam Hussein and the Taleban should have been left in place.

Proposing an international battle of "values and ideas", Mr Blair decried "the doctrine of benign inactivity", which, he said, portrayed America's response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks as a gross overreaction.

"This is not a clash between civilisations. It is a clash about civilisation," he said. " 'We' is not the West. 'We' are as much Muslim as Christian or Jew or Hindu. 'We' are those who believe in religious tolerance, openness to others, to democracy, liberty and human rights administered by secular courts."

The Prime Minister's speech in London was the first of three that he plans to deliver on terrorism and the significance of Iraq and Afghanistan. The second will be delivered in Australia and the third in the United States.

As he was speaking, President Bush held a White House press conference as part of a drive to reverse falling support for the Iraq war.

The embattled President denied that Iraq was heading toward civil war, suggesting to the contrary that the Iraqis "looked and decided not to go into civil war".

They "had a chance to fall apart and they didn't".

Mr Bush said there was "more tough fighting ahead", but insisted: "If I didn't believe we could succeed, I wouldn't be there. I wouldn't put those kids there."

Mr Blair said of terrorism: "The only way to win is to recognise this phenomenon is a global ideology; to see all areas in which it operates as linked and to defeat it by values and ideas set in opposition to those of the terrorists."

He said that a belief in an "activist approach" to foreign policy, based on values and interests, was the theme underlying the Government's approach to issues from Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan, to climate change and poverty in Africa.

His spokesman played down fears that the speech might ring alarm bells in Iran, which is confronting the US and Europe over its nuclear programme. "On Iran, we are engaged in an activist, interventionist approach. It isn't just sitting back waiting for Iran, it is trying to enforce through diplomacy," the spokesman said.

'We must be active against terrorism'

Mr Blair said that the terrorists knew that if they were to succeed either in Iraq or Afghanistan, or indeed Lebanon or anywhere else wanting to go the democratic route, then the choice of a modern future for the Arab or Muslim world would be dealt a potentially mortal blow.

"Likewise, if they fail and those countries become democracies and make progress, then not merely is that a blow against their whole value system but it is the most effective message against their wretched propaganda about America, the West and the rest of the world."

He attacked the terrorist ideology for its "absurd" anti-Americanism, its pre-feudal approach to government and its approach to the role of **women** and intolerance of other faiths.

An interventionist approach was an essential precondition to future prosperity and stability, he said.

The alternative of "benign inactivity" ignored the "life choices" each country faced between completing the transformation to democracy or returning to misery for millions.

The Prime Minister said that people must recognise extremism for what it was and not pander to it. He said: "The struggle against terrorism in Madrid, or London, or Paris is the same as the struggle against terrorist acts of *Hezbollah* in Lebanon, of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Palestine or rejectionist groups in Iraq."

Extremism was deep-rooted and its impact felt worldwide, with some 40 to 50 countries subjected to regular terrorist attacks loosely linked to extremist ideology.

"We are better to take a strong view at the beginning and be prepared to act, rather than wait until, certainly in my judgment, we may have to act in a far more fundamental way," Mr Blair said. "This terrorism, in my view, will not be defeated until its ideas, the poison that warps the minds of its adherents, are confronted, head on, in their essence at their core."

Load-Date: March 22, 2006



An Islamic path to democracy

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

April 13, 2005 Wednesday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A20

Length: 711 words

Byline: Oliver Roy, Financial Times

Body

From the recent torrent of analysis about trends in the Middle East, two contradictory views have emerged. The first is that the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq has set off a wave of democratization -- as exemplified by elections in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Palestinian territories, as well as Lebanon's "cedar revolution."

The alternative view is that Western intervention has fuelled Islamist extremism; it has underpinned the emergence of a "narco-state" (Afghanistan) and even a militantly Islamic state (Iraq). Lebanon may be on the verge of a new civil war, Iran is the big winner of the Iraqi elections and an overstretched U.S. army is struggling to cope.

Regardless of which narrative one prefers, U.S. military intervention in the Middle East was a watershed. And there have been at least some positive long-term effects.

To begin with, democracy is clearly popular among Arabs. Even if many dislike America's role in promoting it and are suspicious of Washington's agenda, they are hungry for more freedom.

But the kind of democratization we are talking about has little to do with the abstract Jeffersonian-style democracy that Washington wanted to implement in Iraq. Developing a real, working democracy is more complicated than simply holding elections.

Another myth was the belief that a democratic regime would be automatically friendly to U.S. interests. In fact, democratization cannot work without political legitimacy, and this legitimacy in the Middle East is rooted first in nationalism and Islamic beliefs. The democratization processes we've seen so far reflect that: Palestinian democrats are no less nationalist than their more militant counterparts, and constitutionalist Iraqi Shia clerics are still calling for Islamic sharia principles in their country's laws.

On a more positive note, the merging of nationalism and democracy is undermining links between local anti-western movements (whether nationalist or Islamist) and the internationalist radicals who claim to support them, such as al-Qaeda. When domestic national agendas dominate the political scene there is no room for strangers who are pushing only their internationalist struggle and ignoring local issues.

This polarization is at work in Afghanistan, where the Taliban lost whatever support it had not by opposing the Americans but by calling for violent disruption of the country's elections. Many former Taliban members are now giving up armed struggle to join the political process.

An Islamic path to democracy

The same may be happening in Iraq. Foreign volunteers who once could have been perceived, at least by the Sunni Arab minority, as allies against a foreign invasion are increasingly seen as foreigners who are killing Iraqis and disrupting a legitimate political process.

This is part of a trend: The radical internationalists have less and less to propose in terms of local politics, and tend to rely on despair and oppression. In places where there is an alternative that can reconcile democracy, nationalism and Islam, they inevitably lose their appeal.

One important lesson is that there is no way for the region to move further toward democracy without integrating Islamo-nationalist movements such as Hamas and *Hezbollah*.

The need to include religious groups in any democratization effort is underscored by the state of supposedly secular regimes in the region such as Tunisia and Syria. The main mistake of the West, and more specifically Europeans, was to favour authoritarian secularism over democracy in the name of curbing militant Islam -- thus delinking secularism and democracy in the minds of many Muslims.

Many Europeans are now calling for the gradual reform of these states as an alternative to Iraqi-style regime change. But these regimes are clearly unable to reform themselves. They can achieve neither secularism nor democratization -- let alone promote efficient economic development. Thus, they fuel what could be called "re-Islamization," since religion is often the only way for people to escape the authoritarian monotony of political life.

Even if the road to democratization in the Middle East proves rougher than expected, there is no alternative. And if it is to succeed, Arab nationalists and Islamic groups must be taken on as partners, whatever we may think of their agendas.

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Paula Bronstein, Getty Images; Afghan women wait to vote in that country's Oct. 9 election.

Load-Date: April 13, 2005



<u>Comment & Analysis: In a warped reality: Two years on, the occupiers</u> justify the war by embracing the irrelevant and ignoring the inconvenient

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 21, 2005

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Section: Guardian Leader Pages, Pg. 17

Length: 1134 words **Byline:** Gary Younge

Body

This is a tale of one war, two anniversaries, three different demonstrations - and inconsistencies, contradictions and civilian deaths that are too numerous to count.

On April 18 2003, tens of thousands of Sunni and Shia protesters took to the streets of Baghdad to call for the Americans to leave Iraq. "You are the masters today," Ahmed al-Kubeisy, the prayer leader, told the Americans as he addressed the men emerging from Friday prayers. "But I warn you against thinking of staying. Get out before we kick you out."

Two years later, the US is still there. The anti-American protest was hailed in the White House as a vindication for the US strategy of bombing and then occupying the country. "In Iraq, there's discussion, debate, protest - all the hallmarks of liberty," said President George Bush that week. "The path to freedom may not always be neat and orderly, but it is the right of every person and every nation."

On February 22 2005, tens of thousands of Lebanese protesters took to the streets of Beirut to call for the Syrians to leave the country. Within a week the Syrians announced indefinite plans to leave. Front covers of magazines carried pictures of pretty young Lebanese <u>women</u> waving flags (at last, some Arabs editors could fancy) proclaiming a "cedar revolution" and "people power". The protest was hailed in the White House as a vindication for the US strategy of bombing and occupying Iraq. "By now it should be clear that authoritarian rule is not the wave of the future," said Bush. "We want that democracy in Lebanon to succeed, and we know it cannot succeed so long as she is occupied by a foreign power."

On March 8 2005, 500,000 pro-Syrian protesters took to the streets of Beirut to oppose US and European interference. The demonstration was backed by *Hizbullah*, which the US has branded a terrorist organisation. People carried banners saying "Death to America". It was several times bigger than the first anti-Syrian protest. They too waved Lebanese flags. But editors didn't find them pretty. They did not appear on the front pages of the news magazines. Their protest was not hailed in the White House. In fact, its existence was barely acknowledged.

"The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side," George Orwell once wrote. "He has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them."

So it is on the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, where the occupy ing powers are still so desperate to create a moral framework to justify the war that embracing the irrelevant and ignoring the inconvenient has become the only viable strategy left to them.

Comment & Analysis: In a warped reality: Two years on, the occupiers justify the war by embracing the irrelevant and ignoring the inconvenient

We have entered a world where reality - like the photographs of torture or the absence of weapons of mass destruction - is just a minor blockage in a flood of official, upbeat declarations and statements. Each new dispatch from the departments of irony on both sides of the Atlantic suggests that truth can be created by assertion, principle can be established by deception and democracy can be imposed through aggression. These people would claim credit for the good weather and deny responsibility for their own signature if they thought they could get away with it.

Two years on, the death toll keeps rising, the size of the "coalition" keeps shrinking and global public support for this reckless occupation has maintained its downward spiral from a low base. Indeed, the only thing that changes is the rationale for starting the war, where the sophistry of the occupying powers keeps plumbing new depths and selective amnesia has attained new highs.

We are supposed to believe that there is no link between the American shooting of an Italian intelligence agent on a rescue mission and Rome's decision to withdraw its troops 10 days later. "I don't see a connection there," says the White House spokesman, Scott McClellan. We are supposed to remember Saddam Hussein's gassing of the Kurds 17 years ago in graphic detail and forget everything that happened in Abu Ghraib 16 months ago.

"If our guys want to poke somebody in the chest to get the name of a bomb maker so they can save the lives of Americans, I'm for it," said Republican senator Jim Talent at a recent hearing on torture. How about ramming someone who does not have the name of a bomb maker in the anus with a truncheon, Mr Talent. Are you for that too?

Most recently, we have been told to believe that the limited and as yet untested moves towards democracy in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the thawing in Palestinian-Israeli relations (largely the result of Yasser Arafat's death) and the proposed withdrawal of Syrian troops (prompted by an outcry over the assassination of former Lebanese premier Rafik Hariri) all justify the bombing.

As further proof they point to January's elections in Iraq. This was a vote that the Americans wanted to postpone, in which many people could not participate, that produced a victory for Islamists with close ties to Iran who want the US troops out as soon as possible. If all of this amounts to victory, I would hate to see what their idea of defeat looks like.

The truth is that you cannot even begin to make a justification for the war unless you take into account the lives of innocent Iraqis lost as a result of it. The simplest way to deal with that is to pretend that these deaths do not exist the occupying powers simply do not count them. The only other defence is that their deaths are a price worth paying and that good things can come from bad acts - a claim every bit as offensive and wrong-headed as arguing that 9/11 was a price worth paying for waking America up to the consequences of its foreign policy.

But the Iraqis are not the only ones to have suffered these past two years. While the occupiers have been busy failing to export democracy abroad, they have been busy undermining it at home. All of them lied to their electorates about the reasons for going to war. With the exception of America, all of them went to war despite overwhelming opposition from the public. And through their anti-terrorist bills and patriot acts they have removed some of the most basic legal rights of their citizens and criminalised the most vulnerable.

The elections last year in Spain and recent events in Italy are encouraging. They show that while the anti-war movement failed to stop the war, it has maintained a sufficiently effective presence to make a crucial difference at key moments to disable and discredit it.

In the meantime, the department of irony will keep moulding its own version of reality until it is sufficiently warped to fit its own agenda. US troop withdrawal, said Bush last week, "would be done depending upon the ability of Iraqis to defend themselves". They are already defending themselves Mr Bush - from you.

Comment & Analysis: In a warped reality: Two years on, the occupiers justify the war by embracing the irrelevant and ignoring the inconvenient

Load-Date: March 21, 2005



In a warped reality

Guardian Weekly
March 25, 2005 - March 31, 2005

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Section: COMMENTS & ANALYSIS; Vol. 172, No. 14; Pg. 5

Length: 1135 words **Byline:** Gary Younge

Highlight: Two years on, Iraq's occupiers justify the war by embracing the irrelevant and ignoring the inconvenient

Body

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Graphic

In a warped reality

Picture, no caption; Illustration, no caption

Load-Date: April 4, 2005



Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Two clocks are ticking: Obsessed with trying to stop Tehran from going nuclear, we are neglecting democracy

Guardian Weekly
March 17, 2006 Friday

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*The*GuardianWeekly

Section: Pg. 5

Length: 1216 words

Byline: Timothy Garton Ash

Body

Rome was not built in a day and Persia will not be changed in a day. As we contemplate our very limited options for influencing that ancient, self-referential and now defiant country, we must be clear that we are in for a long haul. We cannot make Iran peaceful and democratic; we can only help to create conditions in which Iranians themselves might eventually make it so.

Two clocks are ticking in Iran: the nuclear clock and the democracy clock. The strategic objective of western policy must be to slow down the nuclear clock and to speed up the democracy clock. Our problem is that some of the things we might do to slow down the nuclear clock are likely to slow down the democracy clock as well.

Millions of Iranians who are fiercely critical of the country's theocratic regime, and of its wildly ranting president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, also believe that Iran is entitled to civilian nuclear power. Many of them think that it's entitled to nuclear weapons as well. If the West imposes sanctions just on the nuclear issue, without linking them to respect for human rights inside Iran, there will be an anti-western backlash among parts of the population who would otherwise be a force for change. That may well be what Ahmadinejad is counting on. There is method in his madness.

Last week's report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) puts the issue of Iran's nuclear programme firmly before the UN security council but, despite American and European pressure, Russia and China are extremely reluctant to bring things to a crunch. The next step in the diplomatic dance will probably be a "presidential statement" from the security council, something well short of a condemnatory resolution and sanctions. Even that may be many weeks in the making.

If the security council does finally "impose meaningful consequences", as the US vice-president, Dick Cheney, put it last week, the Islamic Republic of Iran can strike back in two ways. First, it can do what it has already promised to do, and let rip with its nuclear enrichment programme, while stoking up a siege mentality at home with a propaganda of patriotic resistance to nefarious British-American imperial diktat. It can also make lots more trouble for the West and its allies in the Middle East by supporting more extreme elements in the Shia south of Iraq, in Hamas and in <u>Hizbullah</u>. Already Iran's revolutionary guards are busy recruiting candidates for what they call "martyrdom-seeking operations". All this under the banner of leading Islamic resistance to western imperialism.

Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Two clocks are ticking: Obsessed with trying to stop Tehran from going nuclear, we are neglecting democracy

So as the nuclear diplomacy grinds on, we need to think urgently about the other track: speeding up the democracy clock. At first glance, we seem to have the familiar spectacle of a hard line from Washington and a soft line from Europe. In fact, Washington's line on democracy promotion is more complicated and Europe's is non-existent.

It's true that the same American neocons who talk of bombing Iran will also tell you their preferred option is to foment a revolution to overthrow the mullahs. Brave of them to risk other people's lives. Meanwhile the Bush administration has announced a budget allocation of \$85m to finance satellite television broadcasting to Iran, and other forms of support to civil society and elements of democratic opposition in the country. The senior state department official spearheading this effort is Elizabeth Cheney, the daughter of Dick Cheney - in itself enough to damn her in the eyes of many Europeans. In a recent speech to the Foreign Policy Association, she argued that there are "many similarities and more than a few differences" between what happened in central Europe in the 1980s and the wider Middle East today. The "most direct parallel" she finds with the Solidarity movement in Poland is the role of <u>women</u> as the spearhead for change across the wider Middle East.

Now you may - and I would - question the historical comparison with Solidarity. But you also have to answer these questions: do you think movements for the emancipation of <u>women</u> in the Muslim world are a good thing? Do you think we should be supporting them? If the answer is yes, then why don't you agree with her? Is it just because she's an American called Cheney?

Rather than sitting on the sidelines carping at whatever Washington does, we Europeans should do something better ourselves. Instead of merely expressing (justified) scepticism about an American satellite TV channel for Iran, which will be widely seen there as Bush administration propaganda, we should be urging the British parliament to make money available for a 24-hour BBC satellite television service broadcasting to Iran in Farsi. For the BBC does have real credibility in Iran. Rather than just sniping at Washington's sometimes clumsy efforts at democracy promotion, we should be developing our own.

When I say we, I mean all the member states of the European Union, pooling their resources and know-how. After all, we - not the Americans - have the diplomats, business people and journalists on the ground in Iran. Between our 25 countries, we have a unique body of experience about how democratic states can encourage peaceful change in their less democratic neighbours. In the last decades of the cold war, West Germany tried to do this with its Ostpolitik, and Poland, having been on the receiving end, can help us to learn from the mistakes of that Ostpolitik. Not all the European precedents fit Iran, but some do. For example, we should be weaving a dense web of human contacts between Iranians and freer countries, as we did between the western and eastern halves of a divided Europe.

Our universities should invite their academics and students, who have often been in the vanguard of standing up for free speech and human rights in Iran. Our newspapers and journalism schools should bring over their journalists. Our trades unions should hitch up with their unionists, some of whom have organised major strikes. Our parliaments should establish links with their parliament which, though far from fully democratic, has been giving Ahmadinejad a rough ride. Writers, artists and filmmakers should be encouraged to travel, carrying ideas in both directions. Women's movements in Iran, representing half the population systematically discriminated against, should be supported by women's movements in Europe. Iran's Islamic thinkers and jurists, both reformist modernisers and conservatives, should be engaged in dialogue by theologians and scholars from other faith traditions.

All this should be done less by our governments than by our own societies, and not just by America and Britain - traditionally distrusted by many Iranians - but by all European countries, working separately and together. We need a European Iranpolitik.

We cannot know in advance which parts of such a catalytic action will have what effects over what period. Certainly we are talking years, not months. Iran is not Poland, and when change does come it will come from Iranians working in a distinctively Iranian way.

Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Two clocks are ticking: Obsessed with trying to stop Tehran from going nuclear, we are neglecting democracy

It may be that the nuclear clock will still tick too quickly and the democracy clock too slowly. However, to work only on the nuclear clock, and not make any systematic attempt to speed up the other, is to condemn ourselves in advance to almost certain failure.

Load-Date: March 31, 2006



Comment & Debate: Punishment of Palestinians will create a crucible of trouble for the world: George Bush's policies helped build Hamas; now a dangerous linkage with Iran and Iraq threatens a mega-crisis

The Guardian - Final Edition May 29, 2006 Monday

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Section: GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES; Pg. 25

Length: 1206 words **Byline:** David Hirst

Body

Patients with chronic kidney disease dying for lack of their routine dialysis; 165,000 employees of the Palestine Authority unpaid for two and a half months; <u>women</u> selling jewellery for fuel or food . . . the "humanitarian crisis" of the West Bank and Gaza is not a Darfur. And what most shocks Arabs and Muslims is that it stems from a conscious political decision by the world's only superpower. First, they say, you give us Iraq, now on the brink of civil war. Then this: the starving of a whole people.

The psychological and strategic linkage between Iraq and Palestine is far from new. But its latest, most intense phase began with the US invasion of Iraq - conceived by the Bush administration's pro-Israeli neoconservatives as the first great step in their region-wide scheme for "regime change" and "democratisation", whose consummation was to be an Arab-Israeli settlement. Indeed, professors Mearsheimer and Walt argue in their study, The Israel Lobby, that there very likely wouldn't have been an invasion at all but for Israel and, above all, its partisans inside the US.

But it had always been crystal clear that the more authentic any democracy Arabs or Palestinians did come to enjoy, US-inspired or not, the more their conception of a settlement would collide with the US-Israeli one. The point was swiftly proved, in the wake of Hamas's assumption of power, when President Bush declared: "We support democracy, but that doesn't mean we have to support governments elected as a result of democracy." And his administration set about engineering Palestinian "regime change" in reverse.

Its strategy found more or less willing accomplices - Europeans, Arab governments, the Palestinians themselves. But it was always going to be a perilous one; the more vigorously it was pursued in the face of the opposition that it was bound to encounter, the more likely it was to make of Palestine a crucible of trouble for its own people, the region and the world - very much like the one that other quasi-colonial western intervention had already made of Iraq.

The idea was to get the Palestinians, through collective punishment, to repudiate the very people they had just elected. Some do blame Hamas. But most of those blame America much more. If anything, sanctions have had the opposite effect from that intended, encouraging people to rally round the new government. Buoyed by its own popularity, on top of its electoral legitimacy, Hamas won't easily relinquish power - "not without a war", said lyyad Sarraj, a Gaza psychologist.

Comment & Debate: Punishment of Palestinians will create a crucible of trouble for the world: George Bush's policies helped build Hamas; now a dangerous linkage....

Even if the US did succeed in bringing Hamas down, it would, like the overthrow of Saddam, be a catastrophic kind of success - plunging Palestine, too, into the chaos and internecine strife that is the antithesis of the modern, democratic, pro-western Middle East order the US is trying to build. It is clear that, with President Mahmoud Abbas's bombshell proposal for a referendum on the nature of a final peace raising the political stakes and with skirmishes in Gaza raising the military ones, war between Hamas and Fatah is eminently possible. It is far from clear that America's "side" could win. "If Fatah couldn't fight Hamas while it was still in power," said General Ilan Paz, the former head of Israel's civil administration in the territories, "how could it gain control with Hamas in power and itself disintegrated?"

Furthermore, chaos in the territories would open the way to militants, jihadists and suicide bombers from the rest of the world, just as it did in Iraq. Iran, the non-Arab country that is now the main state patron of Arab radicalism, was quicker than any Arab government to offer money to the new Hamas regime. An intrinsic part of its wider strategic and nuclear ambitions, Palestine now ranks among Iran's top foreign-policy priorities. Abbas says that *Hizbullah* and al-Qaida are already active in Gaza. From where, if not from such outsiders, have come the long-range Katyusha missiles that have begun to target southern Israel from Gaza? And if Hamas were driven from office, it would go underground again, resuming with a vengeance the resistance it has suspended.

As for the Arabs, they would be at least as subject to the fallout from Palestine as they are from Iraq's. Their discredited regimes hardly know what to fear more: the example of a Hamas democratically installed or undemocratically ousted. The first would encourage the ascension of their own Islamists. The civil war liable to result from the second would arouse even more dangerous passions among them. Broadly speaking, Hamas has Arab, especially Islamist, public opinion on its side, and the more the regimes defer to the US in its anti-Hamas campaign, the greater discredit they will fall into.

For Rami Khouri, a leading Beirut columnist, the Palestine cause risks being transformed from a "national" into a "civilisational" one, with "potentially dangerous linkages between events in Palestine-Israel and the rest of the Middle East".

"Hundreds of thousands of young people will feel duped and betrayed. The wellspring of support for Hamas- and Muslim Brotherhood-style democratic engagement will slowly dry up in favour of more intense armed struggle. They will stop wasting time trying to redress grievances through peaceful, democratic politics or diplomacy . . . Bringing down the Hamas-led Palestinian government will bring further radicalisation, resistance and terrorism across the region." Well aware of this resonance, the Palestinian finance minister, Omar Abdul Razeq, warned: "The entire region will catch fire if the Palestinian people are pushed to a situation where they have nothing to lose."

Suddenly this month the Bush administration seemed to grasp something of the perils it is courting. And those US-engineered privations of Gaza were too scandalous to ignore. At a meeting of the Quartet (the EU, the US, the UN and Russia), it offered \$10m in emergency medical aid. The largesse was paltry and grudging, but at least it seemed to indicate that Washington had given up hope of bringing about immediate "regime change" via economic ruin. Gideon Levy, a pro-Palestinian Israeli commentator, was even moved to say: "Hamas is winning."

Hardly. For the only substantive way in which it could be said to be doing that would be if the US started drawing the right conclusions from this spectacularly unwelcome result of Arab democratisation - the most important of which is that, were it not for US policies, Hamas would never have won the elections.

But that would require a fundamental, revolutionary change of heart. In the opinion of Mearsheimer and Walt, the extraordinary US attachment to Israel - that moral and strategic "burden" - makes such a change impossible any time soon. So the fear must now be that, long before this could happen, the Middle East's "dangerous linkages" will assert themselves even more dangerously than before, and that those two ongoing crises - Palestine and Iraq, which the attachment did so much to engender - will be joined, and fused into a single mega-crisis, by a third: when, on its protege's behalf, the Bush administration goes to war against Iran.

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Comment & Debate: Punishment of Palestinians will create a crucible of trouble for the world: George Bush's policies helped build Hamas; now a dangerous linkage....

Load-Date: May 29, 2006



New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The money trails run to 'fences' with Middle Eastern ties.

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

July 2, 2005 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: FOCUS; Pg. F04; News

Length: 1578 words **Byline:** Mark Clayton

Body

On the day terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center, a Texas state trooper pulled over a rental van driven by a Middle Eastern man going towards Houston. Opening the cargo door, the officer found a huge load of ... baby formula.

False alarm? Not really. Police later identified the driver as a member of a terrorist group and linked him to a nationwide theft ring that specialized in reselling stolen infant formula, says Sergeant Johnnie Jezierski of the Special Crimes Service of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Proceeds were wired to the Middle East. The driver is still under investigation. The Christian Science Monitor

Operation Blackbird, as Texas investigators dubbed their multistate baby-formula investigation, has since led to felony charges against more than 40 suspects, about half illegal immigrants. Authorities have seized some \$2.7 million in stolen assets, including \$1 million worth of formula.

Blackbird was just the beginning. In the nearly four years since 9/11, police have uncovered and dismantled a growing number of regional and national theft rings specializing in shoplifted infant formula, over-the-counter medicines and personal-care products.

At least eight of the major baby-formula cases have involved "fences" who are of Middle Eastern descent or who have ties to that region, according to a Monitor review of congressional testimony, news accounts, and a study by the National Retail Federation released Tuesday.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has traced money from these infant-formula traffickers back to nations where terrorist groups, such as Hamas and *Hezbollah*, are active, investigators say. Then, the trail usually goes cold.

Once funds enter such countries, there's often no way to track them.

FBI director Robert Mueller first talked of a possible link in a speech last fall. He did it again in testimony before the Senate Committee on Intelligence in February, saying: "Middle Eastern criminal enterprises involved in the organized theft and resale of infant formula pose not only an economic threat, but a public health threat to infants, and a potential source of material support to a terrorist organization."

New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The

So far, most officials are unwilling to draw conclusive links between proceeds from shoplifted formula and terror financing, saying only that they're "likely" or "probable" in some cases. "Just because you have an infant-formula operation doesn't mean it's a terror-funding operation," says Jezierski. "But to say there's no terrorist funding isn't the case either."

While many terrorist groups eschew criminal commerce because it tends to attract police attention, other groups finance themselves with theft, fraud and smuggling. The Irish Republican Army, Colombia's FARC and <u>Hezbollah</u> all have engaged in criminal enterprises, says Matthew Levitt, a former FBI counter-terrorism analyst, now director of terrorism studies at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Some Al-Qaeda cells, at the fringes of their operations, have engaged in criminal self-financing, he says. "Important operational funding can come from these criminal activities ... If you are funding yourself, it's freeing up the home organization."

Less convinced is Mardi Mountford, executive director of the International Formula Council, an Atlanta-based trade association that represents infant formula manufacturers in the United States. "We've heard that speculation, but we're not aware of a direct connection."

Theft of baby formula from store shelves has risen over the past decade, costing retailers billions of dollars. Formula was the fourth most-often-shoplifted item last year, according to a survey by the Food Marketing Institute, a Washington, D.C., trade group.

In the wake of several cases in North Carolina and Florida, some retailers have transferred formula from store shelves to behind the counter. One big grocery chain, Albertsons Inc., now keeps a few cans on the shelf -- along with a sign directing customers to the courtesy counter.

Calling it "a serious security issue" for retailers, the National Retail Federation unveiled its 200-page report highlighting "organized retail theft" of infant formula. At least seven of the report's 10 case studies detail fencing operations run by citizens of Middle Eastern origin.

"The rings I identified dealing in stolen infant formula are operated mostly by Middle Easterners," says Charles Miller, a loss-prevention consultant and author of the report. They typically organize the rings, pay the shoplifters (who are mostly from Latin America), repackage the formula, and resell it. Out of \$30 billion in annual retail theft, about \$7 billion of infant formula is stolen and resold for profit, Miller estimates.

The scheme works this way: A shoplifter may get \$5 for a can of formula from his fence, who then reboxes the loot and sells that to a dishonest retailer for \$9 a can. That retailer then sells it for perhaps \$15 or \$16 a can. The result may be a \$6 or \$7 profit a can for the dishonest retailer -- instead of pennies a can for the honest merchant, Miller says.

Several Middle Eastern businessmen have already been charged or convicted in connection with baby-formula thefts

Mohammed Khalil Ghali was sentenced in February to 14 years in prison, convicted on 15 counts that included transporting stolen goods and money laundering. A search warrant states that money generated from the sale of the goods was wired to banks in the Middle East, "specifically Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine."

Nine of the 11 individuals indicted in the case are of Middle Eastern descent, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Samih Fadl Jamal was a fixture in Phoenix, until investigators discovered that his company gained \$11 million in profits from the sale of \$22 million of stolen baby formula from 2001 to 2003, prosecutors say.

New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The

In all, 27 people connected to the Jamal Trading company scheme were indicted, most from Iraq, Jordan or Lebanon. Some are naturalized U.S. citizens; others overstayed student or visitor visas, the National Retail Federation report said.

Investigators' wiretaps indicated that about \$8 million was funnelled to countries in the Middle East, where it disappeared. Jamal, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Lebanon, was convicted in April of 20 counts of conspiracy to transport and receive stolen property and other related charges, as well as money laundering.

Of course, just because the money goes to the Middle East doesn't mean it's going to terrorists, some groups point out.

"To say that -- 'Oh, there's a chance that these funds went to fund terrorism because there are terrorist groups active in this country' -- is irresponsible," says Rabia Ahmed of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Washington. "We've seen many cases like this, where a prominent Muslim leader has been charged with horrible things, but it ends up being some kind of immigration technicality."

First identified in the early 1980s, organized retail theft is a key feature of baby-formula theft. Teams of professional shoplifters may travel 300 to 400 kilometres over a week or more, Miller says. Typically each has a shoplifting list of specific brands of infant formula, medications, shaving products and batteries given them by their fences.

Shoplifting teams may involve five or six <u>women</u> or young men. Typically they disperse into a store in pairs or separately, posting lookouts to watch for store security. Then a separate team loads carts of formula and goes straight to the exit where a vehicle is waiting, investigators say.

Formula is a favourite of theft rings mostly because of the steady demand, high cost and large profit margins. Its price is also supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's \$4.9 billion <u>Women</u>, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

To battle this trend, Texas authorities mandated that retailers participating in WIC must purchase their infant formula from approved WIC wholesalers or the manufacturers themselves. U.S. Republican Representative John Carter of Texas sponsored legislation included in the WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 that aims to eliminate the market for stolen infant formula with a similar mandate. But those measures have not been implemented in most states.

As of May, the USDA has mandated that stores nationwide use a licensed wholesaler, say Oklahoma officials, where a recent burst of formula shoplifting has drawn attention even though Oklahoma is one of the few states that require stores to buy from a licensed wholesaler.

A key problem is that many local law enforcement officers view baby-formula theft as petty shoplifting -- and shoplifting laws tend to be soft, experts say. Few shoplifters go to jail.

But there are signs that that attitude is changing. The Retail Industry Leaders Association in March testified before Congress, asking for tougher laws to crack down on organized shoplifting. Major retailers like Wal-Mart, Kroger, Walgreens and others reported to be losing millions on shoplifted baby-formula have internal teams focused on the problem.

Although the FBI has also deployed teams nationwide to crack down on organized retail theft, some investigators say the problem is growing -- and moving onto the Internet.

On Monday, the online auction house eBay carried more than 1,000 offers of Enfamil baby formula. "This problem is getting worse, no question," Miller says. "It is in every state in the union, and neither law enforcement nor the retailers have their arms around it."

New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The

Graphic

Photo: Canadian Press File Photo; Trained teams of shoplifters travel up to 400 kilometres a week and, using instore strategies, steal millions of dollars in infant formula.

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The Scotsman

July 22, 2006, Saturday

1 Edition

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Byline: Peter Ranscombe

Body

THE crisis in the Middle East escalated this week, with at least 44 people dying on Sunday as Israeli troops exchanged fire with <u>Hezbollah</u> across the Lebanese border. Yi-Chi Chen, a 12-year-old Taiwanese boy, fell to his death while descending Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh.

On Monday, the foreign office minister, Kim Howells, said rescuing people from Lebanon could be the "biggest evacuation since Dunkirk", as helicopters began ferrying Britons out of the war zone. An open microphone at the G8 summit in St Petersburg caught George Bush swearing about the Middle East. A tsunami struck the Indonesian island of Java, killing about 550 people, with 300 reported missing. Massive expansion plans for Edinburgh Airport were announced. The GBP 300 million scheme will double the size of the airport to accommodate a three-fold rise in passenger numbers.

The Royal Navy joined the evacuation efforts in Beirut on Tuesday as HMS Gloucester carried 180 <u>women</u> and children to Cyprus. Tommy Sheridan's defamation action against a Sunday tabloid continued at the Court of Session, with the MSP representing himself after firing his legal team.

A report on Wednesday by the consumer group Which? revealed some breakfast cereals contain as much sugar as chocolate and nearly the same amount of fat as sausages. Vladimir Romanov, the Lithuanian millionaire who owns Hearts, announced he had bought the remains of K19, the Soviet nuclear submarine on which he once served and which featured in a film starring Harrison Ford. The evacuation of Lebanon continued, with HMS York docking in Beirut. Temperatures in Charwood, Surrey, reached 36.3C, setting a new UK July record.

Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, spent Thursday warning that Lebanon faced a humanitarian crisis if the Israeli attacks continued. His declaration came as HMS Bulwark, a giant Royal Navy assault ship, carried about 1,300 Britons to safety. NHS 24 was criticised by Sheriff James Tierney after his inquiry into the deaths of Shomi Miah and Steven Wiseman.

The Lebanese prime minister, Fouad Siniora, said on Friday that more than 330 people had been killed in Lebanon by Israel's attacks. A report from Shelter said 6,000 Scottish families were evicted from their homes each year.

The week in brief...

Hit the road, Mac

AS THE bombs and rockets continue to fall on Israel and Lebanon, even the celebrities are fleeing the war zone. Home Alone actor Macaulay Culkin, right, and Mila Kunis, his girlfriend, who were on holiday in Haifa, left for the US after <u>Hezbollah</u> missiles hit the northern Israel town. Kunis told the Jerusalem Post that Culkin was eager to leave and called him a "drama queen", whereas she was reluctant to cut their holiday short. But rockets weren't the only thing bothering Culkin. He reportedly told a stewardess on the flight home that: "We went to the beach, and there were tons of jellyfish. Even the sea was dangerous!"

Nuke plant sting

JELLYFISH have been causing trouble all over the globe this week. A nuclear power planet in Japan was forced to slow production after a flotilla of the slippery creatures became lodged in the plant's seawater cooling system. "It's the first time we have had to lower power output because of jellyfish," a Chubu Electric Power Company spokesman said. The power station is in Shizuoka, 90 miles south-east of Tokyo. Officials said production returned to normal after workers were dispatched to remove the jellyfish from the cooling system.

Not Chianti again!

SUPERMODEL Naomi Campbell, below, reportedly wrecked her boyfriend's yacht this week after an argument with an Italian chef over antipasti and his choice of wine. She allegedly lashed out at furniture aboard the GBP 1.5 million Nasma - which belongs to Prince Badr Jafar - and smashed plates and glasses. Reports in an Italian newspaper estimate that the damage amounted to more than GBP 30,000. The argument broke out after Campbell tried to plan a romantic meal with the help of the chef. Perhaps next time he'll play it safe and let Campbell choose the wine.

Booby prize

BREAST is best, according to the National Childbirth Trust, and the charity is looking to reward companies that agree with it. Does your workplace support mothers who want to breastfeed? The trust wants to reward restaurants, cafes, shops, schools, galleries, gyms and other places that allow <u>women</u> to either feed their babies in public or provide facilities for them to express milk and store it. It also wants to draw attention to those companies that don't support the practice. For more information on how to nominate visit boobyprize.nct.org.uk.

Soliciting fame

A POLICEWOMAN in New Zealand has been forced to give up her second job - as a prostitute. Although prostitution is legal in New Zealand, the officer had not sought approval for her "night" job and her off-duty liaisons were deemed incompatible with her police work. The woman - whose name has not been released - has since stopped moonlighting. Her story comes in stark contrast to that of a German prostitute who is to star in a new tourist video for the city of Koblenz. "Bridgette", who has been a lady of the night for 47 years, was described by tour guide Manfred Gniffe as "probably the only prostitute in the world who is also a town landmark".

Watch the birdie

POLICE in the US state of Virginia have detained a naked man after he started hitting a car with a dead pigeon. Juan Lopez, 30, attacked the car in Whaleyville before being arrested by officers. "I'm not sure whether he's mentally disturbed or under the influence of narcotics, but he was obviously having some sort of issue that night," said Lt Debbie George of the local police force.

Jarvis pulps Cocker

JARVIS Cocker, the former lead singer with Pulp, is following in that grand old pop star tradition and dropping his surname. Jarvis, right, as he now wants to be known, is preparing to launch his solo career. Following in the shoes or maybe boots? - of Elvis, Jarvis seems to think he's famous enough to be known by just one name. With his tongue firmly planted in his cheek, I suspect, Jarvis said the new stage in his career would be "my J-Lo years. That's it exactly. She has always been an influence."

The great escape

SURGEONS operated to save the life of a 12ft Burmese python this week after it swallowed an electric blanket, complete with electrical flex and control panel. "The blanket must have gotten tangled up in the snake's rabbit dinner," said Karl Beznoska, who owns Houdini, the snake. He explained the blanket had been used to keep the python warm. "The prognosis is great," said vet Karsten Fostvedt after the two-hour operation at California University's Davis school of veterinary medicine.

Golden glass

FANCY a wee dram this weekend? If you can stump up GBP 2,000 then you can try the 1965 Ardbeg. Only 261 bottles of the single malt, the rarest to be released by the Ardbeg distillery on Islay, will be produced, with a mere 100 going on sale in the UK. To make the dram extra-special - as if the price tag wasn't enough - the bottles are hand-blown and come with a sprinkling of Islay sand in the glass.

Batteries included

A PLANE built by Japanese students completed a successful test-flight this week, powered only by household batteries. The aircraft, built by a group from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, flew for 1,283 feet and drew its power from 160 AA batteries. "I didn't think it would fly so beautifully," said one of the students involved in the project. The plane weighed only 44 kilograms and the brave student who piloted it added another 63 kg to the payload.

Bad habit

THE pilot for Charlotte Church's new chat show went so well that Channel 4 has commissioned a full series, due to begin in September. The singer of opera hits turned pop star caused controversy in her first show by reportedly dressing as a nun and eating communion wafers covered with "ecstasy" symbols. Let's hope it's not a sign of things to come from the Welsh singer, left.

... And the week ahead

Sunday: The Open and the Tour de France come to an end. Miss Universe is named. Edinburgh's Cow Parade ends.

Monday: Saddam Hussein's trial is due to continue. The speaking clock celebrates its 70th birthday.

Tuesday: Parliament rises for the summer recess. President George Bush is due to meet Nuri al-Maliki, the Iraqi prime minister.

Wednesday: The RSPCA releases its cruelty statistics. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence issues new drug guidelines.

Thursday: It's exactly six years until the 2012 Olympic Games open in London. Miami Vice, the big screen spin-off from the 1980s TV series, has its UK premiere. In cricket, England face Pakistan in the second Test at Old Trafford.

Friday: Abu Hamza's appeal against his conviction for soliciting others to murder begins. It is one year since the IRA ended its armed campaign.

Saturday: The first Scottish Premier League matches of the season kick off. The Clipper round-the-world yacht race is due to end, with a boat sponsored by Glasgow among the ten competitors. The National Museum of Flight at East Fortune, near Haddington, holds its annual airshow.

Load-Date: July 22, 2006



His father went to Germany to topple a wall - now George Bush arrives to mend fences

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 16

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Byline: Julian Borger in Washington and Nicholas Watt in Brussels

Body

George Bush has followed in his father's footsteps through much of his career, from Texas to the White House to the Arabian Gulf. Next week, that same trail leads him to Mainz.

Sixteen years ago, when the eastern bloc was in ferment, the first President Bush arrived in that tranquil Rhine town, and called for "a Europe whole and free".

That call has been more than answered. The Europe that greets the second President Bush tomorrow at the start of his five-day tour is probably freer than anyone could have imagined back in 1989. It just does not care much for Mr Bush.

Transatlantic relations are at their worst for a generation, and Washington now recognises that the problem threatens to hobble its ambitious global agenda. The president has therefore dedicated the first foreign trip of his second term to addressing the troubled relationship.

To do so, Mr Bush will be spending quality time with his two bitterest European critics. He will dine with Jacques Chirac on Monday night, although it will be under the Stars and Stripes at the US ambassador's residence in Brussels, rather than under the Tricolore in Paris as the French president would have preferred (France has not yet been entirely forgiven). The US president then spends much of Wednesday with Gerhard Schroder in Mainz. On Thursday, in Bratislava, he meets Vladimir Putin, the one European leader to openly support his re-election, although relations have worsened dramatically in recent weeks.

In a tour heavily loaded with symbolism, Mr Bush will begin his odyssey tomorrow in Brussels - the institutional heart of Europe and home to the EU and Nato.

In his first term, the Bush administration avoided and mistrusted these two giant bureaucracies, preferring to cherry-pick willing coalition partners from what it liked to think of as "New Europe".

Not so this time. This trip will be a homage to "Old Europe" and the baroque architecture of European institutions. The highlights will include an address to the continent made from the Concert Noble, an ornate banqueting hall in Brussels on Monday, and meetings with Nato leaders and the full 25-member European Council the next day. "This is a gesture of reaching out to Europe," declared the EU's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana.

His father went to Germany to topple a wall - now George Bush arrives to mend fences

The Concert Noble speech will be a bow to the continent's growing unity, in which Mr Bush will appeal to shared values to repair the frayed transatlantic relationship. "Mine is a mission and a trip that says, we share values: human rights and human dignity and rule of law and minority rights and respect for <u>women</u>," President Bush told a Slovak interviewer yesterday. "And therefore, it's those values that should unite our voices when it comes to spreading those values in parts of the world that are troubled parts of the world: Iran, or Syria, or, as you saw recently, in Lebanon."

The president has clearly come to the conclusion that his plan to spread democracy in the Middle East would be far easier if he salvaged the relationship with France and Germany. Their opposition to the Iraq campaign has made reconstruction and the training of home-grown Iraqi forces much harder and diminished western leverage over Iran and Syria.

"This rethink comes out of a recognition that the administration needs some legitimacy for its actions," argues James Goldgeier, director of the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at George Washington University.

The change in American attitude, Prof Goldgeier says, "is a reflection of reality" in view of the new EU constitution and the growing momentum towards a single foreign policy, over which France and Germany will exert a dominant influence.

The unanswered question at the start of the Bush visit is whether the dramatic improvements in tone can also bring the old allies closer together on matters of substance. On that score, the Atlantic is getting wider, rather than narrower. Over the past four years, Europe has become more united, more assertive, and less willing to follow Washington's lead. The Europeans have persevered with the Kyoto pact on global warming, which went into force this week, and the international criminal court, despite US rejection of both.

While President Bush could claim the support of half of Europe over the Iraq war, he faces a far more cohesive continent over the most divisive geostrategic issues of the second term: Iran, Syria, China and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

On Iran, the Europeans favour engagement while Washington demands isolation as a means of persuading Tehran to give up its nuclear ambitions. Mr Bush will also attempt to persuade the Europeans to outlaw the Lebanese militant group, *Hizbullah*, which is backed by Syria and Iran, and to put more pressure on Syria to pull its troops out of Lebanon.

The same philosophical divide is evident in dealings with China. The EU has announced the lifting of its arms embargo on China, much to the horror of Washington, which has scoffed at European pledges to follow a strict export code. So far, neither side has shown little readiness to compromise. "On China, we are heading for a train wreck if we can't figure out a new strategy for dealing with this," said Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, a former state department official and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

There is greater optimism over the Middle East, where the intifada has been suspended and a ceasefire is in place. But the Europeans want much more pressure on the Israelis to pull out of the West Bank and stick to the internationally-brokered "road map" to peace.

There will, however, be bright spots that both sides will be eager to play up. At Tuesday's Nato summit, the organisations's 26 leaders are expected to confirm that every country will make a contribution to training Iraqi security forces in one of three ways: training in Iraq, training out of Iraq, or contributing to a special fund.

President Bush went out of his way in interviews yesterday to say that each country should contribute according to its "comfort level", and that if it could not send troops "you're still our friend".

The White House has also sent signals that the president will have something conciliatory to say about global warming, although no one is expecting him to embrace the Kyoto pact.

His father went to Germany to topple a wall - now George Bush arrives to mend fences

If any progress is made next week, it is much more likely to be in atmospherics than on hard issues, even though that would be a step forward in the current climate. Ivo Daalder, a former US national security council staffer, was one of more than 50 American and European foreign policy experts - including the former foreign secretary Douglas Hurd - to draw up a US-European "compact" suggesting some possible compromises on a range of divisive issues. He has little hope those suggestions will be adopted. "The expectations for this trip are extraordinarily high," Mr Daalder said. "And I think the likelihood of something new and positive coming out of it is extraordinarily low."

Leader comment, page 25

guardian.co.uk/usa

Load-Date: February 19, 2005



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 20, 2005 Sunday

TWO STAR EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL, Length: 1574 words

Dateline: DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

Body

Listen to the conversations in the cafes on the edge of the creek that runs through this Persian Gulf city, and it is hard to believe that the George W. Bush being praised by Arab diners is the same George W. Bush who has been widely excoriated in these parts ever since he took office. Yet there are murmurs of approval for the devoutly Christian U.S. president, whose persistent calls for democracy in the Middle East are looking less like preaching and more like timely encouragement.

Nowadays, intellectuals, businessmen and working-class people alike can be caught lauding Bush's hard-edged posture on democracy and cheering his handling of Arab rulers who are U.S. allies. Many also admire Bush's unvarnished threats against Syria should it fail to pull its soldiers and spies out of Lebanon before the elections there next month -- a warning the United Nations has reinforced with immediate effects. For Bush, it is not quite a lovefest but a celebration nonetheless.

"His talk about democracy is good," an Egyptian-born woman was telling companions at the Fatafeet (or "Crumbs") restaurant the other night, exuberant enough for her voice to carry to neighboring tables. "He keeps hitting this nail. That's good, by God, isn't it?" At another table, a Lebanese man was waxing enthusiastic over Bush's blunt and irreverent manner toward Arab autocrats. "It is good to light a fire under their feet," he said.

From Casablanca to Kuwait City, the writings of newspaper columnists and the chatter of pundits on Arabic language satellite television suggest a change in climate for advocates of human rights, constitutional reforms, business transparency, <u>women</u>'s rights and limits on power. And while developments differ vastly from country to country, their common feature is a lifting -- albeit a tentative one -- of the fear that has for decades constricted the Arab mind.

Regardless of Bush's intentions -- which many Arabs and Muslims still view with suspicion -- the U.S. president and his neoconservative crowd are helping to spawn a spirit of reform and a new vigor to confront dynastic dictatorships and other assorted ills. It's enough for someone like me, who has felt that Bush's attitude toward the Mideast has been all wrong, to wonder whether his idea of setting the Muslim house in order is right.

And yet, it is too early for congratulations. Bush may feel inspired by the example of President Ronald Reagan, who told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall" in Berlin, but the Middle East may more closely resemble 1989 Beijing than 1989 Berlin. While communism collapsed largely of its own weight in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union without U.S. intervention, pro-democracy demonstrators in China were squashed. What will

U.S. policy in the Middle East look like if the autocrats, princes and religious fundamentalists make a stand against the voices of freedom?

That said, there have been many reasons in the past two months for Arab democrats to feel giddy.

On Jan. 9, Palestinians cast ballots in free elections where the winner did not, unlike candidates in "elections" so often held elsewhere in the region, get 99 percent of the vote. And within the late Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, younger members are calling for primaries to choose fresh candidates before July's legislative elections.

Then at the end of January, 8 million Iraqis marched to the polls, despite threats of violence, to vote for a new parliament. Since then, the winners have been negotiating and balancing legislative blocks in ways that have defied predictions of Shiite domination and which, despite continued bombings and Sunni discontent, could yet be a model of the multiparty political process.

On Feb. 10, in the veiled Saudi kingdom, royal princes let in a crack of light with the first municipal elections in 42 years. Instead of being welcomed as a step forward, the elections were sarcastically derided on Saudi Internet chat sites as Mickey Mouse exercises in which half the people -- <u>women</u> -- couldn't vote, and half the winners were appointed by government. In the past, this sort of brazen truth-telling wouldn't have taken place, and it shows that sham or limited elections won't satisfy people.

Above all there has been the outburst in the streets of Beirut following the Feb. 14 assassination of Lebanese leader Rafik Hariri. The murder laid bare all the resentment of Syria's 30-year occupation, meddling and hit squads. The demonstrations against Syria, and even the massive counter-demonstrations last week by <u>Hezbollah</u>, have framed a broad and (so far) nonviolent debate on the future shape of the entire Arab world.

In the largest Arab country, Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak grudgingly announced Feb. 26 that the constitution would be altered to allow other candidates to run for the presidency. While everyone expects Mubarak, who has ruled for 24 years, to win yet another six-year term in elections this fall at the age of 77, the Sphinx had blinked. More evidence of Bush's pressure.

The groundswell continues to spread. A few days ago, Kuwaiti <u>women</u> hit the streets to demand the right to vote, challenging bearded Islamist parliamentarians over what the Koran says, or does not say, about the rights of <u>women</u>. They won the government's support for a new proposal to parliament. The Saudis then rushed to say they would allow <u>women</u> to vote in the next municipal elections. It matters little whether they mean it, Saudi <u>women</u> heard it.

This much is real. And while many Arab democrats have been struggling for years, there is a keen sense of irony that a passionately Christian American president who has supported Israel, invaded an Arab country and presided over an occupation marred by violence might actually make a positive difference in the Muslim world. It has people here citing the Koranic verse that speaks of a catastrophe that bears good fruits.

The din of democracy talk has been amplified by satellite television, the Internet and cell phones, and that is a new wrinkle for autocratic regimes experienced at quiet repression.

Al-Jazeera, whose audience numbers in the tens of millions, gave blanket coverage of the Lebanese protests, including live interviews from Beirut's Martyrs' Square as well as debates, analysis and talk shows. CNN and BBC broadcasts seen here have also tracked the events hour by hour.

As the Beirut anti-Syria demonstrations attracted the young and the hip, their images appealed to their well-to-do, educated but usually detached peers throughout the region, triggering new interest in politics. Other governments must sense popular opinion moving because none, except Iran, has rallied to Syria's side.

The intensity of it all has drowned out, at least for now, the usual noise about alleged Israeli conspiracies, neoconservative plots and America's misadventures in Iraq.

Instead, more people are baring their souls, with little apparent fear. The slogan for this nascent people's revolt has become "Kifaya," which means "enough." It's a word that is both emphatic and vague enough to be all-encompassing yet effective: enough of autocrats, enough corruption, enough occupation, enough repression. It has acquired magical and perhaps lasting power.

Bush, in his inaugural address, proclaimed America's commitment to spreading democracy. "All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: The United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors," he said. "When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you."

This isn't the first time that a President Bush has encouraged Arabs to rise up against their oppressors. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush egged on Iraqi Shiites and Kurds to revolt, only to abandon them when Saddam cracked down.

The question that lingers is whether the current president's resolve will last longer than his father's. How hard will Bush pressure Mubarak, while sending terrorist suspects to him and relying on Egypt for help in Gaza? If Mubarak keeps his leading opponents in jail, if Syria keeps its intelligence network in place and uses <u>Hezbollah</u> as its right arm, if the extensive Saudi royal family and its fundamentalist allies cling to power, what is Bush's Plan B?

Not a single Arab ruler is a willing participant in democratic reform. Their regimes are festooned with opportunists attached to their financial and political privileges. And while the Arab media have changed, these regimes still possess the same coercive instruments that have proven effective means of control in the past.

Just as important, many of the potential forces for change are wary of going along with Western-inspired momentum. And violent extremists threaten progress made in Iraq and within the Palestinian Authority.

Given the uncertainties about U.S. policy, perhaps the most pertinent question is whether the resolve of Arab reformers will prove durable and effective even without substantive U.S. support.

So one is left to wonder if this moment will last more than a moment, whether it will turn into a repeat of the tearing down of the Berlin Wall or whether it will be a reprise of the truncated Beijing Spring. The region lacks China's economic dynamism, but it also lacks a Gorbachev and his policy of perestroika.

For now, all the Middle East has are demonstrators and brave voters who, ballot by imperfect ballot, e-mail by e-mail are burying a culture of fear. And for the moment, that may be enough.

Notes

Youssef M. Ibrahim, a former Middle East correspondent for The New York Times and energy editor of The Wall Street Journal, is managing director of the Dubai-based Strategic Energy Investment Group, a consulting firm (ymibrahim@seig.org). He wrote this for The Washington Post.

Graphic

DRAWING: Stacy Innerst/Post-Gazette -- After Millet

PHOTO: Gustavo Ferrari/Associated Press: Kuwaiti <u>women</u> demonstrate for their political rights in front of the Parliament building in Kuwait City on March 7.

Load-Date: March 22, 2005



Man Shoots 6 at Seattle Jewish Agency, Killing One

The New York Times
July 29, 2006 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; National Desk; Pg. 11

Length: 675 words

Byline: By WILLIAM YARDLEY and JODI RUDOREN

Dateline: SEATTLE, July 28

Body

Five people were injured and one was killed Friday afternoon when a man who expressed anger toward Jews opened fire in the offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, the authorities said.

The Seattle Police did not identify the suspect. They said he was arrested 12 minutes after the first report came in to emergency dispatchers. At 4:03 p.m., according to Assistant Chief Nick Metz, dispatchers received a call saying people had been shot and hostages taken at the offices of the federation, a fund-raising and planning organization at the edge of downtown.

Two minutes later, 911 dispatchers were on the phone with the suspect, said Chief R. Gil Kerlikowske of the Seattle Police, at a news conference Friday night.

Because of what the suspect said in that conversation, which the chief would not disclose, the shootings are being treated as a hate crime, he said. Chief Kerlikowske said the suspect was Muslim.

The authorities said they did not think the suspect was acting as part of a terrorist group.

"We believe at this point that it's just a lone individual acting out some kind of antagonism toward this particular organization," said David Gomez, the Federal Bureau of Investigation agent who heads its counterterrorism unit in Seattle.

Mr. Gomez said his agency had been "monitoring" both Jewish and Muslim organizations, and reaching out to their leaders "for the last couple of weeks, since the beginning of hostilities in the Middle East."

Frederick Dutt, an F.B.I. agent, said the agency had issued two bulletins, on July 21 and on Wednesday, urging "vigilance" at organizations and religious locations in light of the fighting between Israel and <u>Hezbollah</u> in the Middle East. "Not specific targets because we didn't have that information, to be honest," he said.

Mr. Dutt noted there was an attack on a mosque in Seattle after Sept. 11, 2001. And the F.B.I. investigated two mosques for ties to Al Qaeda.

Man Shoots 6 at Seattle Jewish Agency, Killing One

Marla Meislin-Dietrich, who works in the federation's development department but was not in the office at the time of the shooting, said a colleague told her that one shooting victim said she had heard the gunman say "that he was a Muslim-American and that he was angry at Israel."

"That's all I know," said Ms. Meislin-Dietrich, who spent the day working -- and learning to bake challah -- at the home of Amy Wasser-Simpson, the federation's vice president. "I talked to the person who was running out of the building with the person who was shot in the arm. She gave me the quote."

"The news is quoting us, and we don't know," she added. "We don't know who's dead, we don't know for sure."

Sgt. Deanna Nollette of the police said she believed all of the victims were women.

Ms. Meislin-Dietrich said that about 25 people typically work in the group's offices, which occupy the entire second floor of a modest building on Third Avenue in the Belltown neighborhood. Fewer were there Friday afternoon because of the onset of the Sabbath and because it is summer, she said.

The police found a vehicle they believed belonged to the suspect and planned to test it for explosives although they did not expect to find any, Chief Metz said.

The police closed off several blocks around the federation's offices and briefly required people to stay inside other buildings nearby. At one point there was concern among people nearby that a gunman was on the rooftops, but Rich Pruitt, a spokesman for the Seattle Police, said those fears were unfounded.

The police said they recovered a handgun that the suspect put down before he surrendered.

Laura Laughlin, special agent in the F.B.I.'s Seattle office, said that the suspect was a United States citizen and that agents were interviewing his relatives.

Mayor Greg Nickels said at the news conference, "This is a crime of hate, and there's no place for that in the city of Seattle."

Asked whether the suspect had links to a local mosque, Mr. Nickels said, "He's not a resident of the city, and we know of no other connection he has."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Paramedics with one of the shooting victims outside the offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. (Photo by Mike Urban/Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

Load-Date: July 29, 2006



Syria: lift the veil and discover an enigma

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

June 18, 2006 Sunday

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Section: FEATURES; Comment; Pg. 22

Length: 686 words

Byline: Mary Wakefield

Body

As the midday call to prayer spread out into Damascus last week, I felt a burst of anxiety. There were bullet holes in the roof of the El Hamidiyeh souq - a legacy of the troubled French mandate - and the floor was dotted with circles of sunlight. **Women** in black burgas drifted past, the tiny spotlights sliding over the folds of their nylon skirts, then men in white dresses, looking too young for their serious beards.

Day one in Syria and I felt jumpy, and judged. By the north gate of the Great Umayyad mosque, I put on a vast, grey, polyester burqa (mandatory for girl tourists), took off my shoes and stepped inside.

What was I expecting? Obvious fanatics? Wall-eyed mullahs and cowed <u>women</u>? Instead, Syria's most sacred Islamic space looked like a crèche. The vast courtyard was wriggling with children; boys knelt over remote-control cars, girls held hands, skipped, dragged toddlers backwards across the slippery marble. Beneath the 8th-century mosaics of Islamic paradise - trees and citadels in green and gold - young mothers and their husbands gossiped, glanced at me and laughed.

With each new day in Syria, the idea I had arrived with - of an aggressive country, repressive, hungry for jihad - diverged more sharply from the Syria in front of me: young, peaceful, hungry mostly just for kebabs. Not that one refuted the other exactly, more that both pictures, though contradictory, seemed to be equally true.

It is a fact, for instance, that Syria is only a mock democracy. Bashar al-Assad, like his father before him, is in effect a dictator who owes his authority to the army and the dreaded Mukhabarat, the secret police. Last Sunday, Abdel Halim Khaddam, the exiled leader of the opposition, claimed that Assad had ordered his assassination; in a week or so, the UN will probably conclude that Syria's military intelligence (headed by Bashar's brother-in-law) was behind the assassination of the liberal Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. Many "dissidents" - a lawyer, a writer, a human rights activist - have been arrested by the regime.

Even so, Assad's Ba'ath party is a long way from Saddam's. It has lifted the ban on internet access and mobile phones, and ordinary Syrians seem free not just from fear, but from regular Western misanthropy as well. Throughout Syria, passers-by paused to say "welcome" and invite me in for mint tea - no furtive looks, no soviet-style reluctance to be singled out.

For most of us, Syria is the sugar daddy of Islamic terror, riddled with al-Qaeda training camps, funding Hamas and the <u>Hezbollah</u>, goading deranged Iraqi insurgents into battle with the Christian West. But within its borders, there's the sort of mutual respect between the different faiths that Bradford can only dream of. Syria is a refuge for Armenian Christians driven out of Turkey and for Nestorians who have fled Iraq.

Syria: lift the veil and discover an enigma

In the Christian town of Maaloula, some of the last remaining speakers of Aramaic dedicate themselves to keeping the language of Christ alive. At the heart of the Umayyad mosque in old Damascus, octogenarian Muslim men whisper prayers at the tomb of John the Baptist's head. "I love Christians," said a Sunni man as the crusader castle, Krak des Chevaliers, appeared through the windows of our bus. He kissed the tips of his fingers and closed his eyes. "Christians are people of the Book. We are all sons of God."

On my last day in Aleppo, half-lost somewhere in the 18 miles of covered souq, I stopped beside a juice bar to wonder whether a glass of squashed strawberries would be nice. "What nationality are you?" said the juice-man. "English," I said. "Tony Blair? George Bush?" he asked. "Yes," I said firmly, though a curious crowd had begun to gather and to my right, a fat, blind man selling piles of crushed cumin was ignoring customers so as to listen in.

Then the juice-man put his hands in the air and began to smile. "Crazy!" he said. "They're crazy!" Then in Arabic: "Majnoon!" Soon everybody was shouting, "Tony Blair! George Bush! Majnoon!" and laughing, and patting me sympathetically on the back.

Mary Wakefield is assistant editor of The Spectator

Load-Date: June 18, 2006



Man 'angry at Israel' kills woman at Seattle Jewish centre: 5 injured as man walks into building, starts shooting

Ottawa Citizen July 29, 2006 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 692 words

Byline: The Seattle Times

Dateline: SEATTLE

Body

SEATTLE - A woman is dead and five others have been hospitalized after a shooting yesterday at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle building in downtown Seattle by a man who declared he was "angry with Israel."

Seattle police later arrested the alleged gunman, who reportedly walked into the building and started shooting. One victim died at the scene, police said.

All five of the wounded are <u>women</u>, said Pamela Steele, a spokeswoman for Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. The **women**, ranging in age from 20 and through their 40s, were brought in between 4:30 and

5 p.m. Three victims were in the operating room late last night and were in critical condition, Ms. Steele said. All three were shot in the abdomen.

Two <u>women</u> were in satisfactory condition. A 37-year-old woman, five months pregnant was shot in the forearm. The other woman was shot in the knee, Ms. Steele said.

The shootings began shortly after 4 p.m. Seattle time, police said.

Several witnesses said they saw a man walk up to the entrance of the building and shoot a woman in the leg.

The man then walked into the building and went to the roof.

Witnesses said they heard one shot while the man was on the roof.

The man then went back inside, and witnesses said they heard several more shots.

An employee in the building said she was at her desk when she heard what she at first thought were balloons popping.

"It went 'Pop! Pop! Pop! Pop! Pop!' and then we heard a woman scream," said the employee, who asked that her name not be used.

Man 'angry at Israel' kills woman at Seattle Jewish centre: 5 injured as man walks into building, starts shooting

"One of the receptionists told me that he shot her and then demanded that she call 911," the employee said. "He told the police that it was a hostage situation and he wanted us to get our weapons out of Israel.

"I saw one friend she had been shot twice in the stomach and was bleeding."

Most of the employees were able to leave through a back door. A few minutes later, the man surrendered to officers.

"He was confronted by officers and peacefully gave up," said Seattle police Assistant Chief Nick Metz.

According to Amy Wasser-Simpson, an official with the Jewish Federation, the man told staff members, "I'm a Muslim American; I'm angry at Israel," then began shooting.

Ms. Wasser-Simpson said she had heard that account from staff members who witnessed the shootings.

"A number of staff people heard some popping sounds, then they heard a scream," Ms. Wasser-Simpson said. "They escaped out the back door."

Shortly after that, a staff member who had been shot twice escaped through the back door, she said.

SWAT team members lingered on roofs of nearby buildings for more than an hour after the shootings, poised with rifles ready.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, founded in 1926, is an umbrella organization for the city's Jewish community. It raises money for Jewish social-welfare organizations, runs youth and adult Jewish educational programs, and engages in efforts in support of Israel. It was a sponsor of a Solidarity with Israel rally last Sunday.

Even as rabbis were trying to find out more about security in preparation for tonight's services, Robert Jacobs, the regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, was issuing a recommendation to every Jewish institution, synagogue and temple that they get their people out of their buildings "until we find out if it's a lone incident."

Rabbi Daniel Weiner of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, which has locations in Seattle and Bellevue, Washington, said he was checking with police to see whether security there needed to be bolstered, if indeed the shootings were related to wider issues.

Hundreds of people have died in Israel and Lebanon since fighting broke out July 12 between Israeli forces Lebanon-based *Hezbollah* guerrillas.

Other rabbis said they were continuing with services anyway.

"Even if (the shooting) is based on hate, we're not going to let that have any kind of victory over our community gathering," said Rabbi Jonathan Singer of Seattle's Temple Beth Am.

David Gomez, an assistant special agent-in-charge for the FBI, said there is nothing to indicate the gunman is part of a larger organization.

"We believe he is a lone individual with antagonism toward this organization," he said.

Load-Date: July 29, 2006



<u>Dear shah-licking Zionist sock puppet ...: Iranian president writes President</u> Bush to lay out some of his views

The Gazette (Montreal)
May 11, 2006 Thursday
Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A23

Length: 622 words

Byline: JAMES LILEKS, Newhouse News Service

Body

News story: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has sent an 18-page letter to U.S. President George W. Bush. No word on whether it was handwritten in tiny type, margin to margin, and wrapped in tinfoil. Herewith are some excerpts:

Dear Infidel Crusader Zionist sock-puppet Saudi-lackey despoiler of Mesopotamia woman-touching pigdog fiendish (293 words excised) shah-licking son of a toad's offal:

I trust this finds you well. I have much on my mind, and have taken the pen to unburden my breast. I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope should you wish to reply.

(429 words concerning Jewish penetration of the postal system excised)

- ... Do you not realize you are beaten, as a donkey is beaten but knoweth not his donkeyhood is cursed? Your comics have turned against you in your own lair, and mock you without mercy. We have seen the videos of the Meal of the Correspondents, and we know how your left regards the men of the laugh as prophets and seers. It is only a matter of time before Johnny Carson returns from occlusion to request that you, Mr. President, take the Slauson Cutoff, get out of your car, and cut off your Slauson, hi-yo, salaam. And a third part of the Slauson shall be stained with the tears of the womenfolk, and (9,323 words excised)
- ... Our people glow with pride over our nuclear efforts, sometimes literally. I repeat that the enrichment is for peaceful purposes only, and we seek only peace, and peace is our goal, and there is nothing we love more than peace. Except death. Sorry; forgot. Death is definitely No. 1. In third place of things we love, well, there were those nice ice-cream desserts they had at this little place in Tehran. When I was mayor I had them brought in on Fridays. Good times, good times. But once I found a hair.

(2,356 words excised concerning Jewish penetration of the Iranian Dessert-Industrial complex)

... Na na na nah, nah, everything's underground! And your Congressors cut funding for the nuclear bombs which permit the busting of the bunker. Na na na! I do a taunting dance and cock my hips mockingly! In sudden seriousness, please thank them for this, although we lost a day's work in the labs due to the celebration. I even decreed that the suppliers of alcohol be only lightly killed. (549 repetitions of "na na na na" excised)

Dear shah-licking Zionist sock puppet ...: Iranian president writes President Bush to lay out some of his views

... and if you had the problem I have with razors you would know why my beard seems so tentative at times; if I may speak with you man to anointed hastener of the Apocalypse, how do you get such a smooth shave? A hot towel? Perhaps the Five-Blade Razor of which we have heard muttered rumours? Personally, I use an exfoliating agent which (8,343 words excised).

... and Jack Bauer will not be able to save you this time, my friend. If there is an attack on our country we will double our aid to the Iraqi patriots, double our funding to <u>Hezbollah</u> and its <u>female</u> auxiliary wing Sisboombah, and double our attempts to get weapons both chemical and biological into your country.

Ah - er, reduce everything I said in the previous paragraph by half. We will START doing those things.

... Seriously, when I came to the UN and you didn't even send a fruit basket, it hurt. Did you not see how well I was received? Did you not see the light of God that surrounded me when I spoke, how no one blinked as I related our message, how doves came out of my mouth and the pants of all were filled with flowers? And you seek to confound my work to bring back the Messiah and bring the world once more into the arms of Islam? Including all penguins?

What are you, nuts?

Sincerely, Death to America, Mahmoud, descendant of Xerxes, 34th degree Mason, personal valet of the hidden Imam, and not just a member of the Hair Club for Men - I'm also the president!

Graphic

Photo: ABROR RIZKI, REUTERS; Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has sent a 18-page letter to U.S. President George W. Bush.

Load-Date: May 11, 2006



Zargawi Purportedly Sanctions Murders Of the Innocent

New York Sun (Archive) May 19, 2005 Thursday

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 761 words

Byline: By ELI LAKE, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

An audiotape that surfaced yesterday, purportedly from the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, explicitly sanctions the murder of Muslim **women** and children if they stand in the way of Jihad.

"God ordered us to attack the infidels by all means," the voice claiming to be Mr. Zarqawi said in the recording found in Cairo. The man went further, saying the slaying was justified, "even if armed infidels and unintended victims - <u>women</u> and children - are killed together." One administration official here said that the recording was in the process of being authenticated by intelligence authorities, but that early analysis suggested the tape was real.

Mr. Zarqawi, according to an Associated Press report filed yesterday from Baghdad, urged terrorists in Syria to plan attacks in April when the elected Iraqi parliament was negotiating the formation of a government and there was a post-election lull in violence against Iraqi civilians. The newswire cited a senior American military official as saying intelligence from the field suggested a high-level meeting in Syria took place. There, a decision was made to intensify the attacks. "The Syrian meeting, possibly attended by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi himself, has led to one of the bloodiest periods since the U.S.-led invasion two years ago," the AP reported. Since April 28 when the new government was formed, nearly 500 Iraqis have been killed in terror attacks.

The Jordanian-born terror leader has referred to his organization as Al Qaeda in Iraq. Last year, the American military released a letter Mr. Zarqawi drafted to the leadership of Al Qaeda expressing his desire to foment a civil war between Iraq's Shiite population and its Sunni Muslim minority. In the last month, Iraqi military officials have said that they have apprehended lieutenants of Mr. Zarqawi.

At the Pentagon yesterday, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, denounced the new message from Mr. Zarqawi. He said, "What he says is, it's okay for Muslims to kill Muslims, and not just any Muslims but innocents, men, <u>women</u>, and children. And that's what he's been doing."

The tape surfaced after senior administration officials chastised Syria for opening its border with Iraq to the flow of suicide bombers and jihadists. On her way home from Iraq earlier this week, Secretary of State Rice said Syria's "unwillingness to deal with the crossings of their border into Iraq is frustrating the will of the Iraqi people." She added that America has asked Syria's neighbors to pressure the regime there to do more to crack down on the flow of foreign terrorists.

Zargawi Purportedly Sanctions Murders Of the Innocent

A state-run newspaper in Syria yesterday accused Ms. Rice of lying, saying that the Syrian regime has worked to stabilize the web of roads connecting Syria and Iraq that have for centuries served as smuggling routes. "These accusations are baseless," the paper, Tishrin, wrote in an editorial.

The accusations, however, are not new. The American embassy in Damascus before the war cabled the State Department claiming that <u>Hezbollah</u> leaders and other terrorist groups were recruiting volunteer fighters in fairgrounds outside Damascus to serve in Iraq. The Pentagon during the initial hostilities of Operation Iraqi Freedom publicly urged Syria to stop busloads of terrorists from crossing into Iraq. More recently, the Treasury Department has issued internal reports claiming that large swaths of the Ba'athist elements of the insurgency are funded by Syrian banks.

It was not until November that the State Department officially began a sustained public berating of Syrian bad behavior. Syria and Iran were invited in November to a conference on the insurgency in Cairo that was heavily promoted by Ms. Rice's predecessor, Colin Powell, as a summit to negotiate a regional policy on the widespread terror campaign in Iraq. The British government in September arranged for - but is yet to have followed through on - the sale of night vision goggles and other border-control technology to better secure the border between Iraq and Syria.

"The border between Syria and Iraq is invisible to the insurgents. The campaign of insurgency is based on alliances that cross these borders. These bonds go back hundreds of years," the president of the reform party of Syria, Farid Ghadry, said yesterday. "It is no surprise that Zarqawi has been able to get support from terrorists with the knowledge and approval of the Syrian government." Mr. Ghadry's organization will open political offices next month in Syria, and has pressed the Assad regime to hold free elections.

Load-Date: May 19, 2005



Dropping the word

The Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

July 21, 2006 Friday

Main Edition

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Section: Pg. 20

Length: 649 words

Byline: Rachael Templeton

Body

OUR little Miss has taken to putting her hands on her hips and saying with a tiny screwed up face: "Heaven's sakes."

Occasionally she will also give her head a little shake during its delivery.

Apparently she is copying her mother, who has had reason more than once to mutter 'for Heaven's sake' when the toddler has stamped her defiant little feet once too many times.

At least that's all she's saying. Having an early and very proficient talker has made me hyper-sensitive to swearing, whether it be me or someone else letting slip.

It took only one lesson to realise how quickly one mistake can turn into the word of the day.

After dropping one of her bulkier toys on my head when pulling it from the top shelf of a cupboard and accidentally letting fly with a 's. . .t', albeit I thought under my breath, my constant shadow repeated the same word when she dropped something on the floor.

A few days of ignoring what she was up to soon meant she forgot about it.

But visiting mothers whose children were not yet blabbering away have had to be reminded to curb their craps, s. . s and

the rest.

While her 'heaven's sakes' is cute, anything stronger from the mouth of a cherub isn't.

Which is probably why all the hoopla over George W. Bush's language this week.

World headlines were ablaze that the US President was caught out on tape swearing when he thought the microphones were switched off.

He's no cherub but still, according to the world's commentators, it's not the done thing for the leader of the free world to be slinging profanities around and I was quite looking forward to hearing George W.'s pronunciation.

Dropping the word

What he said to British PM Tony Blair in regard to the Middle East crisis was: "See, the irony is what they really need to do is to get Syria to get *Hezbollah* to stop doing this s. . .t and it's over."

And that was it.

Look, the supposed most powerful man in the world should be able to manage something better than that.

There wasn't even an f-word and there was no calling anyone a name.

Now Aussie actor Simon Baker knows how to swear. He let fly earlier in the week when talking to the press about his character in a new TV show.

"It's humanity. You're either interested or you're (expletive) not," he said. "My character is likable. I also think my character is a good guy. I just think he's a (expletive) nutcase."

Asked how he felt when he had been burgled himself, Baker continued swearing like a trooper.

"You just feel violated. Even with the smallest things, you feel like, (expletive), someone came through and went through my s. . . t and stole that?! F. . .!," he said.

Simon was obviously brought up with the saying 'if something's worth doing, it's worth doing properly'.

Today Tonight host Naomi Robson had her 15 seconds of true fame last year when she was caught in an off-air rant at an autocue technician in which she dropped the f-word nine times in 15 seconds.

The shock value in her case was partly that a young woman was caught swearing - and so proficiently - but also that it was a tirade directed at someone else, al la diva-like.

There are certain double standards when it comes to expletives.

Some words are accepted more than others, men are forgiven their slips ups more than <u>women</u> are, and there are times and places where a harsh word is to be expected.

Like on the footy field.

Champion rugby league player Andrew Johns this week apologised because on-field microphones picked him up dropping a clanger during a game last weekend.

Fancy that, a footy player swearing?

Johns said he wished he hadn't said it, that it wasn't directed at anyone, and that it was in the heat of the moment. "I was revved up - we were busting our backsides and we'd just had a crucial decision go against us."

For Heaven's sake, he's Joey. Nothing nasty could come past those lips.

'It took only one lesson to realise how quickly one mistake can turn into the word of the day'

Load-Date: July 21, 2006



<u>Destination Tyre for evacuation ship: Quick turnaround for Princess Marissa</u> after landing Canadians in Cyprus

The Gazette (Montreal)
July 24, 2006 Monday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 712 words

Byline: AILEEN MCCABE, CanWest News Service; Reuters and CP contributed to this report

Dateline: LARNACA, Cyprus

Body

About 2,000 Canadians evacuated from war-ravaged Lebanon arrived in three boats that pulled into port at Larnaca, Cyprus, early today.

The Cypriot-registered Princess Marissa, a cruise ship with a capacity of about 1,200, slipped into the dock, followed by the small Lebanese-registered day-cruiser Blue Dawn and the Bahamian-registered Serenade.

After passengers on the Princess Marissa disembarked, she set out almost immediately for Tyre, in southern Lebanon, this time under the auspices of the European Union. There were several Canadian officials on board when she left, hoping that when she arrives this morning some of the estimated 2,000 to 3,000 Canadians caught in the area that is the main battleground in this conflict might make it to the dock and be ready to board.

"The combats there were so violent, it seems obvious to us that a lot of people tried to flee," Canada's ambassador to Lebanon, Louis de Lorimier, told reporters in Beirut last night. "We don't know how many people are still there. We want to make sure we have the capacity to help those people."

This will be the second boat that has braved the trip to Tyre to rescue foreign nationals. Several Canadians came out on the first one, a French frigate chartered by the United Nations.

Kim Girtel, a spokesperson at Foreign Affairs in Ottawa, said Canada has so far been able to rescue only 84 of the Canadians known to be in southern Lebanon.

The Canadian Foreign Affairs Department announced late last night it will be charting a ship to southern Lebanon on Wednesday morning to evacuate Canadian citizens.

"A ship, which can carry up to 1,000 passengers, has been chartered by the government of Canada and is expected to arrive in the port of Tyre between

9 a.m. and 10 a.m. local time," said a travel advisory posted on the government website.

Of the Canadian evacuees, all but about 300 of the approximately 1,800 Canadians who arrived overnight Saturday to yesterday in Cyprus are now either back in Canada or in airplanes en route to Canada. But even with their

Destination Tyre for evacuation ship: Quick turnaround for Princess Marissa after landing Canadians in Cyprus

speedy departures from this crowded holiday island, the cavernous basketball stadium Canada is using as its reception centre could not house all the new arrivals yesterday, so officials had to "borrow" a school from the Cypriot government to deal with the spillover.

Overnight, more than 1,000 weary Canadians walked ashore in the sticky Cypriot summer heat. <u>Women</u> tried to pacify screaming infants as they queued to enter the cramped reception centre.

Ten more Foreign Affairs officers also arrived in Larnaca yesterday to help process the evacuees, bringing the diplomatic contingent on the ground to 48. Seven more are expected today. There are also scores of military and customs officials on site to help deal with the mountain of paperwork the evacuation is producing.

"It's guite an operation to see," one Canadian official said.

Canada has a daily airlift capacity from Cyprus to Canada of 1,500 people, so the bulk of the night's arrivals should begin the last leg of their journey home sometime today.

Cyprus has received nearly 30,000 people from dozens of countries and this may rise to 70,000, a big strain for the small Mediterranean island at the height of its tourist season.

Two ships carrying nearly 2,000 Americans docked in Limassol, adding to the nearly 8,000 the Pentagon said had already been evacuated from Lebanon via Cyprus and Turkey.

Many Americans were still stuck at a makeshift camp in a fairground in the Cypriot capital, Nicosia, awaiting charter flights home.

By contrast, an estimated 5,000 British evacuees passing through the British air force base at Akrotiri in southern Cyprus were swiftly processed and flown home.

Officials said the final 300 British evacuees would leave for home on a charter flight yesterday, wrapping up their evacuation.

The Day's Figures:

Number of Canadians evacuated from the port of Beirut yesterday: 2,488

Total evacuated since Wednesday: about 6,700

Vessels employed yesterday in Canadian effort: five, including three to Cyprus and two to Turkey.

Number of evacuees who had returned to Canada by late Saturday evening: 2,500

Number of Canadians estimated to be stranded in the south, where fighting is heaviest: 2,000 to 3,000.

CanWest News Service from Foreign Affairs information

Graphic

Photo: DAVID GUTTENFELDER, AP; Water bombing was the mission of the day above the town of Kiryat Shmona in northern Israel after *Hezbollah* missiles ignited the forests surrounding the town.

Load-Date: July 26, 2006



Frightened women just want to get home: Joelle Kahwaji and her kids want to leave war-torn Lebanon and come back to Coquitlam, while Shirley Weiner yearns to return to Israel

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

July 21, 2006 Friday

FINAL C Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 626 words

Byline: Maurice Bridge, Vancouver Sun

Body

Joelle Kahwaji and Shirley Weiner are from different parts of the world and both are eager to get home.

The difference is that Kahwaji wants to leave the war-torn Middle East to return to Coquitlam while Weiner, who is vacationing Vancouver, wants to go back to Israel.

Kahwaji, 31, and her three small children are in her sister's home in Bsalim, a city about 30 kilometres northeast of of Beirut. They listen to Israeli bombs fall in the distance and wait for the Canadian embassy to call with evacuation details.

Weiner, 77, is staying with her niece in Vancouver on a one-week visit from Haifa, Israel, and calling her daughter long-distance to check on things in the port city on the Mediterranean, which was the target of *Hezbollah* rockets.

Kahwaji took her children Christopher, 4, Dominique, 3, and Mikael, 1, to visit relatives for what was supposed to be a wedding and two baptisms. Instead, she has attended two funerals -- her aged mother-in-law became ill and died, and a cousin in the army was killed by bombs earlier this week.

She left her brother's house in central Beirut when bombs began to fall on the city.

"When we started to hear lots of explosions in Beirut, I left Beirut and went to the mountains," she said. "Now I'm staying with my sister.

"I moved from the centre of Beirut because you hear everything very loud."

Although she has left the worst of the bombing behind, she said there are major power lines within a couple of kilometres of her sister's home.

"They usually drop bombs there, so we are always scared," she said. "We don't want to hear them one more time, because it's scary."

She said the children are frightened, and don't understand what is happening.

Frightened women just want to get home: Joelle Kahwaji and her kids want to leave war-torn Lebanon and come back to Coquitlam, while Shirley Weiner yearns to re....

"It's especially scary for the kids, because they are very young and they don't know about war. I don't know how to explain it to them."

She said some shops have closed, but others remain open, and she can get what she needs by driving five to 10 kilometres, although things like diapers and baby formula are getting scarce.

Although her sister has the fifth floor of the building the family is staying in, Kahwaji and her children are sleeping on couches in a small building in the garden.

"It's safer for the kids," she said. "We have one glass window, but it's small and we sleep far away from it and we keep it open for the night."

She can't get through to the Canadian embassy and has not heard when they will be evacuated, but after hearing about the dockside mob scenes on Wednesday, she's in no rush.

"I was told that thousand of people are sitting there waiting their turn," she said. "I can't do it with my three kids, so I'm staying home."

Home is where Weiner looks forward to returning next week. Last Sunday, she was planning to hold a memorial service for her late husband, but the rockets changed all that.

"When we woke up Sunday morning, we were just wandering around the apartment, and before the first sirens went off, there were six very, very loud boom," she said.

"We ran down to the shelter on the bottom floor of the building."

One of the rockets hit a nearby train station, killing several rail workers.

Her building has 24 units, and the tenants include a number of recently arrived Russian families, so the shelter was crowded.

"We stayed about three-quarters of an hour, and when it was very quiet, we went back up to the apartment. No sooner had we had a cup of tea, it went bang again."

That was around 10:30, and she spent another hour in the shelter. In all, she was in the shelter four times on Sunday, before leaving with her daughter and son-in-law for Jerusalem to fly out the next day.

"Amazingly enough, Jerusalem was quiet and safe," she said. "Usually it isn't, so it was quite ironic for us to be running to Jerusalem."

mbridge@png.canwest.com

Graphic

Colour Photo: Joelle Kahwaji

Load-Date: July 21, 2006



Rescue mission for trapped Australians; OUT OF HELL

The Advertiser (Australia)
July 18, 2006 Tuesday
Metro Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 725 words

Byline: SOPHIE ELSWORTH, LAURA ANDERSON

Body

HUNDREDS of Australians are expected to be evacuated from war-torn Lebanon by ship tomorrow in a full-scale rescue mission launched by the Federal Government.

Eighty-six Australians, including all 81 members of a dance troupe, were taken out of the country by bus late yesterday, and the Government was last night organising a ship to carry a larger contingent.

After criticism from Lebanese-Australian families that the Government had not moved quickly enough to protect citizens caught in the escalating conflict between Israel and Lebanon-based <u>Hezbollah</u> guerillas, Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer said land rescue operations were now fully under way.

"We have managed to get three busloads of Australians across the border into Syria from Lebanon," Mr Downer said in Adelaide last night.

The bus run had been made after the Israeli forces, that have bombed roads and bridges since last week, were asked to hold their fire.

"We gave the information to the Israelis about what we were doing and the route we were taking and tomorrow we will endeavour to repeat this exercise," Mr Downer said.

"We are also still working on the idea of a chartered ship . . . and the ship will go from Cyprus to Lebanon.

Continued Page 6

Ship rescue for trapped Australians

PAGE 24:

Conflict

dominates G8

From Page 1

Rescue mission for trapped Australians OUT OF HELL

"We would absolutely discuss this with the Israelis about what port we could use to bring the ship in, to load the ship and to take the ship out."

Mr Downer hoped the ship would bring up to 600 people out of Lebanon, which was again pummelled by Israeli fighter jets yesterday as the six-day-old conflict claimed another 21 lives.

The ship is most likely to take the Australians to Cyprus, while those bused to Syria will be taken to Jordan before being flown out of the Middle East.

The Government has encouraged people to register family members in need of escape with the Foreign Affairs and Trade Department in Canberra, but it also has recommended those stranded take responsibility for their own safety by staying indoors. "This is the best we can do in these circumstances. It's going to take a bit of time," Mr Downer said.

"It's dangerous, but if people stay put, that is the best way to deal with the situation. The whole country has been carpet bombed and particular targets include transport and communications, and that is the problem with getting people out."

Mr Downer earlier said that while safety had to be the priority in any rescue operation "there is nothing perfectly safe in Lebanon at the moment". Sydney mother Iman Dirani, whose family was among the first Australians brought out of Lebanon, described her relief.

"We were crying, congratulating each other, shaking hands," she said. But Melbourne man Nabeil Kadamani, who also escaped, said many left in Lebanon were feeling let down by the Australian Government. "The Australian Embassy closed down straight away," he said.

"People are trying to get on the internet to find out what's happening but it can't cope, and all they're hearing from the Government is find a safe place and stay there. But how do you find a safe place when they're bombing everywhere?"

South Australian members of the Lebanese community also have criticised the Government for not acting quickly enough.

Rawan Jaber, 24, whose parents, two sisters and aunt are trapped in Beirut, said she had spoken with them and they feared the situation would escalate.

She said there was "not enough being done".

"They are so scared. They don't want to get separated," she said.

"At the moment, they are fearful. They don't want it to escalate, but they are so certain it can escalate.

"This morning, we watched the news and you just can't help to worry and get scared for them.

"At the moment, they are inside, they are in a mountain village, but they can hear the bombs."

SA Lebanese <u>Women</u>'s Association chairwoman Nouha Jaber said she still didn't believe what was happening. "I thought that the Government should have started to work on this earlier than now. I don't know what they are waiting for," she said.

Prime Minister John Howard defended the Government's efforts, saying Australia had taken longer than European countries to evacuate citizens as "we're a lot further from the area of conflict".

"We are working very, very hard. Our embassy has done all it has been able to do," he said.

Load-Date: July 18, 2006



Creative Chaos Checkmated

New York Sun (Archive)
June 16, 2006 Friday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 6

Length: 722 words

Byline: Youssef Ibrahim

Body

America's neoconservative initiative for the Greater Middle East, "creative chaos," has been checkmated by a Muslim fundamentalist counterstrategy, "bloody chaos."

Back in 2000, when various neocons from both the Republican and Democratic parties advanced it, the strategy of creative chaos in the Middle East was designed to shake loose secular and theocratic tyrannies. The idea then, as it is today, was that autocracies encroach on freedoms, produce corruption, and breed poverty, anger, and religious fanaticism with their corollary, terror.

Using this theory, secular dictators like Muammar Gadhafi of Libya or Bashar Al-Assad of Syria are as ready for regime change as the Wahhabi fundamentalist royal rulers of Saudi Arabia or the mullahs of Iran.

But sometime in the past two years, America and the West changed course, cuddling up to Colonel Gadhafi and, most recently, proposing a dialogue with the Iranian regime. In their quest for democratic reforms, they have taken a step backward, fearful of yielding greater ground to radical Islam.

The enemy has not flinched, however. The Muslim fundamentalist response, while less ambitious, has been sharply focused, sending a clear message that life outside medieval Islam is not an option for Arabs and Muslims. In this, they have lacked neither will nor resolve in the face of their Western foes, who have faltered.

As always, the consequences have been grave.

In Iraq, where the mission was to re place Saddam Hussein with a democratic, multiethnic Iraqi government driven by an oil economy, we got bloody mayhem by pursuing Shiite ayatollahs and Sunni sheiks for their favors. Warring Sunni and Shiite tribes backed by regimes in the region are slaughtering each another as Iran's mullahs swoop in to take control of much of the country. A large secular Iraqi segment of the population is being driven out of the country or forced to veil its <u>women</u> and live under the growing shadow of Sunni or Shiite fundamentalism.

Instead of refocusing their goals, the politicians in Washington who enthusiastically sent their troops to war are now debating various plans, all aimed at withdrawing those who took Iraq and held it.

Even those of us who counseled against the invasion are adamant that abandoning such a strategic asset to Iran, Syria, Muslim fundamentalists, and absolute chaos would be catastrophic.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the results of the West's lack of convictions are coming back to haunt it.

Creative Chaos Checkmated

The optimism generated two years ago by the spread of democratic reforms in the region - a feeling that America, France, and Britain promoted - has devolved into an obscene reassertion of power by all the region's despots.

Syria has widened its reign of terror over Lebanon, getting away not only with the murder of a former prime minister, Rafik Hariri, but also with a renewed alliance with Iran, <u>Hezbollah</u>'s Shiite army, and Lebanon's 400,000 Palestinian Arabs, whom Damascus is arming to form yet another militia for the Syrian-Iranian proxy wars in the region.

Saudi Arabia, which has the world's largest oil reserves, has largely shelved its alliance with America in favor of new ties with China, America's primary rival for world power. China, the Saudis know, does not demand democratic reforms, just oil.

Over in the Palestinian Arab territories, total chaos now reigns as Palestinian factions war among themselves. The Israelis will take care of themselves, to be sure, but the Palestinian Arab collapse will make the coming years pretty ugly.

Creative chaos is the right strategy when played unflinchingly by the rules, one of which is never to promise a people democratic reform if you do not plan on standing behind it every step of the way. A second is that in today's Middle East, values that include democracy, civil society, and separation of mosque and state must prevail if the region is to become peaceful.

The West must unite behind a policy of imposing more sanctions on Syria for meddling in Lebanon and Iraq. Iran should be ignored, not embraced. The country has a long way to go before it acquires any weapons of mass destruction, but a shorter way toward more economic sanctions and international isolation. Israel should go back into Gaza and topple the Hamas regime.

Above all, Iraq needs to be won.

The alternatives are so dark they cannot be contemplated.

Load-Date: June 16, 2006



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

The International Herald Tribune February 19, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 4

Length: 773 words

Byline: Jean Francois-poncet

Dateline: PARIS

Body

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

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

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

International Herald Tribune

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Load-Date: February 20, 2005



Muslim backlash over cartoons forces Danish newspaper to apologise

THE AUSTRALIAN February 1, 2006 Wednesday

All-round First Edition

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Section: WORLD TABLE; Pg. 9

Length: 779 words

Body

AP, The Times

COPENHAGEN: The Danish newspaper which angered millions of Muslims by publishing caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed apologised yesterday as the Islamic world took sweeping retaliation against Denmark.

In a statement to "Honourable Fellow Citizens of the Muslim World", the editor-in-chief of Jyllands-Posten, Carsten Juste, said the cartoons, first published on September 30, "were not in violation of Danish law but they have undoubtedly offended many Muslims, for which we would like to apologise".

The contrition came after the long-simmering row erupted into widespread street demonstrations and flag-burnings in the Middle East, with Libya joining Saudi Arabia in withdrawing their ambassadors from Copenhagen.

Islamic governments and organisations issued furious denunciations, and a boycott of Danish goods took hold across the Muslim world.

Before the newspaper's apology, Denmark-based dairy group Arla Foods, with annual sales of about \$US430million (\$574million) in the Middle East, had urged the Danish Government to take action.

"I urgently beg the Government to enter a positive dialogue with the many millions of Muslims who feel they have been offended by Denmark," Arla's executive director Peder Tuborgh said in a statement.

The Danish Government warned its citizens against travelling to Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Syria, and withdrew aid workers from the Gaza Strip.

EU foreign ministers responded with a statement in support of Denmark, and the European Commission threatened to report to the World Trade Organisation any government backing the boycott of Danish goods.

The fury echoed the outcry that followed the publication in 1989 of the Salman Rushdie novel The Satanic Verses.

The trigger for the clash of cultures was the publication by the Jyllands-Posten on September 30 of 12 cartoons of Mohammed. A biographer of the prophet had complained no one would dare to illustrate his book, and the newspaper challenged cartoonists to draw pictures of the prophet in a self-declared battle for freedom of speech.

Muslim backlash over cartoons forces Danish newspaper to apologise

One cartoon showed Mohammed wearing a bomb-shaped turban. In another, he tells dead suicide bombers he has run out of virgins with which to reward them. Any portrayal of Mohammed is considered blasphemous in Islam, lest it encourages idolatory.

In October, ambassadors from 10 Muslim countries complained to Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who refused to interfere with the press's freedom.

But the issue began to boil over this month after the cartoons appeared in Magazinet, a Christian newspaper in Norway, and on the website of the Norwegian newspaper Dagbladet.

Imams denounced Denmark from their pulpits, the Arab press inflamed pent-up Muslim anger at the West, and last Friday the Saudi Government recalled its ambassador. But still Mr Rasmussen refused to apologise.

He condemned attempts to "demonise people because of religious beliefs", but argued: "The Government can in no way influence the media."

By Monday, governments across the Arab world had begun responding to public outrage. Libya closed its embassy in Copenhagen, and the Egyptian parliament demanded that its Government follow suit. The Kuwaiti and Jordanian governments called for explanations from their Danish ambassadors.

President Emile Lahoud of Lebanon condemned the cartoons, saying his country "cannot accept any insult to any religion".

The Justice Minister of the United Arab Emirates said: "This is cultural terrorism, not freedom of expression."

In Gaza, gunmen briefly occupied the EU office in Gaza, and warned Danes and Norwegians to stay away. Palestinians in the West Bank burned Danish flags.

The Islamic militant groups Hamas and *Hezbollah* and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood demanded an apology.

Supermarkets in Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen all removed Danish produce from their shelves and refused to accept any more stock.

PUBLISH AND BE DAMNED

1988 Ayatollah Khomeini issues fatwa against Salman Rushdie after publication of The Satanic Verses

2001 Author Khalid Duran faces mass condemnation from Muslims for his book, which sought to explain Islam to Jews, culminating in alleged death threats for his apostasy

2002 Fatwa issued against the Nigerian journalist Isioma Daniel after she suggested that Mohammed might approve of the Miss World contest

2004 Extremist kills Dutch director Theo Van Gogh after he made Submission, a 10-minute film about the abuse of Muslim *women* featuring Koranic verses written on *female* bodies

2005 Swedish museum is forced to remove a painting depicting a couple making love while covered in verses from the Koran

Load-Date: January 31, 2006



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

Ottawa Citizen

June 18, 2005 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A11

Length: 727 words

Byline: Anton La Guardia, The Daily Telegraph

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The outcome of the new political freedom is still unclear.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Nour explained the contradictions facing Mr. Bush.

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

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

Load-Date: June 18, 2005



<u>AFGHAN OPIUM TOWN HITS HARD TIMES AFTER DRUGS BAZAAR IS</u> BANNED

The Independent (London)
January 29, 2005, Saturday

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Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 31

Length: 702 words

Byline: NICK MEO IN JALALABAD

Highlight: Traders haggling at an opium bazaar in Afghanistan Thorne Anderson/ Corbis Sygma

Body

UNTIL A few months ago Afghanistan's biggest opium bazaar was on the outskirts of a ramshackle village called Ghani Khel, on a lush plain near the Khyber Pass backed by the snow-covered Tora Bora mountains.

Trade in the grey-brown cakes took place in a row of rickety wooden huts behind the main street. Farmers flocked there with the precious harvest, hard and grey on the outside, gooey and black in the middle, and traders came from Pakistan, Iran or Turkey to find the best-quality source.

Now opium is banned, the farmers have been forced to plant wheat, and Ghani Khel is a boom town that has gone bust. Opium was the only reason for outsiders to ever come here. The bazaar is a 15-minute bumpy drive from the main road, halfway between the eastern city of Jalalabad and the Pakistan border, in the middle of what were until recently Afghanistan's richest poppy fields. Every spring for the past three years a sea of beautiful white and purple blooms has covered Nangarhar province, even though growing it was technically illegal. The authorities also turned a blind eye to the throngs of turbaned farmers who headed to the bazaar to haggle with the Arthur Daleys of Afghanistan's opium world, men enriched by years of bumper crops.

A handful of really big players have invested their illicit fortunes in Dubai or Tajikistan, potential bolt-holes if the government ever gets serious about arresting them. Middlemen have built ugly villas in Jalalabad. The farmers have rebuilt villages destroyed in the war, invested in shiny new tractors, or blown the profits on extravagant weddings where tracer fire lights up the sky.

This year, however, the party is over.

Furtive, scowling characters still lurk around the bazaar, and it doesn't take long for shady youths to offer opium at an inflated price - £70 for a 200g lump the size of a small orange, looking like a dried, misshapen cowpat.

But pickings are lean. Ghani Khel looks today more like a fly-blown town from a spaghetti western than the Afghan version of Wall Street. The grim mood of the town's residents matched its depressed appearance, a far cry from the get-rich-quick atmosphere of the past.

"I have 16 members of my family to support and the government will not let me grow poppy," said <u>Hezbollah</u>, who shook with anger as he brandished a sheaf of prescriptions for medicines that he could not afford to buy. "The

AFGHAN OPIUM TOWN HITS HARD TIMES AFTER DRUGS BAZAAR IS BANNED

Russians destroyed our homes, opium is the only crop we can sell. Without it we will have to head back to the refugee camps in Pakistan where we lived for years."

Another man blamed the American military. "The police would not stop drugs if they were not told to by the Americans," he said. "What can we farmers do against men with guns? And the Americans will bomb us if we resist."

<u>Women</u> in filthy burkhas sit in the dust staring into the distance. Shops are reduced to trading potatoes or cheap Chinese-made cooking utensils. An unemployed army of farmers and traders wander the dusty main street, grousing to anyone who will listen about how the government's ban has put them out of business.

The man chiefly held responsible for their plight is the warlord-turned-police chief Hazrat Ali. Mr Ali was hired by the American military in 2001 to fight the battle of Tora Bora. Mr Ali's family was controversial before that - it has prospered for years in one of Afghanistan's main opium producing areas.

But Western diplomats in Kabul are quietly delighted that the poppy- growing ban has been enforced, the first time anyone has succeeded in stopping opium cultivation since the Taliban managed it, and the first big success for President Hamid Karzai's government.

Mr Ali believes he has brought about a 98 per cent reduction in the province of Nangarhar. Western sources estimate the figure as closer to 70 or 80 per cent, still astounding after the figures last year showed the biggest ever area under poppy cultivation.

If the grip of the drugs industry is to be loosened, consolidating the success is vital. The second-biggest poppy growing province of Helmand in the south has seen only a modest reduction in planting while Badakshan in the north, the third big opium province, is thought to have seen business as usual.

Load-Date: January 29, 2005



Diplomatic noises

Guardian.com July 24, 2006

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theguardian

Length: 1248 words

Highlight: Welcome to the Wrap, Guardian Unlimited's digest of the best of the day's papers.

Body

SYRIA 'WON'T STAND BY', AMERICA WON'T TALK

Do you want the good news or the bad news first? The good news, according to the Times, is that Syria's deputy foreign minister has offered to talk directly to the US to help resolve the crisis in the Middle East. The bad is that Condoleezza Rice, who meets the Israeli PM today, has indicated she won't talk to Damascus and that Syria's information minister warned that the country would not stand by if Israel invaded Lebanon.

The Herald Tribune reports another hopeful development. Israel says it will support the deployment of a "multinational force" in southern Lebanon to ward off <u>Hizbullah</u>. The bad? No such force could be ready for weeks, and - according to the Telegraph - is unlikely ever to satisfy Israel. Furthermore, the country has indicated it intends to "keep up its assault for at least a week and had not ruled out a ground invasion".

If the diplomatic prognosis is depressing, then the suffering on the ground is woeful. The Guardian and Independent both splash with reports on the bombing of a Lebanese family who were fleeing the assaults in a minivan. Robert Fisk's is the more polemical - he notes the missile was made in Florida - and the Guardian's the more affecting.

"The ambulanceman gave Ali the job of keeping his mother alive. The 12-year-old did what he could. 'Mama, mama, don't go to sleep,' he sobbed, gently patting her face beneath her chin. Behind her black veil, her eyelids were slowly sinking. 'I'm going to die,' she sighed. 'Don't say that, mama,' Ali begged, and then slid to the ground in tears.

"On the pavement around mother and son were the other members of the Sha'ita family, their faces spattered with each other's blood. All were in varying shades of shock and injury ... The Sha'itas had thought they were on the road to safety when they set out yesterday, leaving behind a village which, because of an accident of geography - it is five miles from the Israeli border - had seemed to make their home a killing ground. They had been ordered to evacuate by the Israelis. "But they were a little too slow."

- * Blasted by a missile on the road to safety
- * Times: Syria offers to talk but warns it may join conflict
- * IHT: Israel weighs foreign troops on border

Diplomatic noises

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

John Reid's announcement yesterday that uniformed guards will patrol Britain's borders to deter would-be immigrants is greeted with scepticism. The Mail says it soon emerged that there will be no new officers: instead, existing staff will be given uniforms.

The Sun is more concerned about the prospect of Romanians and Bulgarians travelling to the UK en masse when the countries join the EU next year. "45,000 CROOKS ON WAY HERE," screams the paper, which highlights the annual murder rates in Sofia and Bucharest (36 and 24 respectively, and considerably lower than London's rate) and says it will be impossible to remove "undesirables" who seek to claim benefits in Britain.

The Independent demurs: "As long as there are jobs for them, Bulgarian and Romanian incomers should be welcomed ... by passport officers in plain clothes."

John Prescott appeared to hint yesterday that Tony Blair would announce his departure date shortly - although, as is often the case, the papers have trouble discerning what the deputy PM intended to say. The FT splashes with the news that Lord Browne, BP's chief executive, will retire in 2008 when he reaches the company's official retirement age.

- * Passport control officers to get uniforms
- * I wore stetson but did not break rules, says Prescott
- * Sun: 45,000 crims to come here
- * FT: Browne to step down from BP in 2008

TWO DEAD AFTER INFLATABLE TAKES OFF

The Mail calls it a "bouncy castle", but the vast inflatable that broke loose from its moorings at a park in County Durham yesterday was a 115-cell maze called Dreamspace. Its creator, Maurice Apis, is reportedly "devastated" that two people were killed when the structure drifted dozens of feet into the air.

One witness said she could hear screaming coming from inside the inflatable as it rose and crashed down after hitting a pole.

- * Mail: Two killed as giant bouncy castle lifts off
- * Mirror: Killed by the bouncy castle

CRY OF THE TIGER

Tiger Woods wept in the arms of his caddie, his coach, his manager and his wife after winning the Open yesterday and dedicated his victory to his father, who died in May.

"This was nothing less than the day he fulfilled his destiny," writes the Mail's golf correspondent. "One phase of his career has now ended, and so a new one spent chasing down [Jack] Nicklaus's total of 18 [victories in majors] will begin at the US PGA championship next month."

The Sun splashes win the theft of "priceless soccer memorabilia" from the home of Wayne Rooney's parents in Liverpool. "ROODUNNIT?" asks the Sun, which is offering a 1,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of various England caps, a shirt and a trophy.

- * Woods dedicates win to late father
- * Sun: The Great Wayne Robbery

Diplomatic noises

FREEBIES, LUVVIES AND PHONIES

A brief roundup of today's giveaways, for those readers still toying with the idea of buying a paper. The Independent has a glossy Monet poster (Rising Sun, 1872) which is sturdy enough to sit or eat your lunch on. The Sun has a poster advertising the new film Cars, the Mirror a Rapunzel DVD and the Telegraph is offering a Secret Seven audio book. ("What would the team do without Scamper the spaniel? First he discovers an unwanted visitor, then he protects the seven as they spy on a thief late at night in Bramley Woods." Surely a matter for the Home Office.)

Meanwhile: "The ultimate Labour luvvies' wedding," sniffs the Mail's Quentin Letts, who must have been loitering outside St James's, Piccadilly with a notebook. "A *female* vicar blessed the union of Sky News political editor Adam Boulton and Tony Blair's former 'gatekeeper', Anji Hunter ... We saw an elite that is arguably more incestuous than any ruling class of recent times."

Yes, there is no love lost between Associated Newspapers (the owners of the Mail) and News International (which owns Sky, the Sun and the Times). Worse, absolutely everyone was there - the PM (though not his wife, who the Mail says envies Ms Hunter's legs and accent), Ming Campbell, the Kinnocks, Peter Mandelson, Lord Browne, Alastair Campbell, David Blunkett and Sadie, Charles Clarke, the CBI chief, Sir Digby Jones, and numerous peers - although apparently there was a joke going round that if you gave enough to the church's restoration fund you would be rewarded with a peerage.

Elsewhere, the Mirror frets that Britons are too attached to their mobile phones, a worry that is wholly justified by the paper's poll. Half of the respondents do not turn off their mobile at the cinema or theatre and only 14% switch it off at what some might consider their most intimate moments. Nine per cent think talking on a mobile on a train is unacceptable, though almost three-quarters deem it inappropriate at a funeral. In other words, 27% of Britons will answer a novelty ringtone during the last rites.

* Mail: Ultimate Labour luvvies

* Mirror: Mobilephiles

COMING UP ON GUARDIAN UNLIMITED TODAY

The Child Support Agency is to be axed.

Israeli ground forces made another foray into Lebanon overnight as Condoleezza Rice joined the diplomatic efforts. British foreign minister Kim Howells will continue talks with key figures in the Middle East.

Tony Blair will meet Iraqi PM Nouri Maliki to discuss plans to hand over more areas of the country to local forces.

Load-Date: July 24, 2006



Why Gaza attacks are deadlier

Christian Science Monitor June 23, 2006, Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 1374 words

Byline: Ilene R. PrusherStaff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Highlight: The Israeli army is facing an internal investigation into why recent missile strikes have gone so badly.

Body

After three botched military strikes in Gaza in just over a week, in which 13 Palestinian civilians were killed, the Israeli army is facing an internal investigation into why guided missile strikes that in the past have been called "targeted," "efficient," and even "surgical" have gone so badly, fueling the fires of resentment and sparking international calls for restraint.

Among the reasons the attacks are growing more deadly is that the tactics and technology of the conflict on both sides have been evolving in ways that may be increasing the risk of civilian casualties.

Since Israel pulled out of the Gaza Strip last August, Palestinian militants have moved closer to the border with Israel. But also, the Israeli army says, Palestinian groups are now gaining access to longer-range rockets, allowing militants to fire from crowded urban areas.

In addition, in the past 10 days, Israel has placed a military balloon over the northern end of Gaza, providing pictures of ground activity that is being used to call in military strikes, according to witnesses and Israeli media reports.

"The change is this," says Capt. Noa Meir, in explaining one Israel Defense Forces (IDF) theory as to why more civilians are being injured and killed in the course of what had been a relatively quiet weapons volley until a few months ago. Palestinian militants have usually launched Kassam rockets, which have a range of about five miles and are not terribly accurate.

But recently, Palestinian cells have begun to lob Katyusha rockets - the first one was launched in late March - which have a range of about 14 miles, and are much more likely to hit their target. Katyusha rockets were commonly used by the Iranian-backed *Hizbullah* in Lebanon in its war of attrition with Israel.

"For the terrorists, they prefer to go farther away, so they can hide among the civilians," says Captain Meir. "The areas that we evacuated last August are now being used for launching grounds for Kassams."

When Israel launched a missile strike one week ago Tuesday, she says, the target was a car that was carrying a Katyusha rocket about to be launched, which Israel sees as a more serious threat than the Kassam rockets.

"Katyusha rockets not only have a longer range, they're more accurate and more deadly," Meir says. Fifteen Israelis have been killed in rocket attacks from Gaza in the past five years, according to army figures, and more than 175 rockets of different kinds have been launched by Palestinians into Israel in the past month.

"The question is can we pinpoint it, and we use the best resources and technology you can in order to do so," she says. "Lately, this has been a bad sequence of events. The IDF really does everything in its power to avoid these results. But if you look at these events over the past year, we are usually able to surgically remove, if you will, the militants."

But relative "accuracy" of some missile strikes does not mitigate the bitterness in Gaza over the errant ones. Thursday, thousands marched in the funeral of two Palestinian siblings - a pregnant woman and her brother - killed in a missile strike a day earlier.

The two were struck while the Israeli air force was trying to target members of the Popular Resistance Committee, a militant group made up of members from different factions. On Tuesday night, three Palestinian children, aged 5, 7, and 16, were killed during an Israeli missile strike that missed its target. Israel was aiming for three militants from the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, who emerged unscathed. The Israeli air force had aimed its missile at their car, driving through the densely populated Jabalya refugee camp. On Tuesday a week earlier, eight Palestinian civilians were killed alongside three militants from Islamic Jihad.

The bloodshed has brought international criticism and calls for a cease-fire. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on Israel to stop the missile strikes, and for Palestinians to stop firing rockets at Israel. After the missile strike Tuesday that killed the three children, the secretary-general's spokesman said Israel should "respect international law to ensure that its actions are proportionate and do not put civilians at grave risk."

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, who met with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in Jordan Thursday, has also called on Palestinian factions to halt rocket fire against Israel and prevent Israel from having "an excuse" to launch further attacks or send ground forces back into Gaza, a possibility that has been floated in the press several times in recent weeks.

In a statement earlier this week, Mr. Abbas also criticized Israel's strikes, raising questions about their accuracy. "The increased frequency of <u>women</u> and children falling victim to Israeli missiles," he said, "in an age of very precise electronic warfare, indicates a deliberate action on the Israeli side to target every Palestinian and to cause maximum human, physical, and psychological damage."

A cabinet minister for the Hamas-led government Thursday condemned the US and the international community for not speaking more forcefully about the missile strikes. "We feel the absence of international conscience, especially the United States, which didn't say a single word in condemnation to the Israeli massacres in Gaza Strip," Yousef Rezga, the Palestinian Authority's Information Minister, told reporters in Gaza.

Even inside Israel, there has been increased criticism of the policy. Defense Minister Amir Peretz said that in the wake of recent botched assassination attempts, the IDF should prefer cancelling a mission over taking innocent lives, if and when it becomes clear that civilians will likely die in the process of an assassination. Amos Harel, a writer for the leading progressive newspaper, Haaretz, wrote a pointed article Thursday under the headline, "Nothing surgical about IAF [Israeli air force] Attacks."

He posed: "If the air attacks are considered to be the cutting edge of technology, why are there so many civilian casualties?"

Israel's policy of using targeted assassinations has come under fire in the past, particularly when innocent bystanders have been killed. In 2004, Israel assassinated two of the top figures in Hamas, which is listed by the US State Department as a terrorist organization: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the group's spiritual leader, and Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who was a senior political figure.

Why Gaza attacks are deadlier

In 2002, the Israeli air force dropped a one-ton bomb on an entire building in Gaza City, completely destroying it and killing 14 civilians, according to the Jerusalem Post. They also got the target they were after - Hamas leader Salah Shehada.

Israeli military has moved away from artillery shelling and focused on missile strikes in recent weeks in particular because of the theory that the military can be much more "precise" about getting at particular militants or the source of fire. The technology that allows Israeli forces in the air to track Palestinians militants on the ground is one that the IDF will not comment on extensively. IDF officials say, however, that when they see civilians getting in the way of a missile intended for militants, they are able to divert the rocket before it lands. Sometimes, however, it is diverted into a place where it does even more damage.

"There have been a number of instances where there has been info and we were in the air, and we have information that civilians would be hurt, so we refrain from striking," says Meir. "There have been times when we launched the missile, and the civilians enter the area, and we try to divert the missile, but sometimes if we divert it, it will do even more damage. Unfortunately, we don't see anything like this on the other side. They are trying to kill civilians."

In a related issue, seven members of the same family were killed in a blast on a Gaza beach on June 9. Israeli shelling initially was believed to have caused the deaths. But Israeli officials and newspaper reports have suggested that there was either a bomb on the beach, planted by militants to prevent an Israeli invasion by sea and accidentally triggered by the family, or the family happened open old, unexploded ammunition.

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Load-Date: June 22, 2006



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: JIHAD: PLAY THE GAME; WESTERN PC GAMES FEATURE US FORCES DESTROYING ARAB ENEMIES. NOW ISLAM

The Independent (London)
August 17, 2005, Wednesday

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Section: First Edition; FEATURES; Pg. 38,39

Length: 1404 words

Byline: REBECCA ARMSTRONG

Body

Grenades " check. Sniper rifle " check. Prayer mat " check. Gamers may be used to saving the day by taking on alien forces from another universe but a new wave of computer games are more concerned with saving the world from non-believers. With titles like Special Force and Under Siege, these games sound similar to military titles like Medal of Honour that regularly top the UK games chart for best-selling titles. Once people start playing though, it's obvious Special Force and Under Siege are very different both in quality and in content to their mainstream rivals.

Hizbollah, a radical Islamic group, spent two years developing Special Force, a PC game designed to compete with games showing Arabs as enemies and Americans as triumphant heroes. Emblazoned across the cover is the invitation to: 'Be a partner in the victory. Fight, resist and destroy your enemy in the name of force and victory.'

Inspired by actual Hizbollah missions, Special Force takes place during operations on Israeli soldiers. Players have to deal with the same conditions as real Hizbollah fighters, including weather conditions, mines and the number of enemy "Israeli "Itroops. During training, players can practise their sniping skills on Israeli political and military figures including the Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Mahmoud Rayya, an official from the Hizbollah bureau, explained at the game's launch that 'this game is resisting the Israeli occupation through the media'. The game sold thousands of copies in Lebanon in the first two weeks after its release and has gone on to sell at least 10,000 more since.

Under Siege is another pro-Palestinian first person shooter (FPS) and is the sequel to Under Ashes, a game launched in 2001. Under Siege and Under Ashes were developed by Afkar Media, a Damascus-based software company that claims it creates games to educate as well as eliminate. 'We believe we had to share responsibility in telling the story behind this conflict and targeting youngsters who depend on video games and movies " which always tell the counter side " to build their world knowledge.' Under Ashes went on to sell more than 10,000 copies in the Middle East, as well as being downloaded more than 500,000 times from the company's website.

The game itself is a basic FPS that is billed as suitable for children aged over 13 despite the vast armoury available to players. Radwan Kasmiya, Afkar Media's executive manager, insists the game promotes non-violent methods. This is not a game about killing. We are attempting to provide a new sort of digital dignity.' Despite the warfare, the game does have a self-perception seldom found in mainstream military titles. At the end of one level, there is a tagline that reads: 'A real life story or a political propaganda? You have the right to decide.'

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: JIHAD: PLAY THE GAME; WESTERN PC GAMES FEATURE US FORCES DESTROYING ARAB ENEMIES. NOW ISLAM

While these titles aim to redress the balance to a genre dominated by victorious US soldiers defeating Arab enemies, there are other games available that reflect a wider unease with Western thinking. The Ummah Defence titles are fairly innocuous, with robots as enemies and an Islamic universe under threat. In The Maze of Destiny, players battle with an evil wizard named Darlack the Deceiver who has ruined a Muslim utopia where everyone worships Allah by stealing the Book of Allah and imprisoning anyone who knows Allah's teachings. Armed only with their wits and their faith, players must rescue the wise ones from Darlack's dungeons. Challenges include setting bombs to open secret passageways and exploring endless labyrinths. Stylistically, the game is like an early Nintendo title but at its heart is the secular Darlack who plies people with alcohol, drugs, prostitutes and gambling.

All three titles are created by Islamgames, a US-based company that makes titles featuring battles between the defenders of Islam and their opponents. The company explains its stance by stating that: 'Video games are a great learning tool, but many games available teach things contrary to the teachings of Islam. By providing an alternative to the mainstream, we can help our childrenin a subtle way learn to identify with Islamic values and teachings.'

Islam Fun is a collection of PC mini-games aimed at encouraging children to learn more about Islam. In among Two Bunny Race and Building Blocks "Build a Mosque is the more alarming The Resistance. Gamers play a farmer in South Lebanon who has joined the Islamic Resistance to defend their land and family from invading Zionists. As the game is aimed at five- to seven-year-olds, it seems this particular mini-game is slightly advanced. In defence of their subject matter, Innovative Minds, the company behind Islam Fun, made this statement. 'The questions in the game educate children not to fall for the Zionist lie that Zionism, Jewishness and Judaism are synonymous but to understand that Zionism, a racist ideology, has nothing to do with Judaism.' There's little danger that hardline titles are going to become bestsellers in the UK, despite their efforts to represent a different ideology. The Video Standards Council, which decides the age and content rating system for UK computer games, does not permit the sale of any game containing material featuring discrimination or incitement to hatred against any ethnic group. Any title that contains material like this is also highly likely to contravene criminal law in the UK and most European countries. But, online boundaries are blurred, as one downloadable game from America, Ethnic Cleansing, proves.

Johnny Minkley, the editor of MCV, the trade magazine for the games industry, isn't convinced that religious games are ever going to compete with mainstream titles. 'Video games are becoming a more acceptable mass-market media and a means of expression for more groups. It's natural evolution. Religious games are just one small facet of the games industry.'

John Houlihan, the editor of Computer and Videogames, agrees: 'There has been a move towards more religious gaming, both in America and the Middle East. However, these games are still very much a minority interest for the industry. Just like with music, the devil has all the best tunes " and all the best games.'

nSpecial Force

Developer: Hizbullah Central Internet Bureau

Like Under Siege, Special Force is a more professional title than, say, Islamic fun. Players simulate Hizbollah fighters during military operations against the Israeli army and action is inspired by actual Hizbollah operations. Stalking soldiers, blowing up tanks and full on street battles are the main aspects of the game as players run through a city battleground causing destruction.

(www.specialforce.net)

Islamic Fun

Innovative Minds

A selection of simple games for children that aim to teach them about aspects of Islam. Games like Building Blocks, where players create their own mosque, make up the majority. One stand-out mini-game is The Resistance,

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: JIHAD: PLAY THE GAME; WESTERN PC GAMES FEATURE US FORCES DESTROYING ARAB ENEMIES. NOW ISLAM

where players take the role of a farmer in south Lebanon who has joined Hamas to defend his land and family from the invading Zionists.

(www.inminds.co.uk)

Under Siege

Afkar Media

The sequel to Under Ash, Under Siege is a first-person shooter (FPS) game played from the perspective of a Palestinian. In single-player mode, Under Siege is like many FPS games featuring a specific enemy (in this case, the Israeli army), and gives players an arsenal of weapons with which to do battle. Choose from grenades, rocket launchers, sniper rifles and automatic weapons. Graphically, Under Siege is underdeveloped and very basic, so it won't be rivalling Far Cry in the FPS stakes.

(www.underash.net)

Maze of Destiny

IslamGames

In Maze of Destiny, players must battle the evil wizard Darlack to rescue the teachers of the Koran and re-establish the true worship of Allah. Maze of Destiny is reminiscent of Zelda, with its maze-based 2D levels. Gamers have to negotiate labyrinthine dungeons while avoiding being plied with **women** or drink. Simple but effective.

(www.islamgames.com)

Ummah Defense 1 & 2

IslamGames

It's the year 2114 and the Earth is united under the banner of Islam. As a member of the Intergalactic Muslim Council, your job is to help co-ordinate Dawa efforts on other planets. But the Flying Evil Robot Armada attacks Earth and it's up to you to save the planet. The first title is a simple, Space Invaders-inspired game, while Ummah 2 is more sophisticated, like an early Mario title.

(www.islamgames.com)

Load-Date: August 17, 2005



Pressure Mounts In Washington For Talks With Iran

New York Sun (Archive) May 31, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 831 words

Byline: By ELI LAKE, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Pressure is mounting within the Bush administration to begin talks directly with Iran to convince the country to end its enrichment of nuclear fuel.

Facing a deadlock, envoys from America, China, France, Russia, and Britain are scheduled to meet again to morrow to negotiate a unanimous resolution on Iran at the U.N. Security Council. Nonetheless, American diplomats are not optimistic that the aggressive sanctions contained in a European and American draft resolution will be agreed to by Russia or China - two countries that have enjoyed a robust trade in arms with Iran since the end of the Cold War.

Behind the scenes, two Bush administration officials say British, French, and German diplomats are quietly urging America to pursue direct talks with Iran to avoid a standoff at Turtle Bay. The man carrying this message to the White House and Foggy Bottom is the current no. 3 official at the State Department, Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, whose private assessment of the negotiations among the great powers on Iran is that a unanimous resolution is near impossible.

The potential for the Bush administration to engage Iran now, after the country broke its pledges on uranium enrichment, could dampen enthusiasm among its opposition. In the last eight days, ethnic Azeris, who make up a quarter of Iran's population, have flooded Tabriz and other cities to protest a cartoon in a state-run newspaper depicting their ethnic group as cockroaches. And Iran's students have led demonstrations and in some cases clashes at major universities over new policies in the schools on firing professors and expelling students. The protests on campuses are estimated to be the largest since July 2003.

The State Department has begun publicly dialing back expectations for tomorrow's meeting in Vienna. A State Department spokesman, Sean McCormack, said yesterday that the ultimate resolution at the Security Council could entail phases of sanctions against Iran, depending the country's actions.

Mr. McCormack added, "Separate from that, you know, throughout this process, even if you are proceeding down the Security Council route ... you can still keep outside of that particular mechanism, individual states, like-minded states getting together to work on various financial measures that might be taken so that the Iranian regime can't exploit the international financial system for, you know, funding terrorism or for funding its weapons - illicit weapons of mass destruction programs."

Pressure Mounts In Washington For Talks With Iran

One State Department official was careful to say Mr. Burns has not formally endorsed direct talks within the ad ministration. But nonetheless, his assessment of the prospect for a resolution with teeth - one that would be supported and enforced by the five veto-wielding members of the Security Council - was pessimistic.

"Nicholas is the primary person looking at this. He is saying, 'It doesn't look good in the Security Council,'" the official, who asked not to be identified, said. "His primary message, however, is that we don't have a good chance for the resolution. He has not survived this long by raising both the problem and the solution, if the solution is not one the principals want to embrace." However, the official added that Mr. Burns also has conveyed the private message from European foreign ministries that America should at least be open to direct talks on the nuclear issue.

America has held discussions on and off with Iran since the inception of the Islamic Republic. In the 1980s, Reagan administration officials brokered a deal whereby Israel sold missiles to Iran in exchange for the release of American hostages captured by <u>Hezbollah</u> in Lebanon. More recently, Iranian diplomats have met with America's ambassador to Baghdad, Zalmay Khalilzad, since 2001, when he first brought Iran into the rebuilding of Afghanistan at a conference in Bonn, Germany. In 2003, Mr. Khalilzad discussed with Iran an exchange of Al Qaeda terrorists for members of the People's Mujahadin captured by American soldiers in Iraq. That plan went nowhere, though Senator Kerry, a Democrat of Massachusetts, endorsed it when he was running for president in 2004.

Direct talks now with Iran could end up demoralizing Iran's opposition, which in recent months has begun to organize in various sectors - from a strike of bus drivers in Tehran to more recent campus unrest.

One of the steering committee members of the Tehran Polytechnic University chapter of Iran's largest student organization, Abbas Hakim Zadeh, said last week that his organization, known as Takhim Vahdat, would endorse direct talks between America and Iran if the topic of negotiation was human rights and political prisoners. "However," he said, "if the idea is for Iran to get security guarantees embedded in it that the regime can suppress the human rights and the will of the people, that is something the Iranian student movement, the Iranian labor movement, and the Iranian <u>women</u>'s rights groups reject firmly and totally."

Load-Date: May 31, 2006



Lebanon's tragedy captured in a mother's heartbreak; MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 26, 2006 Wednesday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 8

Length: 766 words

Byline: Paul McGeough Chief Correspondent in Beirut

Body

A MOTHER shrieks in despair. She has been put on a boat to take her away from this Lebanese hell, but her two children are stuck on the dock. And nobody does a thing.

There was no blood and guts, no collapsed apartment building, no pillars of smoke. But these BBC images from the southern city of Tyre are among the most heart-breaking to come out of Israel's collective punishment of the Lebanese people and the systematic destruction of their country.

It was the last small boat to safety. As Tyre reels under the impossible weight of a refugee crisis across the border region, an Israeli naval cordon was eased on Monday to allow in a German aid shipment. The empty vessel was enlisted to evacuate refugees.

What would it have taken to grab the children - two minutes? But the window allowed by the Israelis was closing fast and, the troops managing the operation said, this had to be the very last small boat to ferry refugees to the German ship moored offshore.

The stony-faced soldiers ordered the small boat to motor away, ignoring the mother's hysteria and angry demands from the dock that they return for the boys, aged about 12 and three. They too were inconsolable. Their grandmother was still with them because she too had failed to get aboard. They had cold comfort from a Lebanese policeman, who told them: "Don't worry; there'll be another boat to Cyprus in a day or two."

Diplomatic efforts to halt the war are making slow progress as the US presses for "an enduring" peace, rather than an immediate ceasefire. So intense Israeli air and ground attacks continue.

Tyre's volunteer ambulance service was suspended after an air strike on two of its vehicles as they swapped the injured from three generations of the one family at a rendezvous between two local towns. And there is a new menace for civilians on the battlefield. The New York-based group Human Rights Watch says it has evidence that the Israelis are using US-made cluster bombs.

Those who can flee make for Tyre or Beirut, arriving at schools that become refugee centres with just the clothes they are wearing.

Lebanon 's tragedy captured in a mother's heartbreak MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

At a makeshift refuge in the basement car park of a city supermarket, 32-year-old Hasna Hjeij said: "It took us nine hours to get here. And our village, Der Quntar [near Bint Jbeil, the focus of the Israeli attacks], looks like it has been through a 20-year war.

At a nearby school, a sombre 20-year-old Abass Majid relived the journey north from the village of Basoria, near Tyre.

"Twenty-three people were killed. They were driving in the cars and trucks ahead of us on the road when they were attacked. The blood was still wet when we found them ... the bodies were scattered on the road."

The US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, who yesterday arrived in Israel to meet the Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, said the US was seeking a "durable solution". "It is time for a new Middle East. It is time to say to those who do not want a new Middle East that we will prevail," she said.

Despite mounting international concern, Mr Olmert said Israel had to press on with its offensive. "We are using the basic primary right of self-defence," he said.

Earlier in Beirut, Dr Rice had tried to put a human face on Washington's seeming neglect of Lebanon by announcing a \$US30 million (\$40 million) contribution to a United Nations emergency appeal for \$US150 million.

Estimating that up to 800,000 Lebanese had been displaced by the fighting, the UN's crisis co-ordinator, Jan Egeland, warned: "The situation is very bad and deteriorating by the day."

Describing the bombing of entire city blocks of flats in the capital's southern suburbs as "a violation of humanitarian law", he also condemned the <u>Hezbollah</u> militia for using civilians as a human shield: "They must stop this cowardly blending ... among **women** and children."

Israel's Public Security Minister, Avi Dichter, responded to criticism about the high toll of Lebanese civilians, saying: "A war is not a surgical operation ... You identify the targets. Bombs are sophisticated and accurate, but you see a cement truck and from the air it looks just like a Katyushas truck. Sometimes from the air you hit the wrong target."

DAMAGE TOLL

A United Nations assessment of the punishment inflicted on Lebanon in the first 12 days of fighting cites:

*Enormous damage to residential areas and key civilian infrastructure.

*Soaring prices for basic goods (eg, sugar up 600 per cent).

*Acute food shortages on the border and forecasts that whole communities will be without food, water, fuel and other basic needs.

*Up to 800 refugees forced to live in a school for 200 to 300 children.

Graphic

PHOTO: Inconsolable ... children left on the wharf.Photo: courtesy BBC

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Family relieved and reunited after members come home from Lebanon

The Beaumont Enterprise (Texas)
July 27, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 The Beaumont Enterprise

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Section: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

Length: 727 words

Byline: Beth Gallaspy, The Beaumont Enterprise, Texas

Body

Jul. 27--BEAUMONT -- Ramona Ataya had planned on five weeks of fun and family before returning to the United States and starting medical school.

Lebanon, the birthplace of her parents, Raja and Sousan, had grown more modern since her last visit five years ago. Lively nightclubs, full restaurants and beaches packed with tourists beckoned when Ramona, 22, and her mother arrived in Beirut from Beaumont on July 10.

Electricity lasted around the clock, not just for certain hours as in prior visits. There were bridges and highways with actual lanes. Reminders of the civil war that tore the country apart for more than two decades had been erased.

"Last time I went there, you could still see buildings with bullet holes in them and areas where bombs had fallen, but now everything's cleaned up," Ramona Ataya said Wednesday. "All the buildings are like new and rebuilt and renovated."

At least they were when the Atayas arrived. Two days later, the bombing started.

Israeli forces unleashed a bombing campaign in parts of Beirut and southern Lebanon two weeks ago in retaliation for the killing and kidnapping of Israeli soldiers by *Hezbollah* guerrillas.

Ramona and Sousan Ataya watched as Beirut lost its airport, its communications and its long-awaited infrastructure, and they decided they needed to leave.

A cousin, Nada Abousaad of Clear Lake, and her three daughters joined the Atayas as they left Beirut in a taxi it took two hours to find. What normally was a 15-minute drive into the mountains took about 90 minutes, with a twisted route to avoid bomb-prone areas and frequent stops to keep a safe distance from enclosed trucks and vans that had become potential targets.

"In the mountains, we knew we were safe, but you're constantly hearing bombs," Ramona said about 12 hours after returning to her Beaumont home. "You see the planes outside your window dropping bombs. We weren't really worried for our lives that much, but we were worried about what's to come, what's going to happen, what if it does get worse."

Family relieved and reunited after members come home from Lebanon

Sousan and Ramona tried contacting the U.S. Embassy for instructions on getting home. They were told to watch television for details, but electricity was spotty. They were told to wait for a call, but feared communications would not last.

After about a week in the mountains, they showed up at a Beirut dock to wait and hope for space on a U.S. military ship bound for Cyprus. A confused mob crushed toward the narrow passage controlled by U.S. Marines leading to the ship. Ramona, Sousan and their cousins pushed for five hours to work their way to the front.

Once in the promised land of lines leading to their exit, they waited another seven hours before boarding a boat carrying 300 Americans to the military vessel. It took four two-hour trips to fill the ship to its 1,200-person capacity before it steamed toward Cyprus at 2 a.m. Saturday, nearly 20 hours after the Atayas and their cousins arrived at the dock.

Sousan Ataya, who teaches economics at Lamar University and works in her husband's pediatrics office, was angered and hurt by her treatment by the U.S. Embassy, but had nothing but praise for the Marines at the dock and on the ship. One found her a bed when a panic attack set in.

The passengers set foot in Cyprus about 11 hours after leaving Lebanon. They'd have reached the island hours earlier, but had to wait for room at the port, Ramona said.

Two days of rest in a luxury hotel there preceded a marathon of travel home: a five-hour flight to Germany, a 10-hour flight to Newark, an eight-hour layover, then on to Houston. Their commercial flight had a two-hour delay, but by then the <u>women</u> were too tired to care.

"We didn't even have the energy to complain anymore," Ramona said.

Lebanese family members remain behind -- aunts, uncles, cousins, Sousan's parents. She spoke with them Wednesday to let them know she and Ramona were safe and make sure they still were, too.

"So far they're OK," Sousan Ataya said. "It's something that makes you appreciate what you have."

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Load-Date: July 27, 2006



Fight for Mideast democracy faltering

The Philadelphia Inquirer
July 14, 2006 Friday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A19

Length: 807 words

Body

Michael Rubin

is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and editor of the Middle East Quarterly

'It is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world," President Bush declared at his second inauguration.

Government-controlled newspapers in the Arab world scoffed at the idea of democracy. Egypt's al-Ahram daily called it "worrying." The United Arab Emirates' al-Bayan wrote that "the slogan of fighting tyranny is just a pompous expression." Many Bush critics in the United States agreed.

Still, democracy took root in what many once dismissed as infertile ground. Lebanon's Cedar Revolution drove out Syrian military occupation. Just a year ago, Lebanon's future looked bright. U.S. diplomatic pressure forced Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak to hold his first contested presidential election. That democracy came to Iraq through war may be unpopular, but it does not cancel the fact that Iraqis went to the polls three times, twice to pick a leader and once to ratify a constitution.

Dissent grew bold. Libyan democracy activist Fathi El-Jahmi publicly challenged Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi to hold elections. Rola Dashti campaigned tirelessly for <u>women</u>'s suffrage in Kuwait. Jordanian columnist Salameh Nematt took the call for democracy a step further when, on Nov. 25, 2004, he called on all Arab states to embrace democracy. "It is outrageous and amazing that the first free and general elections in the history of the Arab nation are to take place... in Iraq, under the auspices of American occupation, and in Palestine, under the auspices of the Israeli occupation," he wrote in the pan-Arab daily al-Hayat.

Dissent in the Middle East was no cakewalk. Gadhafi threw El-Jahmi in prison. Both Dashti and Nematt received death threats. An Egyptian court sentenced activist Saad Eddin Ibrahim for his writings about human rights and democracy. But even as they challenged entrenched leaders, dissidents could count on Washington as an ally. Bush defied diplomatic convention and withheld \$130 million in aid until Egypt released Ibrahim. Senators lobbied for El-Jahmi's release. The State Department chastised Iran's treatment of its imprisoned civil society activists, and condemned the murder of Lebanese journalists.

Fight for Mideast democracy faltering

No longer. Where just last year, the White House condemned the murder of Lebanese writers, it now remains silent as Libyan security agents kidnap and kill journalists. <u>Hezbollah</u> might not have sparked the latest violence had Washington kept up pressure for its disarmament. El-Jahmi is back in prison. At the Palestinian Authority's request, the State Department banned liberal Palestinian activist Issam Abu Issa from the United States after he blew the whistle on corruption.

Not only adversaries get a free pass. In the face of Bush's reversal, U.S. allies who once considered reform now abandon it. Take Mubarak: In recent months, his regime has imprisoned the opposition candidate, an arson attack has destroyed the opposition headquarters, Mubarak has canceled municipal elections, and his security forces have arrested judges who dared to complain. Last week, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh - who wields absolute power - reversed his decision to step down and now says he will run again. Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali - who won his last election with more than 94 percent of the vote - has waged a wholesale assault on independent civil society. In the midst of a crackdown on journalists and bloggers, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visited Tunis to meet Ben Ali. Many Tunisians compare the photo of the meeting to Rumsfeld's 1983 handshake with Saddam Hussein. Iraqi Kurdish leader Masud Barzani now casts democracy aside as he builds a personality cult and transforms Iraqi Kurdistan into his own personal fiefdom. Even in democratic Turkey, the White House remains silent as Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan refuses to implement supreme court rulings that say he has overstepped his power.

That Bush betrays his rhetoric is tragic. While he once spoke of freedom, he now courts those who oppose it. Fighting terror and supporting reform need not be mutually exclusive. Last year Bush promised, "America will stand with the people that desire a free and democratic Iraq." Now his administration talks of withdrawal, leaving those who put their lives on the line for democracy to wither. Just as his father once called on Iraqis to stand up and fight dictatorship only to abandon them to Saddam's gunships, so too does George W. Bush now abandon Arab freedom-seekers, only on a much larger scale and with far more dire consequences for both Middle Eastern democracy and U.S. credibility.

Contact Michael Rubin at mrubin@aei.org

Load-Date: July 14, 2006



Oil and blood

University Wire
July 20, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 The Diamondback via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN **Length:** 777 words

Byline: By Ademola Sadik, The Diamondback; SOURCE: U. Maryland

Dateline: COLLEGE PARK, Md.

Body

One hundred dollars. That's how much it may soon cost for a single barrel of crude oil. In the past week, due to fresh Mideast violence, the price of crude has soared, and with it the price of essentially all energy products. To make matters worse, the temperature in many parts of the United States seems to have taken its cue from rising gas prices and done the same. The effects are far-reaching: sustained increases in oil and gas prices force institutions, such as universities like our own, to procure additional funds for the continuation of projects like Shuttle UM and the task of heating Ellicott Hall in the wintertime. Procuring additional funds, of course, means higher tuition prices, and as we learned from my last editorial rant, financial aid is getting harder to come by. But are our hands really tied? Can anything be done?

American foreign policy. Therein lies the problem. It is rare, if not impossible, to read the daily news headlines without being bombarded with reports about deaths in Iraq as a result of sectarian violence and conflict between the insurgency and coalition troops. In the past regime, the strong, albeit macabre rule of Saddam Hussein kept occurrences of violence and sanguinary atrocities to a government condoned and facilitated level. In the absence of the Sunni Muslim despot, the majority Shiite Muslims have engaged their now-unprotected Sunni neighbors in pitched battle. Mosques, shrines and holy places have been bombed, women have been raped and the country has fallen into chaos as the two Islamic sects, seemingly united only in their distaste for the United States' existence and their perplexing abhorrence of their Kurdish neighbors with whom they share both a religion and centuries of common history, exchange broadsides in what has recently been termed as a civil war.

As the plainclothes soldiers on the home front watch and read the dismal battle dispatches from our couriers in Iraq, what originally began as a barely discernible muttered resentment has developed into full-blown mutiny. Although President Bush and his team of advisors have denied that the situation is anything near civil war level, such denials have been difficult to sell to the skeptical customer that is the American public.

Our presence in Iraq - and in Lebanon if we were to attempt to send in peacekeepers - is being used as justification for terrorism by the United States' enemies and seems to be the spoon that stirs the Iranian pot as it bubbles over into uranium enrichment and points the world toward a possible second Cold War. Add the northern half of the Korean Peninsula onto the stove, blend in the puree of al-Qaeda training operations in Southeast Asia, dash in the growing international resentment toward what is being termed as modern imperialism, and perhaps we will find ourselves preparing a meal a bit too heavy for our tastes. This may have already begun. In the past week, the world has watched the Israeli military pound Lebanon and its radical <u>Hezbollah</u> militants into submission, but the United States' already tense relationship with Middle Eastern nations has rendered it virtually helpless to serve any real

Oil and blood

diplomatic role. It seems the most we can do is observe, charge American citizens fees to be evacuated from the crumbling war zone around them by their own military and discuss the situation in expletive-laden terms off camera at purposeless summits in Moscow. And since 14,000 Iraqi civilians were killed in the first half of 2006, with 5,800 deaths and 5,700 injuries in May and June alone, the United States cannot realistically afford to send troops into yet another Middle Eastern country without running the risk of prompting the Middle East to rid itself of sectarian strife and unite against the United States.

It is unfortunate, but it seems as if the United States is left with very few options to choose from in this fresh wave of violence. Israel cannot be blamed for asserting its right to exist and defend itself, but the United States can only watch. And we at home, with our self-centered limited scopes, can only bemoan our rising gas prices.

"Quandary, n. A state of uncertainty or perplexity. See synonyms at predicament." The American Heritage Dictionary may have had the conflict in Iraq in mind when it developed this particular definition. Because that is what the situation has become - a perplexing, uncertain predicament. And an uncertain future in this uncertain world can lead to uncertain problems with uncertain conclusions.

Of that we can be certain.

Ademola Sadik is a sophomore finance major. He can be reached at <u>asadik@umd.edu</u>.

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Load-Date: July 20, 2006



Frightened women just want to get home: Joelle Kahwaji and her kids wants to leave war-torn Lebanon and come back to Coquitlam, while Shirley Weiner yearns to return to Israel

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

July 21, 2006 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 703 words

Byline: Maurice Bridge, Vancouver Sun

Body

Joelle Kahwaji and Shirley Weiner are from different parts of the world and both are eager to get home.

The difference is that Kahwaji wants to leave the war-torn Middle East to return to Coquitlam while Weiner, who is vacationing Vancouver wants to go back to Israel.

Kahwaji, 31, and her three small children are in her sister's home in Bsalim, a city about 30 kilometres northeast of of Beirut. They listen to Israeli bombs fall in the distance and wait for the Canadian embassy to call with evacuation details.

Weiner, 77, is staying with her niece in Vancouver on a one-week visit from Haifa, Israel, and calling her daughter long-distance to check on things in the port city on the Mediterranean, which was the target of *Hezbollah* rockets.

Kahwaji took her children Christopher, 4, Dominique, 3, and Mikael, 1, to visit relatives for what was supposed to be a wedding and two baptisms. Instead, she has attended two funerals -- her aged mother-in-law became ill and died, and a cousin in the army was killed by bombs earlier this week.

She left her brother's house in central Beirut when bombs began to fall on the city.

"When we started to hear lots of explosions in Beirut, I left Beirut and went to the mountains," she said. "Now I'm staying with my sister.

"I moved from the centre of Beirut because you hear everything very loud."

Although she has left the worst of the bombing behind, she said there are major power lines within a couple of kilometres of her sister's home.

"They usually drop bombs there, so we are always scared," she said. "We don't want to hear them one more time, because it's scary."

She said the children are frightened, and don't understand what is happening.

Frightened women just want to get home: Joelle Kahwaji and her kids wants to leave war-torn Lebanon and come back to Coguitlam, while Shirley Weiner yearns to r....

"It's especially scary for the kids, because they are very young and they don't know about war. I don't know how to explain it to them."

She said some shops have closed, but others remain open, and she can get what she needs by driving five to 10 kilometres, although things like diapers and baby formula are getting scarce.

Although her sister has the fifth floor of the building the family is staying in, Kahwaji and her children are sleeping on couches in a small building in the garden.

"It's safer for the kids," she said. "We have one glass window, but it's small and we sleep far away from it and we keep it open for the night."

She can't get through to the Canadian embassy and has not heard when they will be evacuated, but after hearing about the dockside mob scenes on Wednesday, she's in no rush.

"I was told that thousand of people are sitting there waiting their turn," she said. "I can't do it with my three kids, so I'm staying home."

Home is where Weiner looks forward to returning next week. Last Sunday, she was planning to hold a memorial service for her late husband, but the rockets changed all that.

"When we woke up Sunday morning, we were just wandering around the apartment, and before the first sirens went off, there were six very, very loud boom," she said.

"We ran down to the shelter on the bottom floor of the building."

One of the rockets hit a nearby train station, killing several rail workers.

Her building has 24 units, and the tenants include a number of recently arrived Russian families, so the shelter was crowded.

"We stayed about three-quarters of an hour, and when it was very quiet, we went back up to the apartment. No sooner had we had a cup of tea, it went bang again."

That was around 10:30, and she spent another hour in the shelter. In all, she was in the shelter four times on Sunday, before leaving with her daughter and son-in-law for Jerusalem to fly out the next day.

"Amazingly enough, Jerusalem was quiet and safe," she said. "Usually it isn't, so it was quite ironic for us to be running to Jerusalem."

She's enjoying her holiday, but when she spoke to her daughter in Haifa Wednesday night, she felt the pull of home.

"I said, 'I feel very guilty to have come away,' because I have grandchildren in the army, so she told me what each one is doing."

Although things are quieter in Haifa, "there's still a lot of running up and down [to the bomb shelter]."

Still, she's looking forward to returning.

"I'd rather be there," she said. "I want to be part of what's going on."

mbridge@png.canwest.com

Load-Date: July 21, 2006

Frightened women just want to get home: Joelle Kahwaji and her kids wants to leave war-torn Lebanon and come back to Coquitlam, while Shirley Weiner yearns to r....



READERS WRITE

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

May 3, 2006 Wednesday

Main Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 14A

Length: 712 words

Byline: JULIE MISSROON, GREGORY G. GIRTMAN, PATRICK MALONE, JON SINTON, JERE DEVORE,

SHAUL LAVAN

Body

Stone Mountain

Responses to "Carving out ideas for Stone Mountain," Metro, May 2

Not amused by proposal

I just read about Stone Mountain going "amusement theme park" on us. I grew up in Stone Mountain. I go now with my kids to the laser show just about every weekend that it is open. I take the kids once a week to climb the mountain.

The kids love it that they can see Atlanta and on a clear day see Kennesaw Mountain. This gets them out of the house, away from the television. But I will not continue to go if they turn this into an amusement park. Please do not turn this place of beauty into another attraction to make more money.

JULIE MISSROON, Snellville

Draw the line at the latest overdose of entertainment

For many years I took my family to Stone Mountain very often for a nice day of picnicking, bicycle riding, walking the trails and quiet relaxing. Now everyone has to be entertained, or worse, extremely entertained.

It was bad enough when the laser shows were started. Now we have to have another Disney or Six Flags-type invasion in a state park so the I-pod, computerized, cellphone and Playstation generation may have larger and larger visual entertainment.

Twenty years from now, Gen. Robert E. Lee will have a lighted blinking nose. Some time, somewhere, one of us has to put a foot down and say, "No more!"

READERS WRITE

JERE DEVORE, Sandy Springs

Radio network offers balance

A recent letter writer attempted to forward the myth that liberals have had "the public discourse pretty much to themselves for decades" ("Threat makes liberals uncomfortable," @issue, April 27). Actually, the opposite is true.

The major broadcast networks and cable channels are owned by huge conservative corporations that were very slow to challenge the Bush administration on the rationale for the war in Iraq and runaway deficit spending.

In the 18 years since Rush Limbaugh took to the airwaves and lemming broadcasters everywhere followed suit with the now scores of conservative gabbers, talk radio has been the private domain of conservative and neoconservative thinking and expression. Through their hateful speech, they have consistently branded liberals as un-American and most American women as "femiNazis" and practiced the politics of character assassination.

We started Air America Radio in 2004 to provide a little balance and a little light. Our hope is that we are long on facts and short on hate with a bent toward entertainment.

JON SINTON

Sinton is co-founder of Air America Radio Inc.

Illegal immigration

Take back our country, a little at a time

President Bush has said it is not logistically feasible to deport the millions of illegal immigrants who are here now. Why not? So it may take decades to achieve such a feat. It took decades for them to get here, so what is the difference?

Everyone in government makes it seem that deportation is something the people want to happen overnight or in a month or so. This is not the case.

GREGORY G. GIRTMAN, Sharpsburg

Smooth sailing Monday a welcome reprieve

Monday's illegal alien protest was very educational. My day was no different than any other, so I have concluded that I can live without illegal aliens.

The businesses that closed must depend on illegal aliens, so I will no longer patronize those establishments. I would like to thank all the illegals for their help Monday.

PATRICK MALONE, Snellville

Ignore Iran's worldwide threat at our peril

Rosa Brooks claimed that the next Middle East war will be between Iran and Israel ("Israel, Iran in war mode; U.S. tied up," @issue, May 2). She hypes prospects of a pre-emptive Israeli attack. However, Israel has shown a very low-key response to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's repeated calls to destroy Israel.

The real agenda of the Iranian regime is clear from a senior cleric's boast that one bomb would do the job, because of Israel's tiny size. That it would destroy all the holy sites in Jerusalem, and all the Palestinians too, is irrelevant to them.

READERS WRITE

Iran is a threat not only to Israel, or even the United States. It threatens Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. It has threatened Europe. It trains terror groups from <u>Hezbollah</u> to Hamas to Islamic Jihad. Ignoring its rhetoric may be as dangerous as ignoring Hitler's. The quandary is what to do about it.

SHAUL LAVAN, Atlanta

Graphic

Photo: "County Fair," a traditional theme park, is one of the concepts proposed for Stone Mountain Park. Officials for the company that oversees the attractions call the proposals only "market research."

Load-Date: May 3, 2006



Lebanon's pain seen in a mother's heartbreak; Middle East Crisis

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 26, 2006 Wednesday

Fourth Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 8

Length: 704 words

Byline: Paul McGeough Chief Herald Correspondent in Beirut

Body

A MOTHER shrieks in despair. She has been put on a boat to take her away from this Lebanese hell, but her two children are stuck on the dock. And nobody does a thing.

There was no blood and guts, no collapsed apartment building, no pillars of smoke. But these BBC images from the southern city of Tyre are among the most heart-breaking to come out of Israel's collective punishment of the Lebanese people and the systematic destruction of their country.

It was the last small boat to safety. As Tyre reels under the impossible weight of a refugee crisis across the border region, an Israeli naval cordon was eased on Monday to allow in a German aid shipment. The empty vessel was enlisted to evacuate refugees.

What would it have taken to grab the children - two minutes? But the window allowed by the Israelis was closing fast and, the troops managing the operation said, this had to be the very last small boat to ferry refugees to the German ship moored offshore.

The stony-faced soldiers ordered the small boat to motor away, ignoring the mother's hysteria and angry demands from the dock that they return for the boys, aged about 12 and three. They too were inconsolable. Their grandmother was still with them because she too had failed to get aboard. They had cold comfort from a Lebanese policeman, who told them: "Don't worry; there'll be another boat to Cyprus in a day or two."

Diplomatic efforts to halt the war are making slow progress as the US presses for "an enduring" peace, rather than an immediate ceasefire. So intense Israeli air and ground attacks continue.

Tyre's volunteer ambulance service was suspended after an air strike on two of its vehicles as they swapped the injured from three generations of the one family at a rendezvous between two local towns.

A medic, Qasim Chaalan, said he thought he had died after the first missile hit. Piece by piece, he noticed that he was still there, inside the ambulance.

Another medic fumbled for the radio and began: "We have an accident ..." He didn't finish the sentence. A second missile smashed into the ambulance behind them. "When we were driving in the ambulance before, we did not feel we are safe 100 per cent," Mr Chaalan told the Los Angeles Times from hospital on Monday. "But now it's direct on us."

And there is a new menace for civilians on the battlefield. The New York-based group Human Rights Watch says it has evidence that the Israelis are using US-made cluster bombs.

Those who can flee make for Tyre or Beirut, arriving with just the clothes they have on at schools that become refugee centres.

At a makeshift refuge in the basement car park of a city supermarket, 32-year-old Hasna Hjeij said: "It took us nine hours to get here. And our village, Der Quntar [near Bint Jbeil, the focus of the Israeli attacks], looks like it has been through a 20-year war. Houses, the mosque and the school have been demolished. We have lost count of the dead."

At a nearby school 20-year-old Abass Majid relived the journey north from the village of Basoria, near Tyre. "Twenty-three people were killed. They were driving in the cars and trucks ahead of us when they were attacked. The blood was still wet when we found them ... the bodies were scattered on the road."

Earlier in Beirut, the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, had tried to put a human face on Washington's seeming neglect of Lebanon by announcing a \$US30 million (\$40 million) contribution to a United Nations emergency appeal for \$US150 million.

Estimating that up to 800,000 Lebanese had been displaced by the fighting, the UN's crisis co-ordinator, Jan Egeland, warned: "The situation is very bad and deteriorating by the day."

Describing the bombing of entire city blocks of flats in the capital's southern suburbs as "a violation of humanitarian law", he also condemned the <u>Hezbollah</u> militia for using civilians as a human shield: "They must stop this cowardly blending ... among <u>women</u> and children."

Israel's Public Security Minister, Avi Dichter, responded to criticism of the high toll among Lebanese civilians, saying: "A war is not a surgical operation ... you see a cement truck and from the air it looks just like a Katyushas truck. Sometimes from the air you hit the wrong target."

Graphic

THREE PHOTOS: Under fire ... the roof of an ambulance seen in a Red Cross video, smashed and pockmarked after the Israeli air strike. Photo: AP; Inconsolable ... children left on the wharf, above, and below, Lebanese and UN soldier search for bodies in Tyre. Photos: BBC, AFP

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



<u>Lebanese vote has little passion: Fervour raised by Syrian presence is largely gone</u>

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

May 30, 2005 Monday

National Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. A12; Matthew Fisher

Length: 773 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, National Post

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT - Banners with uplifting campaign slogans and giant photographs of Rafik Hariri, the recently assassinated former prime minister and his son, Saad, who seeks to inherit his father's mantle, were suspended above every major thoroughfare yesterday in what was once grandly known as the Paris of the Middle East.

There was also a lot of political noise generated by irritating hucksters who raced around town from dawn until dusk screaming the merits of the Hariri family and other politicians through loudspeakers mounted on the roofs of fleets of battered old cars.

Despite the hullabaloo, Beirut's smart cafe society has responded tepidly to Western-backed parliamentary elections that began in Beirut yesterday and are to end in the north of the country on June 19. So, too, have the much more conservative Christian and Muslim inhabitants of the mountain and valley villages that surround the Lebanese capital on three sides.

The closest election races have pitted Christians on Mount Lebanon against each other, but only in the predominately Shia Bekaa Valley has there been much political buzz. Even there it was almost entirely manufactured by well-organized *Hezbollah* cadres boasting, as always, about how they will never abandon their armed struggle against Israel and the United States -- a position that makes millions of more rational Lebanese despair of ever achieving the kind of lasting peace that will allow their tiny country to begin to tackle its daunting economic, social and communal problems.

After the intense passions that seized the country in the weeks following Mr. Hariri's death only three months ago, foreign journalists who have gathered here in large numbers for the election have been nonplussed by the pervasive political apathy that they have found. The Lebanese themselves wonder what happened to the millions of men, <u>women</u> and children who took to the streets to blame Syria for Mr. Hariri's murder and demand that the army that Damascus sent to occupy Lebanon several decades ago go home.

There has hardly been a campaign, at least in any way that Westerners might understand. There have been speeches and little talk of platforms or ambitions much beyond meaningless platitudes about peace and prosperity.

Lebanese vote has little passion: Fervour raised by Syrian presence is largely gone

Ignoring the throngs of demonstrators who not only wanted the Syrians out, but a government free, once and forever, of sectarian influences, Lebanon's old political guard, made up almost entirely of the grey men who have led Lebanon's many religious armies and political parties through decades of civil war, quickly returned to business as usual.

That has meant a series of elaborate secret negotiations that might have even made Paul Martin and Belinda Stronach blush. The first fruits of their backroom deals were that the winners in nine of Beirut's 19 ridings were acclaimed yesterday, as will be a dozen or more other members of parliament as the rest of the country votes over the next three Sundays.

These scuzzy arrangements have guaranteed that Lebanon's creaky political status quo will remain intact for several more years at least, albeit probably with Mr. Hariri's untried 35-year- old son as the prime minister.

Although Saad Hariri, who has probably spent more of his life in Saudi Arabia, where the family's major business interests are, than in Lebanon, is undoubtedly going to win a huge sympathy vote triggered by his father's death, he will not have a free hand.

Saad Hariri, who is Sunni, is already a prisoner of half a dozen paralyzing alliances with other religious factions. To gain power more such agreements will undoubtedly have to be negotiated before and perhaps after voting is completed.

The national unity that was shown after the senior Hariri's death was remarkable because Lebanon's 16 religious communities are as noted for their clannish infighting as their inability to get along with what might best be described as Lebanon's other tribes.

In private conversations last week the country still mostly spoke with one voice, but the message had changed a bit.

"We hate what has happened to our revolution," they said, "but we remain powerless to do anything about it."

It is far too early to state with conviction that Lebanon's so-called Cedar Revolution has petered out after only achieving one of its two goals -- to be rid of the Syrians. But it is surely dead if the Lebanese people have convinced themselves that they cannot shape their own destiny.

Ukraine's Orange Revolution and Georgia's Rose revolution succeeded because their supporters stayed the course. Such willpower does not exist in Lebanon today. Perhaps it never really did and never really will.

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Adnan Hajj, Reuters; Saad Hariri is hamstrung by old alliances.

Load-Date: May 30, 2005



U.S and Britain step up evacuations; Hostilities displace half-a-million people

The International Herald Tribune
July 20, 2006 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 821 words

Byline: Brian Knowlton

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Large-scale evacuations of American and British nationals from Lebanon began in earnest on Wednesday, as France called for the establishment of "humanitarian corridors" within Lebanon and over the sea to Cyprus, where thousands of weary, distraught foreigners are gathering.

U.S. and European countries have dispatched more than 20 military and commercial ships to aid in the evacuation, one of the largest in recent times.

But thousands of Lebanese and foreigners continued to take the risky overland journey to Syria against the advice of Western diplomats.

The hostilities between Israel and *Hezbollah* militants have displaced an estimated half-million people.

In Paris, President Jacques Chirac urged the opening of "humanitarian corridors" to ease the movement of those seeking safety.

The U.S. evacuation effort, criticized for a slow start, began what officials called "a dramatic ramp-up" on Wednesday. The State Department, after days of angry grumbling from U.S. nationals and several legislators, had said Tuesday that it was waiving a legal requirement that Americans be billed for evacuation costs.

A British government spokesman in London also promised that departures would be "stepped up considerably." Italy, France and Spain had moved hundreds of nationals out by Tuesday.

The U.S.-chartered cruise ship Orient Queen left Beirut on Wednesday with 900 passengers, most of them Americans. The ship and its naval escort left later than expected, as they waited for Americans who had registered to depart but were struggling to reach the port.

On Thursday, as what eventually will be a nine-ship U.S. Navy group swings into operation, at least 2,000 Americans are expected to be picked up; that number is set to double on Friday. The Pentagon said it was contracting for use of a second cruise ship with a capacity of up to 1,200 passengers.

Six big CH-53 helicopters continued to shuttle between Beirut and Cyprus, now carrying more than 200 passengers a day. Officials estimate that more than one-fifth of the 25,000 Americans in Lebanon are trying to leave.

U.S and Britain step up evacuations Hostilities displace half-a-million people

The British destroyer Gloucester reached the Cypriot port of Limassol with 180 people, mostly <u>women</u> and children, after an overnight journey from Beirut. The aircraft carrier Illustrious and the assault ship Bulwark will allow a vastly larger second round of evacuations.

The British government has said it will take some 5,000 nationals out by week's end.

The French frigate Jean-de-Vienne arrived off Beirut, and the Mistral, a huge helicopter carrier able to accommodate more than 3,000 civilian passengers, left the port of Toulon for the four-day trip to the Lebanese coast.

The government in Berlin said that 3,000 Germans a number higher than previously reported had gathered at a Beirut convention center to await evacuation aboard 50 to 60 buses planning to travel to Damascus.

Convoys of cars, vans and buses have jammed roads to Syria, even as Western diplomats have urged their nationals to avoid the overland passage, struck repeatedly by Israeli bombs and missiles.

U.S. and British officials said they were particularly eager to get their nationals out of southern Lebanon, where travel is riskiest and dangers are greatest. Both recommended that people stay in place until contacted by officials; anyone who has not registered their presence with embassies is urged to do so immediately. About 90 Britons were stranded in the south, the Independent of London reported.

The Australian ambassador, Lyndal Sachs, said that there were 400 Australian families in the south, and added that some had "expressed grave concern" that they lacked food and water, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

In Cyprus, the shortage of hotel rooms and of outbound flights was becoming problematic. U.S. diplomats lined up hotel rooms and schools, and rented a fairground for a spillover camp. American officials praised the Cypriots for accommodating the huge and sudden influx, meeting planes and helicopters with sandwiches and juice.

The State Department spokesman, Sean McCormack, confirmed that the government would not, after all, bill Americans for evacuation costs.

"In this extraordinary case, Secretary Rice has directed the State Department to waive the requirement," he said. "Today's step removes one potential worry for our citizens at this difficult time."

The U.S. Embassy remains open, but has authorized family members and non-emergency American employees to leave Lebanon. U.S. officials had telephoned those chosen to leave on the Orient Queen early Wednesday, The Associated Press reported, telling them to gather in northern Beirut to board buses.

There were tears as relatives dropped off departing Americans, many of Lebanese descent. "I'm so relieved, there are no words to explain," said Elizabeth Kassab, 45, sitting on the deck of the Queen Orient. "But I'm still nervous, and I won't relax until we get out of here."

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



Canada set to begin Lebanon evacuations

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

July 19, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A8

Length: 790 words

Byline: Juliet O'Neill, with files from Kirsten Smith, Ottawa Citizen, Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service,

CanWest News Service

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

OTTAWA -- About 2,000 anxious Canadians were set to escape the violence in Lebanon today in the fi rst wave of a government-organized mass evacuation via cruise ships to Turkey and Cyprus and then fl ights home to Canada.

After several days of frustration and allegations that the Canadian evacuation plan was too slowly organized, the Canadian Embassy in Beirut began Tuesday notifying some of the 25,000 Canadians registered in Lebanon to turn up near the port of Beirut in the early hours today to begin their journeys home.

Israel offered assurances of safe passage and Turkey, where most of the fi rst wave of evacuees are headed, pledged to facilitate the entry and passage of the Canadians, many of whom were caught during their summer holidays in the con- fl ict between Israel and the Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> militant groups in Gaza and Lebanon, respectively.

The government chartered seven vessels to transport Canadian families to the port of Larnaca, Cyprus, a four-hour trip, and the port of Mersin, Turkey, about an eighthour trip. It also chartered an unspecified number of aircraft from Air Canada and other carriers to fly families home from both countries. Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Tuesday the evacuation will be the largest in this country's history.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said Monday that six cruise ships had been chartered, each with a capacity of 600 to 900 passengers. Other reports quoted Foreign Affairs offi cials saying up to 4,500 Canadians per day could be transported, but the capacity of the seven vessels was described by Foreign Affairs offi cials Tuesday as "more than 2,000." No explanation of the apparently lower number was provided.

"All costs related to the evacuation of Canadian citizens from Lebanon will be borne by the government of Canada," said a notice issued by the Canadian Embassy in Beirut. By contrast, reports said U.S. citizens had to sign papers promising to repay their evacuation costs.

Most of the first wave of Canadians out are expected to be taken today to Turkey.

The first group was told to assemble near the Beirut port at 4 a.m., with the fi rst vessel scheduled to depart four hours later.

Canada set to begin Lebanon evacuations

The news was a relief to Omar El- Harrache, of Montreal, whose wife and three children had been vacationing in Tripoli and are expected home in the first wave. He has spent several anxious days worried his family would be separated because only his infant daughter is a Canadian citizen; the rest of the family are permanent residents.

"I am grateful, not just for our family but for the many families," he said.

Whether the evacuees would arrive in Toronto, Montreal or both, and exactly when, are among the details yet undetermined, as of Tuesday. It is also not known whether everyone will immediately fl y home or have to stay overnight, said Foreign Affairs spokesperson Pamela Greenwell.

She said the seven vessels "will be used continuously, day after day, to evacuate all Canadians who wish to leave Lebanon." "As most of Europe's fl ights and hotels are booked, due to summer holidays, we are routing our planes back to Canada," she added.

Foreign Affairs offi cials were not provided with a high level of detail about the evacuation, but a media briefi ng is expected today after the evacuation is underway.

The government estimates 50,000 Canadians either live in or are visiting Lebanon. Since those registered with the government doubled to more than 25,000 since fi ghting with Israel broke out a week ago, the government assumes many thousands want to leave.

"We're working around the clock with Canadians on the ground so that the evacuation can proceed as quickly and effi ciently as possible," Greenwell said.

Liberal MP Raymonde Folco, who had criticized the government for a slow response, changed her tune Tuesday after notices went out to her contacts in Beirut.

"It's starting to work," she said of the evacuation plan. She understood families would not be broken up, although the ill, injured, elderly, **women** and children were to be given fi rst priority.

The Turkish Embassy said it responded swiftly and positively to a request Monday from Canadian authorities to use the port of Mersin and Adana Airport for the evacuation effort.

"Turkish border authorities are notified to ensure the easy entry of the evacuees into Turkey and facilitate their passage," the embassy said in a statement.

Defence Department spokesperson Capt. Stephanie Godin said a 15-member contingency planning assistance team had been sent to the embassy to help the evacuation.

"That team consists of military experts in the areas of planning, logistics, security and communications, " she said.

Large-scale evacuations by British, American and French governments are also underway.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Getty Images; Lebanese-Canadians hold their Canadian passports Tuesday in Zahle city as Canadian nationals get ready for evacuation

Load-Date: July 19, 2006



Vegetarian green light

The Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

October 25, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: GOOD LIFE; Pg. 14

Length: 766 words **Byline:** Alison Walsh

Body

Eating vegetables has become sexy as decades of prejudice dissolves, writes Alison Walsh

'VEGETARIANS, and their <u>Hezbollah</u>-like splinter faction, the vegans, are a persistent irritant to any chef worth a damn," ranted American chef Anthony Bourdain in his best-selling autobiography Kitchen Confidential, which has just been made into a TV series in the US.

They are "the enemy of everything good and decent in the human spirit, an affront to all I stand for, the pure enjoyment of food", he wrote.

He's not alone in his thinking, with chefs widely known to grumble about having to create special dishes for vegetarians.

British uber-chef Gordon Ramsay told an interviewer a few years ago that the last time he lied was when he told a group of vegetarians there was vegetable stock in his artichoke soup but it was chicken.

Naturally, vegetarians were outraged. But the restaurant scene is changing and even Ramsay has added an eight-course vegetarian tasting menu at his flagship Chelsea restaurant, written a chapter about vegetarian food in his latest cookbook and spoken out about how embarrassingly poor a lot of vegetarian food is in many restaurants.

The British restaurant trade magazine Restaurant devoted its May issue this year to vegetarian food, noting that "vegetarians are no longer seen as worthy bores, and their new-found discernment is being catered for at the top of the trade".

Restaurateurs have noted that even meat eaters are increasingly keen to order lighter, vegetarian dishes.

Maureen Collier, the secretary/treasurer of the Vegetarian and Vegan Society of Queensland, says while there are not necessarily any more vegetarian restaurants in Brisbane, she's found mainstream restaurants increasingly willing to prepare suitable food, particularly if they are rung in advance.

"It's more acceptable now and chefs generally have a good idea of what's expected," she says. "They are happy to oblige and often go out of their way to do something special."

The society defines a vegetarian as a person who eats no meat, chicken, fish or seafood while a vegan eats no meat, seafood, eggs or dairy, avoids wearing clothes or accessories made from animal products and tries not to use products derived from or tested on animals, for example, honey.

Vegetarian green light

New health research has found a vegetarian diet can help control weight. <u>Women</u> who eat little or no meat were less likely to be overweight than their more carnivorous peers, according to research at the Tufts University in Boston that was published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition in June.

Dietitians Association of Australia's Kate Di Prima says planning is the key to a healthy vegetarian or vegan diet to ensure the essential nutrients are gained from a wide variety of foods.

She said legumes, tofu and a range of "not-meat" legume-based products are excellent protein replacements. "But you need a good vitamin C with iron alternatives, for example a ripe tomato with a lentil burger or a fruit salad afterwards. Iron is locked up in vegetarian forms of protein and the vitamin C helps its absorption."

The Vegetarian and Vegan Society is taking part in World Vegan Day with celebrations at Orleigh Park in West End, on October 30. The public is invited to join in. Check www.vegsoc.org.au for details and information and recipes for a vegetarian/vegan diet.

SWEET POTATOES WITH ASPARAGUS AND PESTO

Serves four

4 small sweet potatoes, preferably thin ones

2 bunches (about 450g) asparagus (thick spears are best)

2 ripe tomatoes, cut in half

For the marinade:

2 tbs olive oil

2 tbs tamari (gluten-free soy sauce)

2 tbs water

Good dash of Tabasco sauce

1 tbs balsamic vinegar

To serve:

Pesto

Greek or sheep's milk yoghurt

Mix all the marinade ingredients together in a large bowl. Peel the potatoes and score them all over with a sharp knife. Cut into slices no more than 1cm thick, then place in with the marinade for 10 minutes. Grill on a medium heat for 15-17 minutes. As the potato slices start to soften, brush them with some of the remaining marinade. Baste the asparagus with more of the marinade and place on the grill, medium heat for two or three minutes on each side.

Place the tomatoes on the hotplate of the barbecue (or straight on the grill). This will allow you to bash them about a bit with a wooden spoon so they burst, release their juices and turn almost to a sauce. You can plate this before serving, a few potato slices per person, topped with the asparagus and the bashed tomato. A spoonful of pesto on top and a dollop of yoghurt.

Recipe from Enjoy -- New Veg by Nadine Abensur, Penguin, \$39.95 www.nadineabensur.com

Load-Date: October 24, 2005



TEXT MANIACS

Daily Star
July 28, 2006 Friday
U.K. 1st Edition

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Section: LW; 54 Length: 708 words

Body

To all players in MIDDLE EAST:

This year is 2006. The 10th Century has gone - and not one among you has made ANY PROGRESS WHATSOEVER. You have failed. The Athiest Why all the sympathy for <u>Hezbollah</u> supporters who STARTED this fight? Spider Bush & Blair start world war 3? No way! Arabs started it by putting the price of our oil up! Billy & Mandy NEARLY GBP 1 A LITRE FOR FUEL?

THIS COUNTRYS BLEEDIN ME DRY. COCKY, WORSLEY im on the 6.35 reading 2 manchester train and the heating is ON!

can anybody from virgin trains text in and explain y? andy from reading TO DR: So postal charges are too high? Here's 32p, can you get this letter from London to Aberdeen by 8am tomorrow please? MAK if royal mail didn't charge you ridiculous prices, i wouldn't be able to afford my EVERTON season ticket! DANNY CAROLIN, WIDNES am 34 weeks preg, av worked since i left school nd am gettin nowt off gov nd am down to 106 quid a week maternity pay, yet dole wollers are better off than me! am bein punished for payin my way and wantin a family! preggers nd poor!

2 unwanted dad. You should pay for your children whether you see them or not, it's people like you make MY tax bill high. PAUL, BILLINGE i'm sick of people getting in my cab crying poverty, try doing this job. MR J HOLIAN 2 Andy Pem the cameras on my truck work perfect in the dark, try switching it 2 night mode. kev, devon To dave hall, the annoying beepers you refer to are there for your safety. The idea is if you don't see the sodding great vehicle reversing then you'll hear it! white van with beeper driver re slow oaps. during a driving test u can fail 4 "not making progress" this should b law. Isn, cheshire to binge - im 73, race u any time!

pmck Matt pompey spot on, prince Harry a man's man beer & birds.

VILLA LION From whom does Prince Harry inherit his red hair from? Cathy Did any1 else think Beckham in his swim pants looked like George Michael? Steph.

Why not really p off traffic wardens? leave your wipers on fast wipe when you park your car illegally.

MULLET, NOTTINGHAM Can all DRIVERS of any motorised transport stick their hypocritical mouths over their exhausts then blame SMOKERS for Heart disease/Lung Cancer, etc! Puffa Puffa Weed (The Cereal Smoker) I DONT SMOKE, DRINK OR DO DRUGS. I EAT HEALTHY FOOD N DRINK ONLY WATER. I AV NEVA FELT SO

TEXT MANIACS

CR*P N BORED. GET OFF R BAKS BLAIR! SHELLEY, WAKEFIELD i am sick of comments like "dumb blonde". I want it banned especially crap blonde jokes. Its not even true and is nasty and offensive. emma HIXXY agree wif u.

Bin raves al over.

Peeps fun n friendly. Get more bov in r local. GLO STIK POSSE, GT YARM To right hixxy, bring back the rave generation, smile n b happy. Dougal TO RUMBLEFISH, i also think bryan adams is awesome, but who did he sign for after arsenal? martin stringvest 2 CATMAN bad teeth worse! like a guy with a nice smile nice eyes nice bum. u measure up? lynn I love bald heads on fellas, well sexy. but bad teeth yuk! kimberly re. dave sheff i wear shorts and shoes, u have no style! Peter Msg 2 bloke we dnt uz predictive txt so we dnt uz a lot o space & otha ppl cn txt in! MENTAL MICKEY still trying make this hat, need a easy one next time. 3 builders Thanks for the sun hat, kept me cool but had to look in mirror all day to see what was on tv! Dan, Hull As wicked as the series is, hands up if you r as Lost as me. PAU L lass who presents. . summers CBBC 4 BBC 1, her voices is enuff 2 send u 2 asleep. get rid. SARAH AGED 10 c.Mon bb put our nikki back in the house u no u want 2. that wud wipe grin off ghetto girl's face. m haycock mikey off bb, im ashamed hes from liverpool the t*t! shaun, huyton Why vote nikki out if she is put back in? money wasted. billabong Pete in BB7 is just being himself and shining now all those silly women clawing him have gone so DONT put Nikki back in. Pete is stronger without her. Anorexia Verbosa, LINCS get plastic susie out, does my head in. DAWN, L/POOL to frances. I couldnt agree more. I dont watch eggheads now or the screen would be in grave danger. josie ALL THE BEST TO ROD HULL JNR AND EMU. PAUL BURNS N E 1 else remember the cartoons dangermouse and thundercats?

Absolute classics. COTTYOVSTOKE Best team in Wacky Races was Ant Hill Mob. Anyone agree? Simon ov da Toon

Load-Date: July 28, 2006



Measuring the ripples

Guardian.com March 11, 2005

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theguardian

Length: 1274 words

Highlight: It is premature to link positive changes in the Middle East to the triumph of democracy and freedom, or

to the war in Iraq, writes .lan Black.

Body

It was sometime in the 1970s when Zhou Enlai, the Chinese prime minister, was asked what he thought of the French revolution of 1789. It was, went his apocryphal reply, far too early to say. Caution is also needed, as Britain's foreign secretary, Jack Straw, admitted this week, in assessing the effect of the invasion of Iraq and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Two centuries is a long time to wait to make up your mind about anything, and anyway, everyone can already see that there really is something like the "ripple of change" across the Middle East that Tony Blair spoke of recently. Others have used images of waves or winds - like the one Harold Macmillan said was bringing decolonisation to Africa - but all bear freedom.

Iraq has been transformed by the demise of the Ba'athist regime, while Palestinian elections have produced a new leadership. Now, anti-Syrian demonstrations have shaken Lebanon, and there have been stirrings of reform in Egypt and even Saudi Arabia.

Supporters of the Iraq war, especially US neoconservative politicians and policymakers, feel vindicated by what President George Bush has called this "critical mass" of events, and cheered by some soul-searching from their bitterest critics.

Yet even as Mr Bush talks loftily of "freedom's march", some notes of caution are being sounded: democracy, the president warned, cannot be imposed by outsiders. And with so much to play for in the Middle East it is clearly not a good idea to sound either too triumphal or too impatient.

Not surprisingly, however, there are deep disagreements about whether it was the Iraq war that triggered these changes (some, in Qatar and Morocco, took place before it), whether they are linked in a sort of reverse "domino theory" of democratisation, and what they all mean.

Iraq's troubles, first of all, are far from over. And that is not just the view of those who are still angry at a reckless act justified by a false link with September 11 - the search for non-existent weapons of mass destruction - which caused terrible suffering to the Iraqi people and opened a deadly new jihadist front against the west.

Measuring the ripples

Only the other day over 120 Iraqis queuing for medical tests to join the security forces died in a single devastating suicide bomb attack in Hilla - powerful evidence that the insurgency has not gone away. Assassinations of policemen and officials are routine. The tasks of putting together a new government and writing a constitution still have a long way to go.

If Iraq is a mess, and a highly dangerous one at that, no one has yet worked out how to deal with neighbouring Iran's nuclear ambitions, even if another war and regime change seem to have slipped off the US agenda in favour of European diplomacy.

Also pre-dating the Iraqi polls, and because of the death of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian elections have produced an encouraging outcome which not even the White House is claiming credit for. Arafat's replacement by the pragmatic Mahmoud Abbas will have a good outcome only if Islamist violence is curbed and there is readiness in Israel to agree to the "viable" Palestinian state that is necessary for a workable peace settlement. That, in turn, will depend more on US pressure on Ariel Sharon than on any experiment with Arab democracy.

Progress in Saudi Arabia and Egypt - where for the first time Hosni Mubarak is to allow candidates to challenge for the presidency when he seeks his fifth term - is slow. Changes in both countries look like pre-emptive moves in the face of US pressure. That is not to say they do not have potential, especially if they encourage demands for further democratisation from within. It is to say, again, that these are early days.

Lebanon's "cedar revolution" - echoing the eastern European "velvet revolutions" of 1989 and the more recent "orange revolution" in Ukraine - looked thrilling. At least they did on TV, including satellite channels like Al-Jazeera that are watched by millions in the Arab and Muslim worlds. People power was certainly at work in response to the murder of the former prime minister, Rafiq Hariri.

But not all Lebanese people, it rapidly turned out, wanted the Syrians to leave. <u>Hizbullah</u>, the country's Shia Muslim political party-cum resistance movement which claimed credit for driving the Israelis out of the south, still wants Damascus to keep an eye on its smaller, vulnerable neighbour. And it encouraged huge crowds to make the point. Nor does it want to disarm and accept that the hated US, not a weakened, isolated Syria, calls the shots in the region these days.

The Lebanese were certainly affected by images of the voting in Iraq - giving a symbolic purple-stained finger to tyranny. But what has been happening in Beirut is more about nationalism than democracy. The agenda is an anti-Syrian one in which the underlying politics are still based on traditional confessional divisions. Free elections in May - if Syria's soldiers and secret policemen have left by then - are likely to prove that point.

Further afield, there are plenty of Middle Eastern regimes - Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan and Uzbekistan - where the winds of change have barely been felt because they have been backed by Washington for decades or have now become useful allies in the "global war on terror".

It would be fascinating to see, for example, how the US would react if Tunisia's repressive president, Zineddine Ben Ali, a modern Arab autocrat with a thin liberal veneer, were to face Islamist "people power".

Still, there are some important lessons to be learned from Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine: one is that the doom-mongers of the post 9/11 "clash of civilisations" school were wrong in claiming that Islam and democracy were fundamentally incompatible.

Another, especially for those Europeans who prided themselves on their superior and "realist" understanding of the Arab and Muslim countries they once ruled, is the danger of defending stability and cheap oil - Ba'athism, the Taliban, the House of Saud - at any price.

Britain, not for the first time, finds itself in mid-Atlantic bridging mode, interpreting the US to its EU partners, and trying to suggest a way ahead: "Faced with an American government of the right promoting a vision of how to change the world for the better, many on the left have become the staunchest advocates of the status quo," Straw argued on Thursday.

Measuring the ripples

"For them, President Bush's commitment to promoting freedom and democracy is simplistic; misguided; or .seen. as simply a veil for more sinister motives. The traditional positions of realists and idealists seem to have been reversed."

Several avenues are worth exploring: one is to think about Arab democracy without getting bogged down in disagreements about Iraq. It is right, surely, to acknowledge that good things can happen for bad reasons? No one, in any event, wants to see Saddam back in power.

Another is to look at more effective ways of encouraging change by helping Arab civil society; promoting <u>women</u>'s rights and independent media to exploit the fissures in brittle regimes. Economic growth will help underpin such initiatives. The EU's "Barcelona process" can make a useful contribution to education and training programmes.

Perhaps the most important need is for America and Europe to work together, not against each other. The US and France moved beyond mutual rancour over Iraq to jointly draw up the UN resolution demanding Syria quit Lebanon. If the old and new continents can cooperate to the same degree over Israel and Palestine, that could go a long way to helping build that "new Middle East" of which we hear so much - but have so far seen tantalisingly little.

Load-Date: May 17, 2005



In Focus

The Gazette (Montreal)

March 4, 2005 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 785 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

Bubbly return to Earth

Exhausted and struggling to stay awake after 67 hours in his cramped cockpit, millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, 60, touched down in Kansas yesterday to become the first person to fly solo nonstop around the world. Details, Page A13

Saudis squeeze Syrians

As pressure mounts on <u>Hezbollah</u> to join Lebanon's anti-Syria opposition, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah has told Syrian President Bashar Assad to pull his troops out of Lebanon quickly. Details, Page A12

Cleric jailed 30 months

An Indonesian court yesterday sentenced alleged terror leader Abu Bakar Bashir to 30 months in prison for conspiracy in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, but cleared him of more serious charges. Details, Page A13

Pedophilia trial opens

Background: From 1999 to 2002, in the French town of Angers, 45 children from 6 months to 14 years old were raped or sexually abused, prosecutors say.

New: Thirty-nine men and 27 <u>women</u> go on trial yesterday accused of offences against the children. Psychological counselling is being offered to the jurors and the six judges to help them cope with the sordid testimony.

Next: The trial is expected to last four months. Details, Page A16

DeSousa: I'll be frugal

Background: The former city of St. Laurent and the municipality of Merignac, France, signed an economic-exchange agreement in 1992.

In Focus

New: Alan DeSousa, mayor of the St. Laurent borough, plans to renew those ties during a trip to France that starts tomorrow. His itinerary also includes meetings in Paris with potential investors and promoting St. Laurent's industrial park at a business show in Cannes.

Next: The trip is budgeted to cost \$12,200, but DeSousa says the final bill won't exceed \$10,000. Details, Page A5

Berube family in agony

Background: Michel Berube is on trial for first-degree murder in the death of his wife, Tanya Buschman, in 2002. The Crown contends he tried to make the killing look like a suicide. The defence claims Buschman hanged herself.

New: Friends and family of Berube, a 38-year-old waiter, say they find it impossible to believe he killed his wife. One friend spoke yesterday about the agony Berube's family is going through.

Next: Today is the fourth day of jury deliberations on Berube's fate. Details, Page A7

CEGEP students warned

Education Minister Jean-Marc Fournier warned CEGEP students yesterday not to endanger their academic year through an indefinite strike. "We won't be giving out cheap diplomas," he said. Details, Page A7

Martin's right, Clark says

Background: Prime Minister Paul Martin announced this week Canada will not participate in the missile-defence system proposed by the Bush administration.

New: Former Progressive Conservative prime minister Joe Clark voices support for Martin's position, saying there are too many unanswered questions about the U.S. plan for Canada to get involved.

Next: Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper has yet to spell out his position on the missile defence shield. Details, Page A9

Business

Seeking a sweeter deal

An association representing Quebec's maple syrup producers is seeking \$40 million from the provincial government over the next five years to establish an insurance program to protect them against market price fluctuations. Details, Page B1

Bombardier: No decision

Bombardier yesterday denied it has already selected Montreal over three competing sites to assemble its proposed new CSeries passenger jet. Details, Page B1

Preview

A celebration of breasts

Back for its second year, the Mardi Bra Carnaval uses sexy Brazilian dancers, a lingerie fashion show and bodypainting to draw young people to a fundraiser that hopes to raise awareness about breast cancer. Details, Page D1

Rival film fest: No talks

When Moritz de Hadeln, head of the New Montreal FilmFest, arrives here next week, his No. 1 priority is striking a deal with the Festival du nouveau cinema, he says. However, his counterparts at the

In Focus

rival festival say they have no plans for negotiations. Details, Page D1

Leclerc TV bio 'a horror'

A four-part miniseries on the life of the late Felix Leclerc has stirred a wasp's nest of complaints, especially from the family of the late singer, who is revered in Quebec. Leclerc's daughter has called it "a horror." Details, Page D4

Sports

Barker knew it was time

Lloyd Barker retires after 15 years as a pro soccer player, 10 with the Impact. The fan favourite says he's healthy enough to continue playing, but knows it's time to move on. Details, Page C1

Injury ends Al's career

Alouettes' fullback Bruno Heppell knew his season was over that fateful day last September when his leg hyperextended beneath a pile of Montreal and Winnipeg players. But little could he imagine his career, too, was finished. Details, Page C1

Graphic

Photo: (Lloyd Barker retires after 15 years as a pro soccer player);

Photo: (Bubbly return to Earth)

Load-Date: March 4, 2005



Tiger tales

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

January 21, 2005 Friday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A17

Length: 810 words **Byline:** National Post

Body

Earlier this week, we criticized the federal government's indefensible reluctance to place the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) -- better known as the Tamil Tigers -- on its list of prohibited terrorist groups. As we noted, the group has cast Sri Lanka into a lengthy civil war that has killed 60,000 people, many by suicide bombings and other terrorist attacks. Since much of the Tigers' funding comes from Tamils living in Canada, the move to outlaw the LTTE would be more than mere symbolism: It would save lives.

So when federal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler met with this editorial board on Wednesday, the topic was at the top of our agenda. Our meeting began in promising fashion: Mr. Cotler spoke in high-flown terms about a "principled" approach to fighting terrorism, explaining the importance of "stat[ing] clearly, unequivocally that terrorism constitutes an assault on the security of a democracy and on the fundamental rights of its inhabitants."

Unfortunately, this commitment to principle seemed to evaporate when the discussion turned to the Tigers.

First, Mr. Cotler tried to carve out an exception to his "principled" strategy for fighting terror -- which he described as "a more contextualized approach.

"There has begun between the parties a peace process in which statements have been made by the Sri Lankan government almost suspending their judgment regarding the whole question of whether the Tamil organizations ... qualify for terrorism purposes," the Justice Minister explained. For Canada to render any definitive judgment about the Tigers, he concluded, would be wrong.

That is a strange argument for a veteran law professor to make. Any law student knows that a contract is void if a party enters into it under duress. Why should we accord legitimacy to the Tigers merely because their campaign of slaughter has forced the government of Sri Lanka to enter into negotiations?

Mr. Cotler went on to make an even stranger argument: that it may be too early to tell whether the Tigers actually qualify as a terrorist group. "You don't want to go ahead and engage in any kind of determination of an entity as being a terrorist entity unless you've got clear and unequivocal evidence," he said. But the Tigers' brutal campaign has been going on for more than two decades. Those who have lost family in the group's pre-dawn raids on Sri Lankan villages, in which Tigers slaughtered innocent <u>women</u> and children, might be intrigued to learn of this evidentiary shortfall.

Tiger tales

In trying to explain the government's reluctance to outlaw the Tigers without explicitly stating the obvious -- that it results from political pressures imposed by Tamil-Canadian constituencies in Canada's urban ridings -- Mr. Cotler dug himself an even deeper hole. On one hand, he claimed: "I'm not saying that because the preponderance of Sri Lankans in Canada happen to be Tamil, therefore we're not paying sufficient attention to [Sri Lanka's] Sinhalese [majority]." But in another breath, he candidly acknowledged: "The Sri Lankans who are living in Canada are ... Tamils, for the most part, I'd say about 80%. And you know, Toronto I think has the largest number of Tamils in the Tamil diaspora than anywhere else outside of Sri Lanka, so we've got to be very careful just in terms of our own relationships."

As far as we can decipher, Mr. Cotler's point is that political considerations are never on the government's mind when such important decisions are being made -- except when they are.

The low point came when Mr. Cotler tried to suggest that outlawing the Tigers might somehow represent a racist smear on all Tamils. In a statement of the obvious, he opined: "You've got to be very careful in terms of criminalization because you don't want to engage in any kind of stereotypical indictment of a community as a whole." But, of course, no one is proposing to persecute Tamil-Canadians. Indeed, it is largely for their benefit that Tiger fundraising should be outlawed, since it would help end the extortionate tactics used by the Tigers' Canadian bagmen to raise funds.

We have no illusions about what is happening. Mr. Cotler has a long-standing record of opposing terrorism in all its forms. We are sure that, if it were up to him, the Tigers would be placed alongside Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> on the government's list of prohibited groups. But the Justice Minister has been forced to accommodate the crass reality of electoral politics -- in particular, the Liberals' need to pander to ethnic constituencies, even when the values espoused by their most militant leaders clash head-on with hallowed Canadian "principles."

Mr. Cotler must do all in his power to convince his colleagues that this is one instance in which there are bigger issues at play than a few ethnic votes. If they don't agree, perhaps he should rethink whether this is a Cabinet he belongs in.

Load-Date: January 21, 2005



Bite-size columnettes not the same old ****

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

July 20, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: THIRD PAGE; Pg. A3; Les MacPherson

Length: 741 words

Byline: Les MacPherson, The StarPhoenix

Body

Tired of the same old newspaper columns going on and on forever about just one, tedious subject that might not even interest you? Try instead these bite-size columnettes. They're tasty, delicious and too small to choke on.

- - -

Life is fi lled with little disappointments. I have proof.

The other day, for example, I was driving along the riverbank when I saw, far in the distance, a woman jogging. I knew it was a woman because she was wearing a black sports bra.

Hmmm, I thought. This would bear closer scrutiny. But strictly for scientific purposes, you understand. Here was a chance to test my theory it is mostly attractive **women** who jog in their sports bras.

Only when I was almost alongside her did I realize my grievous mistake. The jogger was manifestly not an attractive woman. In fact, it was not a woman at all. It was an old guy with a black, elastic heart monitor around his chest. He was probably recovering from angioplasty.

Hey, put a shirt on, gramps.

- - -

In spite of the safe return this week of space shuttle Discovery, the program looks like a continuing horror show.

Discovery was falling apart on the launch pad.

On the launch pad! The rigid foam insulation covering the huge fuel tank was visibly cracked. A chunk fell right off. This before liftoff. If the thing was falling apart just sitting there, what would happen at 25,000 miles an hour? Unbelievably, NASA characterized the problem as minor and pressed ahead with the launch. But wasn't it falling chunks of foam that led to the Columbia disaster? NASA has since spent more than \$1 billion trying to fi x the disintegrating foam, and still it was disintegrating. If the problem already caused one disaster, if it was worth spending a billion dollars to fi x, how could the shuttle be allowed to fl y when it manifestly was not fi xed? According to NASA, the piece of foam that fell off was less than half the size necessary to damage the shuttle. But wasn't this a warning that bigger pieces might shake loose in fl ight? I don't purport to be a rocket scientist, but I know a

Bite-size columnettes not the same old ****

Cessna pilot wouldn't even think about taking off if, in his pre-fl ight inspection, he saw chunks falling off his airplane. For NASA to ignore this fundamental of fl ight safety is an invitation to further disasters.

The next shuttle launch is scheduled for Aug. 28.

I can hardly bear to watch.

- - -

Still in international news, who would have imagined there were 50,000 Canadians in Lebanon? That's more Canadians than you'd find in many Canadian cities.

Evacuating those who want to leave is one problem. The other problem is where to put them all when they get to Canada. Most are dual citizens who haven't lived here in years. Where will they stay? The Field House?

- - -

Speaking of Lebanon, when U.S. President George Bush was caught the other day speaking privately into a live microphone, he bluntly articulated a formula for peace in Lebanon.

The solution, he said, is to "get Syria to get <u>Hezbollah</u> to stop doing this s***." Well said. What I'd like to know, however, is why the asterisks in s*** always go at the end.

Why is it never written as ***t, or **i*, or *h**? This would make guessing the bad word a little more of a challenge.

And why is it always the three asterisks? Why not two asterisks as in sh**, or one asterisk, as in shi*? This would make it too obvious, perhaps.

If the point is to protect sensitive readers, why not go with all asterisks, as in ****? Because even the most sensitive reader can decode the more customary s***.

- - -

On a totally different subject, something that never fails to irk me is radio ads urging us to "play" the lottery.

To play something suggests that skill is involved.

You play cards. You play golf. You play Scrabble.

The more skillful players usually prevail. But there's no skill that can improve your infi nitesimal odds of winning Lotto 649, say.

People who buy tickets are not playing the lottery. They're being played.

- - -

Panasonic this week unveiled the world's biggest plasma-screen TV. It features a screen almost eight feet wide.

Viewers will have to run back and forth to see the whole picture.

- - -

You can't be too safe.

For instance, when I went to buy some shaving cream the other day, I saw printed on the label: "This product has not been tested on animals." So I bought another brand.

Bite-size columnettes not the same old ****

I'd hate for the stuff to dissolve my face or something and then hear, "Well, we warned him it wasn't tested on animals." lmacpherson@sp.canwest.com

Load-Date: July 20, 2006