

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

Job Number: 223445050

## Documents (100)

1. [Counting Population Is Not a Competition](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

2. [2006 THE YEAR AT A GLANCE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

3. [Mourning Palestinians vow revenge: 18 civilians buried. Israeli PM blames technical failure for Gaza strike 'mistake'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

4. [The new walls of Jerusalem: Part 3 \\* From the West Bank, a circuitous road to market](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

5. [Two women shotdead by Israelis in Gaza siege](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

6. [Israeli Troops Kill 6 Palestinians in Second Straight Day of Fighting in Gaza Farming Town](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

7. [Turkey 's Military Boycotts Presidential Inauguration](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

8. [Handicapped kept as slaves](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

9. [Give the Poodle a chance at peace](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

10. [IN SEARCH OF MODERN ARABIA COLLEGE GRADS ARE LEAVING IN THE FACE OF VIOLENCE AND NIHILISM](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

11. [\*Red Mosque in Rebellion\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

12. [\*Forgotten lessons\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

13. [\*Why medical schools provide Islamic extremists with fertile recruiting grounds\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

14. [\*News Summary\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

15. [\*Upper-class bombers no surprise\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

16. [\*Blair's Mideast mission is more than just vanity\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

17. [\*Soon, elections will be won and lost on the internet\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

18. [\*That was the Week that Was...\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

19. [\*The Prestige Behind the Imperial Ethic\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

20. [\*Give moderate Islam a chance Morocco\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

21. [\*Islamic Democrats?\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

22. [\*Pulitzers' liberal legacy\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

23. [\*Pelosi's visit highlights hypocrisy\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

24. [\*Tarnished legacy clouds Sharon's 79th birthday\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

25. [\*Pelosi tours market in Damascus\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

26. [\*Israeli police chief steps down Country reeling after allegations of official misconduct\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

27. [News Summary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

28. [In Israel, Carter book not worthy of outrage](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

29. [If It's 'Apartheid,' Then Who's the Palestinian Mandela?](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

30. [To Gain Immigrants' Trust, Police Reach Out To African Imams, Revive Dormant Unit](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

31. [Moderate Islam May Be Key To Winning War on Terror](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

32. [News Summary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

33. [News Summary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

34. [Political cannibalism](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

35. [News Summary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

36. [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

37. [\*Tension precedes Emory U. visit by controversial speaker\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

38. [\*Greek Tragedy From the West Bank\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

39. [\*Canada can't be afraid to champion democracy\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

40. [\*Between Dust And Deliverance\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

41. [\*Democratization isn't a bad word\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007



42. [\*Between dust and deliverance\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

43. [\*There's little hope for Fourth Way in Arab world; Best and brightest are leaving Mideast to make their fortunes elsewhere\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

44. [\*Lebanon rebels to fight to the death\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

45. [\*Battle engulfs refugee camp\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

46. [\*Between dust and deliverance\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

47. [From bored youths to bombers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

48. [How terrorism finds root in the West](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

49. [Textiles pair do their bit for Mideast peace and ethical prosperity A clothing project that cuts through religious divides and promotes good labour practice is under way in the West Bank, writes Sharmila Devi](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

50. [The Dubious Record of Pelosi and Her Cronies](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

51. [News Summary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

52. [Anti- American feelings soar as Muslim society is radicalised by War on Terror](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

53. [\*Not-So-Strange Bedfellow\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

54. [\*Diane Sawyer, apple polisher\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

55. [\*Iraq 's refugee crisis offers problem, opportunity for U.S.\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

56. [\*THE WEST AND MUSLIMS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

57. [\*News Summary\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

58. [\*The good, bad and ugly: Things I learned in 2006\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

59. [\*Goals pared in forum on Mideast democracy Setbacks in region dampen outcome\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

60. [\*Violence Against Palestinian Women Is Increasing, Study Says\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

61. [\*Comment & Debate: We overcame our fear: The unarmed women of the Gaza Strip have taken the lead in resisting Israel 's latest bloody assault\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

62. [\*TRUTH TO EVIL\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

63. [\*Taliban stooge; Yvonne Ridley Is A Strident Apologist For Islamist Terrorists. So What Is She Doing At Canadian Islamic Congress Fundraisers?\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

64. [\*Moroccan king holds strings of power in election\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

65. [\*Madness, despair through the eyes of the ABC\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

66. [\*Calm out of chaos\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

67. [\*Defending America\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

68. [\*Med schools provide fertile soil for Islamists; Recruiters know professionals seeking the 'good life' often become disillusioned by the western way of life, writes Michael Binyon\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

69. [\*Creation museum beckons atheists; Anti-religion movement would have a heyday\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

70. [\*Dracula and Mary Poppins fight it out on screen for the last votes\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

71. [\*Playboy on trial\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

72. [\*World Report\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

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

Sep 30, 2007

73. [\*Is there no longer room for debate?\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to  
Sep 30, 2007

74. [\*Secular Muslims in minority; The West should pay more attention to the quiet majority searching for a middle ground that fuses modernity with Islamic tradition\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to  
Sep 30, 2007

75. [\*Top Israeli Police Official Resigns Amid Charges of Dereliction\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to  
Sep 30, 2007

76. [\*Middle East consul talks about Iranian issues at Ball State U.\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to  
Sep 30, 2007

77. [\*Which country is America 's natural ally?: One is progressive, democratic and tolerant; the other is not\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to  
Sep 30, 2007

78. [\*Hanson: Given enough small taps, Iran regime will crack\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

79. [\*Not-so-strange bedfellow\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

80. [\*Letters & emails\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

81. [\*International Briefs\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

82. [\*Letters & emails\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

83. [\*Fanatical diatribe sets West grave challenge\*](#)



**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

84. [How many dollars would buy off Osama?](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

85. [International: As Israelis pull out, town seeks space to bury its dead: Legacy of bitterness after six-day operation in Gaza Soldiers say they targeted rocket-launching cells](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

86. [News Summary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

87. [Religious bigots hound presidential candidate; Mitt Romney's opponents make his Mormon faith an issue](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

88. [Crime](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

89. [Deal with U.S. would boost Iran 's status](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

90. [News Summary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

91. [Fighting jihad in cyberspace](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

92. [The Messenger: The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

93. [Letters & emails](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

94. [DEFINING TURKEY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

95. [Comment & Debate: These moderates are in fact fanatics, torturers and killers: The longer the US and Britain back dictatorial regimes in the Middle East the more explosive the region will become](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

96. ['Independent' readers give more than £300,000 CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2006](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

97. [U. Nebraska prof analyzes effects of children's deaths on Israeli families](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

98. [Islamic imperialism goes mainstream; Tariq Ramadan is often presented as the voice of moderate Islam. Behind his modern-sounding academic jargon, Christopher Hitchens sees something more sinister](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

99. [Israeli settlement colonies on Palestinian lands, continue to expand MIDEAST: Settlers Anchoring In](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

100. [G2: Peace talks: What do young Palestinians and Israelis think about the chances of peace in the Middle East? Emine Saner joins four activists trying to find common ground at an unofficial summit in London](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to Sep 30, 2007

## *Counting Population Is Not a Competition*

The Forward

December 29, 2006

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**Section:** Letters; Pg. A8

**Length:** 682 words

### **Body**

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Estimating the number of American Jews is not a competition (New Studies Put U.S. Jewry Over 6 Million Mark, December 22). It matters relatively little if my numbers are bigger than yours.

Imagine, if you will, an analogous situation: that the Central Bureau of Statistics in Israel announced tomorrow that it has underestimated the Jewish population of Israel by about 1 million.

Would that change the pressing nature of a single one of the critical issues currently before the Israeli public Iran's nukes, Hamas in the south and Hezbollah in the north, the widening social gap, the confusion in the military's General Staff, incompetence in the police force or the murky ethical status of the country's president? These current problems would simply be all the more pressing and worrying, given that nearly 6.5 million Jews would be affected, rather than merely 5.4 million.

Something similar applies to American Jewry. Concern over what ails the Jewish community in the United States is not a matter of the numbers, and it considerably predates the current numerical argument. It goes back at least to the 1980s and is related to substantive issues: education, intermarriage, community life, group relations with other minorities and political influence.

Whether there are 5 million or 6 million American Jews, none of those concerns drops out of the picture. They simply apply to more Jews, some of whom may have escaped earlier enumeration.

Or not, as the case may be. Either way, a specialist's expertise is not necessarily required to add two and two: that is, to figure out that marriages postponed to later in the life cycle, attended by lower than replacement-level birthrates and combined with rising rates of intermarriage, are not likely to produce rampant growth for a minority population. And no one is suggesting that the new figures alter these critical features of contemporary Jewish life in America.

If it is important to America's Jewish pundits that the community should feel bigger and, perhaps, more self-confident, it should be just as important to declare that more Jews out there does not necessarily mean progress. Does more Jews mean that there are more affiliated and involved men, women and children, or that the minority of the affiliated and the active are now even a smaller percentage of the whole than we thought?

Are those extra million Jews filling the pews, the community centers, the political action committees, the adult study groups and the subscription lists of Jewish publications? Or are they second- or third-generation products of mixed marriages with only marginal filial attachments to their Jewish families and who may have, until now, slipped through the data-gathering process? Do the added thousands and thousands of Jewish children show up in day school or summer camp or Hebrew school registrations?

## Counting Population Is Not a Competition

One wants to applaud the Jews, wherever they live, for their commitment to maintaining as high a standard as possible in every field of endeavor. It is only natural that we want to think that they are getting it right, that they are making a reality of their ideals. If there really are 6 million Jews in the United States rather than just 5 million, that only means that they will have to try that much harder to fulfill their own expectations.

Eli Lederhendler

Professor of American Jewish

History and Institutions Avraham Harman Institute of

Contemporary Jewry Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Jerusalem, Israel

The American Jewish Committee's study almost certainly has a significant number of people who were counted twice or even three times.

People who have a home in Boca Raton, Fla., for the winter, the Berkshires for the summer and Manhattan for the fall and spring might be counted three times, despite the AJCommittee's best efforts. Multiply that by all the Midwest Jews who winter in Arizona, Nevada or California, and you can see where the difference between the AJCommittee's study and previous ones comes in.

Larry Glinzman

Ormond Beach, Fla.

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2006

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End of Document

## 2006 THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

The Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

December 26, 2006 Tuesday

Main Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 35

**Length:** 690 words

### **Body**

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#### JANUARY

4 Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke

15/22 Michelle Bachelet was elected as the first female president of Chile, while in Bolivia Evo Morales was sworn in as the first indigenous head of state

25 Hamas, the militant Islamist party, won a landslide victory in the Palestinian election

#### FEBRUARY

3 Violence spread in Islamic countries in response to publication in a Danish newspaper of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammad

10 The Winter Olympics began in Torino, Italy. Germany headed the final medal table

#### MARCH

10 NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter entered orbit around the red planet to look for evidence of water and identify landing sites for future missions

11 Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was found dead in his cell at the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague

22 The Basque separatist group ETA declared an end to its 30-year armed campaign for independence from Spain

28 Kadima, the party founded by Ariel Sharon but now led by Ehud Olmert, won Israel's election

#### APRIL

5 Amnesty International claimed it had further evidence that secret CIA flights carried terror suspects for interrogation in black site prisons in eastern Europe

9 Centre-left economist Romano Prodi won power in Italy by a razor-thin margin

21 Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 80th birthday

## 2006 THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

## MAY

17 The Da Vinci Code, the movie of the blockbuster novel which has sold over 43 million copies worldwide, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival

20 Construction of the Three Gorges Dam in China, the world's largest hydro-electric project, was completed nine months ahead of schedule

21 Montenegro voted in a referendum to terminate its union with Serbia

## JUNE

7 Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda leader in Iraq, was killed in a US airstrike on an isolated safe house near Baquba

9 The FIFA World Cup in Germany got underway, with Italy emerging as the eventual winner

9 King Bhumibol of Thailand, the world's longest-serving head of state, marked the 60th anniversary of his accession

## JULY

3 The first train from Beijing to Tibet arrived in Lhasa after a 48-hour journey across the world's highest railway

11 Seven coordinated bombings on packed rush-hour commuter trains in India's financial capital, Mumbai, killed 209 people

12 Israel bombarded Lebanon from land, sea and air after Hezbollah forces killed eight soldiers and captured two more. The war lasted a month, with significant casualties on both sides

## AUGUST

1 Cuban dictator Fidel Castro underwent intestinal surgery, having temporarily transferred power to his brother Raul

9 Airline passengers were banned from carrying all but essential hand luggage after anti-terrorist officers uncovered a plot to blow up planes flying from Britain to the US

28 Tennis greats Andre Agassi and Martina Navratilova took their final bows at the US Open in New York

## SEPTEMBER

4 Eminent Australian naturalist Steve Irwin was killed by a stingray barb to the heart during a diving expedition on the Great Barrier Reef

19 Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted in a bloodless military coup

22 Europe scored a stunning victory over the US at the 36th Ryder Cup, held for the first time in Ireland

## OCTOBER

5 NATO assumed responsibility for security across all of Afghanistan, where conflict deaths rose four-fold over the year

9 South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon was chosen to be the next UN Secretary-General

9 North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test, attracting widespread international condemnation

## NOVEMBER



## 2006 THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

5 Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was sentenced to death over the 1982 Dujail killings. He remained on trial for the genocide of thousands of Kurds

7 President Bush suffered a thumping defeat in the crucial US mid-term elections, with Democrats winning control of both Houses of Congress

21 Pierre Gemayel, a leading anti-Syrian Lebanese cabinet minister, was assassinated in Beirut

23 Former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko died in London from radiation poisoning by polonium-210

### DECEMBER

1 Typhoon Durian killed over 1000 people in the Philippines and up to 100 in Vietnam

5 A military coup was declared in Fiji

10 Chile's former military dictator General Augusto Pinochet died at 91

**Load-Date:** December 26, 2006

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End of Document

**Mourning Palestinians vow revenge: 18 civilians buried. Israeli PM blames technical failure for Gaza strike 'mistake'**

The Gazette (Montreal)

November 10, 2006 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A16

**Length:** 636 words

**Byline:** New York Times; AP and Agence France-Presse contributed to this report

**Dateline:** BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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Tens of thousands of grieving Palestinians, weeping in anguish and screaming for revenge, crammed into a cemetery yesterday to bury 18 civilians killed by an

Israeli artillery barrage that tore through a crowded residential neighbourhood.

The emotional throngs reached toward the sky or collapsed in grief as a despondent father carried the lifeless body of his one-year-old baby in his arms. About 20 gunmen fired sporadically into the air and many mourners waved the yellow flags of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party.

The cemetery, which had been under construction, was hastily opened to accommodate the victims because others in town were too small to allow them to be buried together. All belonged to a single extended family.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert offered to ease tensions by meeting the Palestinian president "anytime, anyplace."

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

Saying he had personally investigated the artillery strike, which spurred **Hamas** to warn it might resume suicide bombings against Israeli civilians, Olmert called the shelling Wednesday a "mistake" caused by technical failure. And he urged Abbas to meet with him immediately.

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

He did not explain what he meant. But his words seemed to reflect deep embarrassment at the deaths, mostly of **women** and children. The strike was condemned around the world, but also by many Israelis who are concerned about the numbers of civilians killed in Israeli operations to curb rocket fire by Palestinian militants into Israel.

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

## Mourning Palestinians vow revenge: 18 civilians buried. Israeli PM blames technical failure for Gaza strike 'mistake'

Any discussion between the men would invariably centre on the difficult question of prisoners. It is unclear, however, how far Olmert could move from his past insistence that an Israeli soldier captured by Palestinian militants in June must be released before he would free hundreds of Palestinians from Israeli jails.

Abbas did not immediately respond to Olmert's offer. But he has refused other such open-ended offers in the past.

Last night, the Israeli military issued its first detailed explanation of what went wrong with the shelling, saying an aiming radar had malfunctioned, causing the rounds to hit a cluster of civilians' houses.

At the mass funeral yesterday, the bodies arrived in a convoy of 18 ambulances, which brought them from hospital morgues through the artillery-scarred cluster of apartment buildings.

Cries of "God is greater than Israel and America" rang out as the bodies were brought out on stretchers.

**Women** wailed and screamed for revenge: "Martyrs by the millions!" they chanted. "We are going to Jerusalem!"

"I will avenge, I will avenge!" screamed one of the victims' relatives as he fired his weapon.

"The Zionist enemy understands only the language of force and, therefore, I say: 'an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose,' " chanted Abdel al-Hakim Awad, a Fatah spokesperson. "The residents of Sderot, the residents of Ashkelon, even the residents of Tel Aviv, are not going to enjoy security or peace as long as our beloved people in Beit Hanoun are suffering."

Stricter firing rules ordered:

Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz yesterday ordered stricter artillery firing rules in the Gaza Strip, his office said.

"The defence minister ordered the re-examination of the artillery firing policies in the Gaza Strip, including the review of safety distances" for firing near populated areas, the office said in a statement to Agence France-Presse.

Furthermore, Peretz instructed that only a major general could authorize artillery fire there, it said.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: MOHAMMED SALEM, REUTERS; "I will avenge, I will avenge," screamed one of relatives of the 18 civilians killed in an Israeli attack Wednesday and buried yesterday in Gaza Strip.

**Load-Date:** November 10, 2006

## ***The new walls of Jerusalem: Part 3 \* From the West Bank, a circuitous road to market***

Christian Science Monitor

December 21, 2006, Thursday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 12

**Length:** 2155 words

**Byline:** Ilene R. Prusher Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

**Dateline:** HEBRON, WEST BANK

**Highlight:** Trucker Rajae Sultan Tamimi starts his hours-long trek from Hebron to Jerusalem's edge at 4:40 a.m. because of checkpoints. If he could drive straight to the city, it would take 45 minutes. Part 3 of three.

### **Body**

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Rajae Sultan Tamimi rises at 3 a.m. He leaves the house about 4 a.m. and arrives here by 4:30, two hours before sunrise.

He's an Al-Juneidi Dairy & Food Stuffs Company truck driver, father of eight, and on this recent weekday, he has a cargo of some 500 cases of yogurt and other dairy products to get to an Israeli army-run checkpoint at Beitunia, outside Ramallah.

After inspection, the goods will be switched to a truck with yellow license plates that signal permission to enter Israel. That truck will take the goods south, into Jerusalem, to shelves in stores all across the city's Arab sector.

Like a growing number of West Bank residents, Mr. Tamimi doesn't have Israeli permission to enter Jerusalem. For Palestinian businesses to get their produce into East Jerusalem - which has always been a natural market for them - it's becoming a longer, more complicated, and circuitous haul. They face Israel's security barrier - a concrete wall in some parts and fence in others - and more security checkpoints outside Jerusalem, says the Israeli human rights group Btselem.

"The number of staffed checkpoints is fairly constant, while the number of physical obstacles often changes, depending on the political and security situation," the group says on its website, adding that some 470 obstacles block roads.

"What we've mostly seen is more physical obstacles: The [Israeli] army putting up concrete blocks, dirt mounds, or trenches so that they channel all traffic to the main roads where you have the checkpoints, to make sure that people don't avoid them and to make sure Palestinians don't have access to roads that are only for settlers," says Jessica Montell, the executive director of Btselem.

If Mr. Tamimi could travel straight from Hebron to Jerusalem, his daily haul - instead of snaking around the West Bank through checkpoints and around settlements for four hours - would take about 45 minutes.

### The new walls of Jerusalem: Part 3 \* From the West Bank, a circuitous road to market

In fact, when he started driving in the early 1980s, that's exactly what he did, making deliveries as far north as Haifa and Galilee. "It's now at least double the time to do everything we used to do," says Tamimi. "What makes it bad is that they're saying it will get better, but it's worse."

#### Barrier to truckers and students alike

Since the start of the last intifada, which began in September 2000, there's been a drastic reduction in the number of permits given to West Bankers to enter Israel. Since the election of ***Hamas*** in January, the seal has become tighter, with the ban over the past year extended even to Palestinian students who want to study at - and have been accepted to - Israeli universities.

On Monday, Israel's Supreme Court called a sweeping ban against Palestinian students studying at Israeli universities unreasonable and ordered the military to set specific criteria for admitting at least some Palestinian students into Israel for purposes of study. The decision followed a challenge from Gisha, the Center for the Legal Protection of Freedom of Movement.

From a height of a few hundred students who studied in Israel in 1996, says Sari Bashi, the executive director of Gisha, the Center for the Legal Protection Freedom of Movement, there are currently 14 Palestinian students with permits to study in Israel.

"There's been an overall chilling affect, so Israeli universities have stopped admitting and Palestinian students have stopped applying," says Ms. Bashi, whose organization deals with freedom-of-movement issues for Palestinians in the territories.

The new walls around Jerusalem, she says, mean that many Palestinian students from the West Bank and the outlying areas are no longer able to get to Al-Quds University, which has campuses both inside Jerusalem and in nearby Abu Dis.

"The university is having to duplicate a lot of their services, and around 30 percent of students and faculty are having problems to get their classes. Jerusalem is a hub, so when you cut off that hub from people who live in the surroundings, you're denying people access to family members, commerce, and education."

#### Traversing new economic realities

Tamimi is on the road at 4:40 a.m., a time when the streets of Hebron are silent and somber. He winds down a back road to avoid a checkpoint at the entrance to the city.

Then he heads north, past Palestinian villages and Israeli settlements. Just as he reaches the southern entrance to Efrat, one of the largest Israeli settlements in the West Bank, he turns right on a road that will lead him east and north. "If we were able to go straight to Jerusalem," he says, turning, "we'd be there in 10 minutes." This way, the road is old and winding, and at this hour, darker.

Around 5:20, he's passing the settlement of Tekoa, on a hilltop surrounded by Palestinian villages. Tekoa's location is so remote that, according to current plans, it will be left outside the wall, or security barrier, which has yet to be built in this area. In Tamimi's opinion, there are not enough people there to warrant the resources it gets. The roads leading to it are well-lit, while this one is dark. "This road is for Arabs," he says. "See, no lights."

He reaches a checkpoint near Sawahare known by everyone as "the container," because there used to be a shipping container here that marked the place of the checkpoint. Sometimes, he says, it takes two hours to get through. But he's having a good morning, and soldiers wave him through.

"They never tell you what the holdup is, just that they need to check," he says. "Sometimes they will bring dogs to sniff inside the truck."

Heading along the curvy road, he slows down by a small neighborhood mosque, its slim minaret topped with neon green rings. He hops out of the truck and goes inside to quickly say his morning prayers.

### The new walls of Jerusalem: Part 3 \* From the West Bank, a circuitous road to market

Given that he's about to drive into the Valley of Fire, apparently named for its treacherous roads, stopping to pray seems especially sensible.

"When it's rainy, we don't take it," he says, downshifting and moving more slowly. Over mountains that are rough and dry, the light is starting to peek out, brightening the valley.

"At least I get a chance to get out of my house and see something," he says. These days, West Bankers rarely go into Jerusalem.

Getting Israelis and Palestinians to "separate" has been a stated goal of politicians since the Labor Party's Ehud Barak was prime minister in 1999.

He argued for less Palestinian contact with Israel, whether with the intention of enabling an independent state or simply decoupling the economic lives of the two people.

"Us here, them there," was one of his slogans. This, it was argued, would erase points of friction and opportunities for terrorism.

But the friction is still there, and Palestinians are feeling the economic pinch.

"There are [expiration] dates, and because yogurt is a sensitive material, if it is not sent back immediately the next day, all of this traveling back and forth affects the quality of the product," says Nidal Mohammed, marketing manager with Al-Juneidi.

"Al Juneidi's income in Jerusalem was about 15 percent of our overall income, and now that's almost a total loss for us. But our objective is to stay alive in the Palestinian areas and keep our presence on the shelves, so we keep delivering."

#### Flying checkpoints and global politics

It is 6:10 a.m. by the time Tamimi is passing Azzariyeh, on Jerusalem's outskirts. Sometime there's a "flying checkpoint" here - checkpoints that come and go.

"The situation for Palestinians is disastrous," Tamimi says. "Men can't find jobs. I blame the Arab leaders for not doing more for us. People here have nothing. They have lost hope. Some men don't have a shekel in their pockets, and their wives go out to work. That's not in our culture."

Nearly a year ago, he voted for Hamas, which won't recognize Israel. That was the people's democratic choice, he says, and now he doesn't understand why international financial support is being withheld. "The world is demanding things that can't be given," he says. Tamimi believes Hamas has the right approach. "Why should we recognize a state with people from all over the world, when Palestinians have been living on this land for generations?"

Neither does he believe in building a Palestinian state next to an Israeli one. "We'll reach a point where we'd have a prime minister or a president who is an Arab, so why not just have one state? Then we can all live here, together, peacefully."

#### Long days becoming longer

It's 6:27 a.m., the meeting point between dawn and morning when the sun is already up but the moon is still out. There were always some checkpoints here, at least as far back as anyone in this generation can remember. But the atmosphere at them was different, he says.

"Now, when you approach a soldier, they have you open your clothes, they're always stressed.... Before, you could drink coffee or tea with them and chat."

He bypasses Pisgat Zeev, an Israeli neighborhood in East Jerusalem, where about 50 cars idle at a checkpoint, bumper to bumper, waiting to get into Jerusalem. He continues north, passing by the Palestinian village of Hizma.

### The new walls of Jerusalem: Part 3 \* From the West Bank, a circuitous road to market

At an Israeli checkpoint, a bored- looking soldier in a cold-weather jumpsuit and carrying an Uzi simply waves the West Bank vehicles through to another part of the West Bank. Tamimi weaves through the barrier at reduced speed.

"It's not necessary to have these checkpoints at all. Israel says it's just for security, but I think they do it to disturb people. If it weren't for these, I could have left my house at 6 or 7 a.m., instead of 4," he says.

"Obviously the whole situation has significant impact on Palestinians' lives and it has a huge impact on movement of goods and services," says Kevin Kennedy, the United Nations' Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory. "If you look at the AMA [the Agreement on Movement and Access signed by Israelis and Palestinians], we're far from the goals.

"The number of closures, blockades, ditches, earth mounds, and similar road hurdles are up 40 percent from this time last year," he continues. "That's coupled with the permits regime and limits on freedom of movement. A young kid of 20 from Nablus can't go to Ramallah to get a job and that stifles the labor force. In commerce, a journey that once took 25 minutes now takes two to three hours. So the very movement of trying to ship things, the added transaction and labor costs, the time involved, it just drives things up and up, reduces profit margins, and drives down productivity."

While Israel sees blocked roads and security checkpoints as preventive measures that have been successful at thwarting attacks, Tamimi sees them differently. "These checkpoints and walls will never stop someone who's keen on carrying out a suicide attack," he says, using the more popular term in the local Arabic lexicon: martyrdom operations.

#### The Kalandia bottleneck

Around a quarter to seven, he passes through the Kalandia checkpoint, an area with one of the most gnarled checkpoints between Jerusalem and the West Bank. He has spent up to an hour-and-a-half at the checkpoint in the past.

The heart of the bottleneck is for people trying to get into Jerusalem, which naturally is something Tamimi knows is off-limits to him. Instead, he continues, moving along with the morning rush-hour cars that have begun to fill the roads. He pulls into Ramallah, stops to make a phone call to the head office, and munches on a half-moon of pita bread.

Then he continues driving west, then south, until he reaches the Beitunia checkpoint. The time is 7:31 a.m. The usual customers are waiting: men who want to get their goods through, women who want to visit sons or husbands imprisoned at the nearby Ofer Military Base.

#### The workday is just beginning

While they wait for the electronic gate to open, the men mill around. With a buzz and a jolt, the yellow gate starts to part, and, as it does, people gingerly and quietly walk through to present their IDs at the guardhouse, which is manned by the Border Police, a paramilitary unit.

A soldier in a military jeep starts beeping with a jarring horn meant to clear crowds.

"No pictures allowed!" a soldier yells at this reporter, ordering her and her interpreter back behind the electronic gate. No amount of negotiating and showing ID cards issued from Israel's Government Press Office seems relevant.

They send in a more senior officer, Capt. Oran Tibi, who gives the order for the journalists to leave. "This is security," Captain Tibi says. "You can't go into this passageway."

The new walls of Jerusalem: Part 3 \* From the West Bank, a circuitous road to market

It's 7:56 a.m., and Tamimi's dairy products are waiting to be delivered to a driver at the other side of Beitunia. This is not the last delivery of the day. Thankfully, the trucks are refrigerated, which is key in the summer, when high temperatures and slow checkpoints can wreak havoc on a container of fresh milk.

Tamimi passes through just after 8:30 a.m. He still has two more deliveries and 11 hours of work to go.

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**Load-Date:** December 20, 2006

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## *Two women shotdead by Israelis in Gaza siege*

The Independent (London)

November 4, 2006 Saturday

Fourth Edition

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The  INDEPENDENT

**Section:** HOME; Pg. 6

**Length:** 658 words

**Byline:** Sa'id Ghazali in Beit Hanoun and Eric Silver in Jerusalem

### **Body**

---

Israeli air and ground forces stepped up their onslaught on Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip last night, killing at least eight and wounding several more after a day in which two women were shot dead while acting as human shields for fugitive gunmen in the border town of Beit Hanoun.

A series of air strikes brought the total of Palestinian fighters and civilians killed in three days of combat to at least 33.

The Palestinian Red Crescent reported that five men died in the Jabaliya refugee camp in the most devastating of the strikes. Two of them were said to have been ambulance men tending victims. Three others were killed by missile fire on Rafah in the south and Beit Hanoun in the north. Israeli and Palestinian sources reported two armed men wounded in Beit Hanoun during a fourth air strike at 10.15 pm local time. An Israeli military spokesman said the first Beit Hanoun victims were planting explosives near Israeli troops, who were laying siege to the town. The other groups were said to be launching Qassam rockets at Israeli towns and villages.

"We're still acting to target people we know have direct involvement in terror," the spokesman added. "The operation involved ground forces supported from the air. There could be more." On the West Bank, a 65-year-old Palestinian woman was killed in the crossfire when soldiers went to arrest a suspected militant in Bethlehem. In the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, troops shot dead a Fatah activist said to have been preparing a car bomb.

Earlier, Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinian women and wounded at least 17 others when hundreds of women thronged the streets of Beit Hanoun to help gunmen who had escaped from a besieged mosque.

Gaza hospitals reported that three Hamas fighters and one from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade were also killed. A one-year-old boy died from wounds sustained earlier in Israel's massive incursion, which is designed to stop militants launching Qassam rockets at Israel.

Lying in a hospital bed, covered from head toe in a black cloak, Asma Hamad, 23, said that she and two relatives were wounded while serving as human shields for dozens of fighters, who had taken refuge in neighbouring houses.

## Two women shotdead by Israelis in Gaza siege

The women were summoned by phone calls and local radio stations to rush to the area of the 700-year-old al-Nasr mosque. "We went immediately to the streets," Mrs Hamad said. "Some of us carried food, some brought traditional women's cloaks and head covers to help the fighters. The army immediately shot at us. I was hit in my left leg." Her aunt Ilham Hamad, 48, was lying in another bed with wounds in her face and shoulder. Her sister-in-law Taghrid Hamad, 20, was transferred to Shifa hospital in Gaza City suffering from more serious wounds. One woman told Maan, an independent Palestinian news agency, that she smuggled women's clothing into the al-Nasr mosque, where the gunmen were holed up , and helped them escape in disguise.

The army said it was targeting Beit Hanoun because 300 of the 800 Qassam rockets fired into Israel over the past year were launched there. The spokesman said soldiers shot at the women marchers after they had seen armed men firing from within the crowd. "We tried to use very direct fire and hit only armed men. If women were killed, it's unfortunate, but the gunmen were hiding behind the women." Engineering units dug a trench 2m wide and 1m deep around Beit Hanoun, an overcrowded town of 43,000 people. But a narrow corridor was kept open for the army and ambulances.

Mohammed Kafarneh, Beit Hanoun's mayor, declared the town a disaster zone. "Unlike other raids," he said, "the army raided the centre of the city". Six houses were demolished and scores badly damaged. The mosque was damaged by bulldozers. Walls of five schools were destroyed "It is unjustifiable to cause all this destruction," the mayor protested. "The people in Beit Hanoun are not firing rockets. These rockets come from outside of Beit Hanoun."

**Load-Date:** November 4, 2006

## **Israeli Troops Kill 6 Palestinians in Second Straight Day of Fighting in Gaza Farming Town**

The New York Times

November 3, 2006 Friday

Late Edition - Final

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

**Length:** 677 words

**Byline:** By GREG MYRE; Taghreed El-Khodary contributed reporting from Gaza.

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM, Nov. 2

### **Body**

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Israeli troops on Thursday rounded up Palestinian men and battled militants for a second straight day in the northeastern corner of the Gaza Strip, killing six Palestinians, including militants and civilians, Palestinian medical workers said.

The Israeli operation in Beit Hanun, a farming community that has been the scene of frequent fighting, is one of the largest since Israeli forces entered Gaza four months ago. It is intended to stop, or at least limit, the persistent Palestinian rocket fire from the area into Israel, the Israeli military says.

Despite the large Israeli presence, Palestinians still managed to launch several more rockets Thursday from nearby areas in northern Gaza. One hit a house in the Israeli town of Sderot, which is just beyond Gaza's perimeter fence, and two Israeli civilians were wounded, Israeli officials said.

The Palestinian prime minister, Ismail Haniya, speaking in Gaza City, just a few miles from the fighting, said the Israeli action would not succeed. "We are completely sure this will fail, as all previous campaigns failed," he said.

In Beit Hanun, the streets were largely deserted except for Israeli tanks and other armored vehicles that kicked up clouds of dust as they patrolled the town. Most of the town's 30,000 residents remain holed up in their homes. The Israeli military interrupted Palestinian radio broadcasts, telling women, children and older men to stay inside for their safety.

However, in a separate announcement on loudspeakers, the Israeli forces ordered all males ages 16 to 45 to gather at a square in the town. Many were put onto trucks and driven outside the town for questioning. Most were later released, but about 15 were held for further questioning, the Israeli military said. While the fighting was less intense than on Wednesday, when the Israeli incursion began, there was sporadic gunfire throughout the day.

On Thursday night, Israel carried out airstrikes against Palestinians responsible for firing rockets, the Israeli military said. Two Palestinians were killed, according to Palestinian medical workers. There were conflicting reports about whether they were militants or civilians.

## Israeli Troops Kill 6 Palestinians in Second Straight Day of Fighting in Gaza Farming Town

Earlier in the day, two Palestinian militants and two civilians were killed, said officials at Kamal Adwan Hospital. One of the civilians, Diab al-Bassioni, was in his 70s. Mr. Bassioni was hit by a bullet when he stepped outside to get water, his neighbors told Agence France-Presse. More than a dozen Palestinians were wounded, hospital officials said.

In two days of fighting, at least 14 Palestinians have been killed and more than 60 wounded, according to Palestinian hospitals. Most of the dead and wounded have been militants, though a number of **women** and children have also been hurt, according to the hospitals. One Israeli soldier was killed Wednesday, and two were lightly wounded on Thursday, the Israeli military said.

For the past five years, Beit Hanun has been one of the Palestinian militants' favorite places from which to launch rockets toward Israel. Beit Hanun is only about two miles from Sderot, but the rockets have a limited range and are wildly inaccurate.

The Gaza militants have fired about 300 of their 800 rockets so far this year from Beit Hanun, according to the Israeli military. Most of the other 500 have been launched from elsewhere in northern Gaza.

The militants frequently fire from the orange and lemon groves on the outskirts of Beit Hanun, but Israel has bulldozed many of those orchards, removing the cover for the militants, as well as the livelihood of many residents.

Many militants come from Gaza City, or other parts of Gaza, and not Beit Hanun. Some local residents oppose the Palestinian rocket fire because the town bears the brunt of the Israeli military response, but others support the Palestinian attacks.

Israel has staged repeated raids into northern Gaza over the past five years in an effort to halt the rockets. While the incursions have reduced the rocket fire in some instances, they have never stopped it completely.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: Thousands of **Hamas** supporters turned out yesterday in Gaza City, where the Palestinian prime minister, Ismail Haniya, denounced Israel. (Photo by Mahmud Hams/Agence France-Presse -- Getty Images)

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2006

## **Turkey's Military Boycotts Presidential Inauguration**

New York Sun (Archive)

August 29, 2007 Wednesday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 7

**Length:** 711 words

**Byline:** ELI LAKE -, Staff Reporter of the Sun

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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For the first time in the history of the modern Turkish republic, Turkey's military has boycotted swearing-in ceremonies for the country's new president, a sign of rising tensions between the largely secular military and Turkey's Islamist ruling party.

Abdullah Gul was sworn in as Turkey's president yesterday, making him the commander in chief of a powerful military whose generals have protested the concentration of power for his Justice and Development Party, or AKP. At the center of the controversy is Mr. Gul himself. A devout Muslim, Mr. Gul's wife wears a traditional "turban" head covering, a political statement in a country that bans the Islamic hijab for women in government offices and schools. His political rivals have said the former foreign minister and prime minister is a stalking horse for radical Islam and that Mr. Gul eventually seeks to return Turkey to Islamic rule.

Mr. Gul did not bring his wife to yesterday's ceremony and, in a speech to Parliament after taking the oath of office, affirmed that "Turkey is a secular democracy ... these are basic values of our republic and I will defend and strengthen these values."

In an interview from Istanbul yesterday, a former Turkish parliamentarian with the secularist Youth Party, Emin Sirin, told The New York Sun that he was not concerned that Mr. Gul would break the country's strong ties with America, Israel, or NATO.

"I am concerned that he will bring slowly an Islamic fascism here," he said. "The AKP are very clever people; they will not adopt the attitudes of Hamas or the Iranian clergy at first. What they are going to do, with the majority they have and the support of the population, is show that they can govern for 10 to 15 years. They will educate a new generation and slowly turn Turkey into the Malaysia model, where people have the choice to follow the secular or Islamic law."

On Monday, Turkey's top military leader, General Yasar Buyukanit, warned that the new ruling party could be trying to undermine the secular republic created by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk on October 29, 1923. Two years later, the first president of modern Turkey abolished the Muslim caliphate that had ruled the Ottoman Empire. Islamists in the Middle East today have stated that they seek to restore Turkey to the Islamic rule that Ataturk destroyed.

Mr. Sirin told the Sun that he fears his experience since retiring from Parliament last month may be a harbinger of things to come in Turkey under the Islamists: On August 18, he was held by the national counterterrorism police for 36 hours based on anonymous allegations that he said were trumped up to punish him for his political activities.

## Turkey 's Military Boycotts Presidential Inauguration

"They searched my house without me being present, they took up my computer. They came to the Youth Party, they searched my office in the party, they took my computers, they searched the hard drives with no warrant from the judge," he said.

The arrest and search, according to Mr. Sirin, was the first time a former member of Parliament has been targeted by the national police in Turkey since the 1983 elections that ended a military regime that had begun in 1980.

Mr. Sirin said he has sent a letter to Mr. Erdogan to protest the investigation and to demand the evidence used to justify the search of his home and offices.

In addition to his own detention, he said many Turkish journalists with a history of expressing skepticism about the AKP's commitment to secular rule have been asked by government officials to tone down their criticism - requests that amount to veiled threats, he said.

"When I talk to my friends in the media, there is tremendous pressure on them. The moment they publicize anything against the AKP, immediately they receive a telephone call from the AKP saying, 'You should not criticize us,'" Mr. Sirin said.

American diplomats have been meeting with members of Turkey's Islamist parties since the end of the Cold War, and the State Department has pointed to the AKP as a model for Islamists to participate in open democratic political systems.

Yesterday, President Bush congratulated Mr. Gul in a telephone call. A State Department deputy spokesman, Tom Casey, hailed Mr. Gul's election as a "testament to the maturity of Turkish democracy and the strength of the Turkish constitution."

**Load-Date:** August 29, 2007

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End of Document

## *Handicapped kept as slaves*

The Star (South Africa)  
August 14, 2007 Tuesday  
e2 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 706 words

### **Body**

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Beijing - Hundreds of mentally handicapped people have been rescued from slavery in Chinese brickyards and other workplaces, officials said yesterday as they announced the latest findings of a labour abuse crackdown. At least 1 340 people, including 367 mentally handicapped, were taken from brick kilns, mines and other forced labour situations since a slavery scandal in June.

Abuja - An amateur video of a northern Nigerian film actress in a sex scene has caused a public outcry in the Muslim north, prompting a movie industry body to expel actors deemed "immoral". Leadership newspaper said the eight-minute video clip, recorded for private use on a cellphone by the actress's boyfriend and showing the two of them naked, circulated widely among cellphone users.

Oslo - Norway's 35-year-old Princess Martha Louise, fourth in line to the throne, has come under intense media scrutiny for her involvement in the "angel school", that aims to teach people how to get in touch with angels. Observers question whether her work can be combined with official duties. A leading newspaper has called on her to renounce her title.

London - Two 16-year-olds have been hired by a police force in Britain to patrol the streets as support for regular officers in tackling low-level crime. The two, who will be employed as civilian police community support officers, - sometimes nicknamed "plastic police" - will be able to detain suspects until officers arrive, issue fines and confiscate alcohol from people drinking in public.

Paris - If you haven't got a toy, you're uncool. It's a case of vibrators in the bathtub, dildos in the living-room and Geisha balls at the news-stand as sex toys come out of the closet in France, with glam 30-something women leading the trend. The latest store, which offers erotic games, boasts a love-coach, a sexologist, a specialist caterer for naughty soirees, and pole-dancing classes.

Athens - A middle-aged Greek shepherd, unable to walk long distances, now drives to work after training his flock of sheep to follow his car. George Zokos from Tynavos in central Greece devised the system after his health deteriorated, and has been "driving" his sheep to pasture for the past three years. Neighbours have dubbed him "the euro-shepherd" for his advanced sheep-herding method.

New Delhi - Ten people were electrocuted when an 11 000-volt power line touched the bus they were riding on in India's Uttar Pradesh state on Sunday. Sixteen others suffered burn injuries after the packed bus touched a low-hanging overhead wire, which set the bus's tyres on fire. A passenger tried to lift away the wire using a wooden flagpole, but the wire fell back and electrocuted him.

## Handicapped kept as slaves

Berlin - Politicians and artists yesterday urged the authorities to let them rebuild the longest surviving section of the Berlin Wall before it decayed beyond recognition. A 1 300m section of the wall, known as the East Side Gallery, is a top tourist attraction. However, it is fast crumbling and many of the murals by artists from 24 countries who flocked to Berlin in 1990 are almost unrecognisable.

Tokyo - The world's oldest person, a Japanese woman who counted eating well and getting plenty of sleep as the secret of her longevity, died yesterday aged 114. Yone Minagawa blew out the candles on her own birthday cake earlier this year. Widowed at an early age, she raised her five children by selling flowers and vegetables in a mining town. Her reign as oldest person lasted just six months.

Luanda - Almost 420 people have died from cholera in Angola since the start of the year, according to figures released by the World Health Organisation in Luanda yesterday. A total of 16 320 cases were reported in 16 of the country's 18 provinces, with Luanda recording the highest figure of 6 692, followed by Benguela with 3 681 cases and Cabinda with 1 721.

London - Britain should begin talking directly with three of the Middle East's most prominent radical Islamic groups - **Hamas**, Hezbollah and the Muslim Brotherhood - a committee of MPs reported yesterday. Diplomats should speak with moderate elements from such groups and continue engaging Iran and Syria, as their influence could no longer be ignored, parliament's foreign affairs committee said.

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

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## *Give the Poodle a chance at peace*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 18, 2007 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; Opinion; Pg. 11

**Length:** 725 words

**Byline:** Michael Fullilove. Michael Fullilove directs the global issues program at the Lowy Institute for International Policy. This piece was first published in The Financial Times.

### **Body**

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Tony Blair is expected to travel to the Middle East soon on his first working trip as a post-prime ministerial peacemaker. His appointment as the special envoy of the Quartet - the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations - produced something unprecedented for the Middle East: a consensus. Pundits were united in their response: why would anyone, let alone the parties to the world's most intractable conflict, listen to the Poodle?

Observers in the region rushed to label Blair a "loser", a "lap-dog", a "warmonger" and an "on-off button controlled by the White House". British commentators, grown weary of their former darling, thought the "preposterous" arrangement was simply a case of "jobs for the boys".

One famous correspondent was "overwhelmed that this vain, deceitful man, this proven liar, a trumped-up lawyer who has the blood of thousands of Arab men, women and children on his hands, is really contemplating being 'our' Middle East envoy".

The critics are correct about the odds being stacked against the new emissary. The record of Middle East negotiators is not pretty. The blood feud between Hamas and Fatah has brought the future of the Palestinian national project into question. Neither Israel nor the Palestinians seem to have leaders strong or skilful enough to reach meaningful agreements.

As a co-author of the Iraq folly, Blair is in no danger of winning a popularity contest in the Arab and Muslim worlds. His role in that reckless war - given the lives lost, blood and treasure spent, influence squandered and adversaries emboldened - raises questions about his geopolitical judgment.

Finally, the unseemly rush to announce Blair's commission on the day he vacated Downing Street suggests this appointment is not purely about the conflict: it is also about Blair himself. Enoch Powell observed that all political careers end in failure, but that was before the Carter Centre, the Clinton Foundation and soon, no doubt, the Blair Foundation. These days, some political careers never end.

Does this mean the cynics are right and this is a fool's errand? Not necessarily. The fact that insiders are against this kind of high-profile envoy - that noses in Brussels are out of joint and the British Foreign Office is reported to be in an "institutional sulk" - is the first clue that there might be something to it.

## Give the Poodle a chance at peace

Occasionally special envoys are able to achieve results professional diplomats cannot.

Think of Franklin Roosevelt's representative Harry Hopkins, who helped establish the wartime triangular relationship between Washington, London and Moscow. Or Richard Holbrooke's pushy brinkmanship in the Balkans, or Senator George Mitchell's patient negotiations in Northern Ireland. The diplomatic freemasonry did not like any of those men, either.

Blair has some relevant experience from his work in putting Belfast's trigger men on ice. He retains a prestige that must make other former world leaders such as Gerhard Schroder and Jacques Chirac sorely jealous. The Quartet has been moribund for some time; why not shine some star power on to it? Maybe Blair can create a dynamic that develops into something more substantial.

Yes, Blair's initial mandate is restricted, covering only Palestinian governance, institution building and economic rejuvenation - but it may expand over time.

The fact that Blair is so close to the Americans and Israelis is not a disqualification, but rather an essential condition for success. Perhaps there is no one who can persuade Washington and Jerusalem to compromise on some issues, but Blair stands a better chance than any other special representative.

The US President, George Bush, owes his friend many quids in return for the quos he received over Iraq, and Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, may find it easier to make concessions if Blair, who refused to criticise Israel over the Lebanon war, is sitting at the negotiating table.

Blair brings energy and optimism to a region that lacks both. There are grave risks attaching to his assignment, but for the most part they are risks to him and his reputation.

Any improvement in circumstances would be welcome and it is unlikely he will make the situation worse. Sure, Blair probably views all this as part of his narrative - but let us not judge the outcome of the mission before he even gets to the gates of Jerusalem.

**Load-Date:** July 20, 2007

## **IN SEARCH OF MODERN ARABIA; COLLEGE GRADS ARE LEAVING IN THE FACE OF VIOLENCE AND NIHILISM**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 15, 2007 Friday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2007 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. B-7

**Length:** 686 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman

### **Body**

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I'm sitting in Ramallah at The Yasser Arafat Foundation listening to Nasser al-Kidwa, the former Palestinian foreign minister, talk about Palestinian society "disintegrating" around him. What pains him most, he explains, is that any of his neighbors today with money, skills or a foreign passport are fleeing for the West or the Gulf. An old saying pops into my mind -- one that applies today to Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine: "Would the last one out please turn off the lights."

The other day, I wrote about how Israel was looking for a "Fourth Way" -- after the collapse of the left's land-for-peace strategy, the right's permanent occupation strategy and the "third way" unilateral withdrawal strategy. Well, the Arab world also needs a Fourth Way.

The Arabs tried authoritarian-nationalism, various brands of Arab socialism and it even took a flier with bin Ladenism, none of which have worked. Bin Laden was the thumb that many Arabs stuck in the eye of the West and of their own hated regimes. But bin Ladenism and its jihadist offshoots, has died in Iraq. Yes, it will still have adherents, but it has lost its revolutionary shine, because it has turned out to be nothing more than a death cult.

It died on May 24, 2007, in Fallujah, Iraq. Why? Because on that day, 27 people were killed when a suicide car bomber attacked a funeral procession for a local contractor who was killed earlier in the day. According to Reuters, "as mourners walked down a main street holding aloft [his] coffin, the bomber drove into the crowd and blew himself up."

Think about that: A Muslim suicide bomber blew up a Muslim funeral. Is there anything lower? But that is what bin Laden and the jihadists have become: utter nihilists, responsible for killing more Muslims than anyone in the world today and totally uninterested in governing, only in making life ungovernable.

But who offers a way forward? Right now, the best Arabs can hope for are the decent, modernizing monarchies, like Jordan, Qatar, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates. Secular progressivism -- a Fourth Way -- is not emerging in the big Arab states like Egypt, Syria, Algeria and Iraq, that is, a progressivism that would effectively promote more rule of law, global integration, multiparty elections, women's empowerment and modern education to lay the foundations of decent governance.

## IN SEARCH OF MODERN ARABIA COLLEGE GRADS ARE LEAVING IN THE FACE OF VIOLENCE AND NIHILISM

I also don't see a religious Fourth Way emerging -- a progressive Islam articulated by popular Islamic parties like Hamas, Hezbollah and the Muslim Brotherhood. Hezbollah took seats in the Lebanese Cabinet and then launched its own war with Israel. What a great vision.

"Sadly," observed Middle East analyst Fawaz A. Gerges, on YaleGlobal Online, "mainstream Islamists have provided neither vision nor initiative to build a broad alliance of social forces and transform the political space. They arm themselves with vacuous slogans like 'Islam is the solution.' " No wonder, he adds, that the average Arab citizen is fed up today with both their rulers and the opposition, "who promised heaven and delivered dust."

But since the Islamic parties have monopolized the mosques and the authoritarian regimes have monopolized the public square, anyone trying to articulate an Arab Fourth Way today "is competing against either God or the state -- and between God and the state, what room is left for secular democrats?" asked Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki.

Only weeds can grow there -- small nihilist weeds, like Fatah al Islam in Lebanon or al-Qaida in Mesopotamia in Iraq or Islamic Jihad in Gaza. And they are growing.

"Now any five guys who want to work together and believe they can uphold God's name and have guns can start an army," said Mr. Kidwa. "Money is all over the place. There is no money for the needed things, but there is a lot of money to finance [armed] groups."

That's why decent people, particularly college grads, are leaving. The only hope for getting them back or for getting us out of Iraq -- without leaving the region to the most nihilistic or impoverished elements -- is an Arab Fourth Way. But it has to come from them -- and right now, it is not happening.

## Notes

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Thomas L. Friedman is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times.

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2007

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End of Document

## *Red Mosque in Rebellion*

New York Sun (Archive)

July 17, 2007 Tuesday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 7

**Length:** 790 words

**Byline:** DANIEL PIPES

### **Body**

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Imagine that an Islamist central command exists - and that you are its chief strategist, with a mandate to spread full application of Shariah, or Islamic law, through all means available, with the ultimate goal of a worldwide caliphate. What advice would you offer your comrades in the aftermath of the eight-day Red Mosque rebellion in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan?

Probably, you would review the past six decades of Islamist efforts and conclude that you have three main options: overthrowing the government, working through the system, or a combination of the two.

Islamists can use several catalysts to seize power. (I draw here on "Waiting for the Other Shoe to Drop: How Inevitable is an Islamist Future?" by Cameron Brown.)

\* Revolution, meaning a wide-scale social revolt: Successful only in Iran, in 1978-79, because it requires special circumstances.

\* Coup d'etat: Successful only in Sudan, in 1989, because rulers generally know how to protect themselves.

\* Civil war: Successful only in Afghanistan, in 1996, because dominant, cruel states generally put down insurrections (as in Algeria, Egypt, and Syria).

\* Terrorism: Never successful, nor is it ever likely to be. It can cause huge damage, but without changing regimes. Can one really imagine a people raising the white flag and succumbing to terrorist threats? This did not happen after the assassination of Anwar Sadat in Egypt in 1981, or after the attacks of September 11, 2001, in America, or even after the Madrid bombings of 2004.

A clever strategist should conclude from this survey that overthrowing the government rarely leads to victory. In contrast, recent events show that working through the system offers better odds - note the Islamist electoral successes in Algeria (1992), Bangladesh (2001), Turkey (2002), and Iraq (2005). But working within the system, these cases also suggest, has its limitations. Best is a combination of softening up the enemy through lawful means, then seizing power. The Palestinian Authority (2006) offers a case of this one-two punch succeeding, with **Hamas** winning the elections, then staging an insurrection. Another, quite different example of this combination just occurred in Pakistan.

The vast Red Mosque complex, also known as Lal Masjid, is geographically in the midst of Pakistan's ruling institutions, boasts long-standing connections to the regime's elite, and includes huge male and **female** madrassas.

## Red Mosque in Rebellion

But, turning on its benefactors, Kalashnikov-toting burqa-clad students confronted the police in January 2007 to prevent them from demolishing an illegally constructed building.

In April, the mega-mosque's deputy imam, Abdul Rashid Ghazi, announced the imposition of Shariah "in the areas in our control" and established an Islamic court that issued decrees and judgments, rivaling those of the government.

The mosque then sent some of its thousands of madrassa students to serve as a morals police force in Islamabad, to enforce a Taliban-style regime locally with the ultimate goal of spreading it countrywide. Students closed barbershops, occupied a children's library, pillaged music and video stores, attacked alleged brothels and tortured the alleged madams. They even kidnapped police officers.

The Red Mosque leadership threatened suicide bombings if the government of Pervez Musharraf attempted to rein in its bid for quasi-sovereignty. Security forces duly stayed away. The six-month standoff culminated on July 3, when students from the mosque, some masked and armed, rushed a police checkpoint, ransacked nearby government ministries, and set cars on fire, leaving 16 dead.

This confrontation with the government aimed at nothing less than overthrowing it, the mosque's deputy imam proclaimed on July 7: "We have firm belief in God that our blood will lead to a[n Islamic] revolution." Threatened, the government attacked the mega-mosque early on July 10. The 36-hour raid turned up a stockpiled arsenal of suicide vests, machine guns, gasoline bombs, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, anti-tank mines - and letters of instruction from Al-Qaeda's leadership.

Mr. Musharraf termed the madrassa "a fortress for war." In all, the revolt directly caused more than 100 deaths.

Mosques have been used as places for inciting violence, planning operations, and storing weapons, but deploying one as a base to overthrow the government creates a precedent. The Red Mosque model offers Islamists a bold tactic, one they likely will try again, especially if the recent episode, which has shaken the country, succeeds in pushing Mr. Musharraf out of office.

Our imaginary Islamist strategist, in short, can now deploy another tactic to attain power.

Mr. Pipes ([www.DanielPipes.org](http://www.DanielPipes.org)) is the director of the Middle East Forum.

**Load-Date:** July 18, 2007

## *Forgotten lessons*

South China Morning Post

January 11, 2007 Thursday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Behind the News; Pg. 14

**Length:** 1488 words

**Byline:** History suggests that Israel's refusal to talk peace with Syria could lead to another conflict over the Golan Heights, writes Ben Lynfield

### **Body**

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Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's calls on Israel to resume peace negotiations, and Israel's reluctance to do so, are evoking an unpleasant sense of déjà vu for some Israelis.

Yossi Sarid, a former education minister and opposition leader who retired from politics last year, was a young activist in the ruling Labour Party in the early 1970s, when an acquaintance asked him to convey a peace feeler from Egyptian president Anwar Sadat to Israeli prime minister Golda Meir.

"I came to her and told her, 'Sadat is willing to negotiate'," Mr Sarid recalled. "I was certain she would be delighted. Instead, she stared at me with cold eyes, and said, 'This is nothing new. Do you know what he wants? We will have to give him all of the Sinai.'" Meir said she was not willing to part with that territory, which Israel captured from Egypt during the 1967 Middle East war, when it also occupied Syria's Golan Heights, a strategic plateau overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Mr Sarid said he disagreed with Meir and told her Israel should return all of Sinai for a peace deal.

Had Israel responded to Sadat's overtures, the lives of thousands of soldiers it lost when it was taken by surprise by the Egyptian and Syrian armies in 1973 could have been spared, Mr Sarid said. Eventually, in 1978, a year after Sadat made a dramatic visit to Jerusalem, Israel agreed to do what Meir had refused: return all of the Sinai as part of peace arrangements with Egypt.

"We are in exactly the same situation today," Mr Sarid said of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's refusal to respond to Syria's overtures. "There is a danger of a war with Syria - not necessarily an all-out war, but rather attrition, limited attacks and all kinds of actions the Syrians know how to carry out by proxy."

While Mr Olmert visits Beijing this week to discuss trade and matters related to Middle East peace efforts, Mr Sarid said the Israeli army's failure to win a decisive victory in last summer's war with Hezbollah might have pushed the Syrians towards concluding that if they could not regain the Golan Heights by negotiations, a military option might work.

"I think their appetite has been heightened and that they have the impression that a limited action may catalyse a diplomatic process," Mr Sarid said.

## Forgotten lessons

The sense that Israel was edging towards further conflict prompted a leading Haaretz newspaper columnist, Uzi Benziman, to headline a recent column "You, Me and the Next War". That is the title of a play written a year after Israel's victory in 1967, predicting more fighting and more deaths.

Since the summer, Mr Assad has used the language of both confrontation and peace in referring to the future of Israeli-Syrian relations. In recent weeks, he and his foreign minister, Walid Muallem, have stressed in pronouncements to the western media that they are ready to reach a settlement with the Israelis, if only Mr Olmert's government would respond.

"Many voices are being raised in Israel" for dialogue with Damascus, Mr Assad said last month. "So, I say to Olmert, let him try and see if we are bluffing."

Mr Muallem said that Syria was ready to resume talks over the Golan Heights that broke down seven years ago "without preconditions".

Although Israeli analysts diverged over whether Mr Assad was genuinely interested in reaching a peace settlement, the Israeli government made it clear it was unimpressed by the messages from Damascus. The reluctance to engage mirrored the stance of the Bush administration in the face of the recent bipartisan Baker-Hamilton report urging a US dialogue with Syria.

"Israel has peace with two of its neighbours, Egypt and Jordan, and is interested in expanding the circle of peace to include Lebanon and Syria," said foreign ministry spokesman Mark Regev. "The question is whether there is a real possibility of peace with Syria. We are very cautious. Our analysis is that Syria is cynically exploiting the Israel card in order to reduce international pressure on Damascus."

In particular, Mr Regev said, Israel believed Syria wanted to show it was open to peace with Israel in order to take the international heat off it for what a UN investigation claimed was its involvement in the assassination two years ago of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri.

Mr Regev said Syria's alliance with Iran and its support for the fundamentalist **Hamas** movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and for Hezbollah in Lebanon showed it was not really interested in peace.

But Israeli proponents of talks with the Syrians said Damascus should be engaged precisely in order to pull the rug out from under Iran and the radical groups. "There will be no greater blow to Hezbollah and Iran than a peace deal with Syria," said Yariv Oppenheimer, head of the dovish Peace Now group.

Domestic politics might be part of the explanation for Israel's wariness. Serious negotiations and the territorial price Israel would have to pay for peace by returning the Golan would shake up Mr Olmert's ruling coalition.

His ally, the extreme right-wing Yisrael Beiteinu Party, opposed relinquishing the heights to Syria.

"Our position is to make peace in exchange for peace, not peace in exchange for territory," said Yisrael Beiteinu spokeswoman Irena Etinger. She said Israel should not negotiate with Syria until it "pulls out of the axis of evil" and stopped supplying Hezbollah and **Hamas**.

A poll published in the Yediot Ahronot newspaper last month showed that 67 per cent of Israelis favoured entering talks with Syria, but an almost equal number opposed returning the Golan Heights.

Shaul Arieli, a reserve brigadier-general and member of Israel's Council for Peace and Security, said the government should be leading public opinion towards a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He said the chances of a war with Syria were high - not immediately but perhaps within five years or so - unless the Golan was relinquished. The Assad regime's legitimacy was bound up with its ability to restore the Golan to Syria, he said.

Mr Arieli rejected the idea that Mr Assad was wedded to his alliance with Iran. "He is dying to free himself of the Iranian embrace, but he cannot do so without receiving the Golan Heights," he said. To achieve peace, Mr Arieli advocated negotiations on the basis of a 2002 Arab League plan that called for a full Israeli withdrawal from all



## Forgotten lessons

territories captured during the 1967 war in exchange for Arab recognition of Israel and normalisation of relations with it.

The Syrian state-controlled media, for its part, had not moderated its tone in line with Mr Assad's overtures.

"For tens of years until today, we have suffered and continue to suffer without interruption from the crimes of the colonialists, particularly the British and Americans and their Jewish Zionist agents, who destroy our homeland and kill the sons of our nation without distinguishing between combatant and non-combatant, between old men, children and women," an article in the official Tishreen newspaper said on Sunday. It went on to accuse Britain of "removing the scalps" of natives in the countries it colonised, linking the practice to contemporary actions by the US and Britain in Iraq and Israeli practices in the Gaza Strip.

In the view of Tel Aviv University Middle East specialist Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, the Syrian regime regarded its survival as being bound up with a hard-line Arab nationalist ideology. Mr Assad's recent statements calling for talks "are rhetoric to impress the United States and Europe. The Syrians want a half-open door to everyone. I don't see here a harbinger of a great strategic shift," he said. By contrast, he said, Sadat did make a strategic decision to orient Egypt towards the west in the early 1970s, including expelling thousands of Soviet advisers a year before launching the 1973 war.

"He needed a war to undertake the shift because no one took him seriously," Dr Maddy-Weitzman said. Although he didn't believe the Syrians were seeking a peace treaty, Dr Maddy-Weitzman said Mr Assad's overtures should be examined and that contacts between the two countries could help reduce tensions.

Yaacov Amidror, former head of the Israeli army's research and assessment division, was dismissive of those who advocated that Israel returned the Golan out of fear there would be a war. He said Syria was in a much weaker position from which to make war than Egypt was in 1973. "It has no Soviet support, it would have to fight alone, and it does not have Saudi Arabia willing to use the oil weapon," he said.

But for Mr Sarid, the memories of Meir's blunder were still vivid. He recalled that he had recently returned from studying in the US when he brought the Egyptian peace feeler to her attention and urged that Sinai be handed back. "After that conversation, she asked a lot of people: 'What's happened to Yossi? What did he study over there?'" Mr Sarid said.

## Graphic

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Credit: AFP; An Israeli soldier patrols Mount Hermon in the Golan Heights.

**Load-Date:** January 11, 2007

## *Why medical schools provide Islamic extremists with fertile recruiting grounds*

The Times (London)

July 4, 2007, Wednesday

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Pg. 7

**Length:** 747 words

**Byline:** Michael Binyon

### **Body**

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Medicine and engineering have long been the two most prestigious professions for Muslims. Some of the Arab world's most famous writers and politicians have studied these disciplines. But so too have its most notorious extremists, including Osama bin Laden, who trained as an engineer, and Ayman al-Zawahiri, his deputy, who qualified as a doctor.

In Egypt, the top echelons of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood have long been full of doctors, engineers and geologists, while ***Hamas***, the Palestinian Islamist party, is also dominated by such professionals, many of whom studied in Egypt. Recruiting such pillars of the community -who are often driven by strong ambition and convictions and may also be easily swayed by political extremism -has therefore been a prime aim of al-Qaeda. It has sought, especially, to radicalise Muslim medical and engineering students overseas, where they are often perplexed by a liberal culture, isolated from their families and more easily indoctrinated. Many, especially those from poor families, are proud of their achievements and believe that they have a right to be heeded. In many Middle Eastern countries, doctors, as leaders in their communities, are sucked into politics and become radicalised when they run into the inevitable corruption and frustrations. Dr George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was a classic example and was among the most extreme of the Palestinian militants in the 1970s and 1980s.

The strategy of seeking out recruits among those who might be seen as "Westernised" is the brainchild of al-Zawahiri. Several senior figures in the terrorist organisation have been recruited as students, including Omar Sheikh, the former London School of Economics student involved in the abduction and murder of the journalist Daniel Pearl.

The involvement of eight doctors and medical students in the London and Glasgow bomb plots has come as a double shock to most Muslims. Not only does it besmirch their religion by associating it with terrorism, but it also insults the pride that Muslims take in the achievements of their golden age, especially in the fields of medicine, surgery and pharmacology.

Medicine owes more to Islam than to any other religion or philosophy. It was the great Muslim physicians of Spain and the Middle East who laid the foundations for today's science; it was the writings and medical observations of scholars such as Ibn Rushd (Averroes, as he was known in Europe) and Ibn Sina (Avicenna) that led directly to the medical advances of the past nine centuries.

## Why medical schools provide Islamic extremists with fertile recruiting grounds

The names of these scholars are still familiar to educated Muslims, even if their works are no longer studied. Today medicine remains one of the most admired professions for a young Muslim man -and, increasingly, for women. Ambitious families encourage their children to aim for a career in medicine. The result is that all Muslim countries that have become rich have made the provision of universal health care a top priority, and in many countries there are now more medical graduates than jobs available. This is why doctors trained in the Middle East (especially in Iraq) are among the largest group of emigrants to Europe, where they know they can find work. Some become disillusioned and radicalised by the contrast between their own privileged lifestyle and the frustrations of the poor. Others may inherit a world of learning, but focus their intellect on radicalism.

Al-Zawahiri, probably now the most influential figure in al-Qaeda, comes from a large family of doctors, trained as a psychologist and pharmacologist in Egypt, holds a masters degree in surgery and worked as a paediatrician in Egypt. Even while studying, however, he was already active in the Muslim Brotherhood.

Overwhelmingly, however, Muslim physicians reject extremism. Dr Abdullah Shehu, a member of the Muslim Doctors and Dentists Association, categorically rejected any link with violence. "It is completely contrary to the teachings of both medicine and Islam," he said yesterday. As a member of the Muslim Council of Britain's medical committee, he said that doctors were subject to all kinds of political pressures, but any connection with extremism was entirely an individual decision.

The pride Muslims take in their past is universal. And this may account for the strength of condemnation, by the Muslim Council of Britain as well as Muslims overseas, of terrorism perpetrated by doctors. It is a stain on the Islamic heritage.

**Load-Date:** July 4, 2007

## News Summary

The New York Times  
June 28, 2007 Thursday  
Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

**Length:** 792 words

### **Body**

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#### INTERNATIONALA3-12

##### After Decade in Office Blair Yields Role to Brown

Gordon Brown took over from Tony Blair as Britain's prime minister, pledging to "try my utmost" and declaring, "Now, let the work of change begin." Mr. Blair is becoming the Middle East envoy for the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations. A12

##### 13 Palestinians Killed in Raids

At least 11 Palestinian militants and 2 civilians were killed during Israeli raids in Gaza in the deadliest day of fighting since the Islamic militant group Hamas took control. Hospital officials in Gaza said a 10-year-old boy was among the dead. A10

##### Unrest Over Iran Gas Rationing

Drivers set fire to at least two gas stations in Tehran after the government announced that gasoline rationing would begin at midnight, according to the state television news. While there were some reports that a large number of gas stations had been set on fire, only two were confirmed. A8

##### A Global Urban Majority

By next year, more than half the world's population, 3.3 billion people, will for the first time live in towns and cities, and the number is expected to swell to almost five billion by 2030, according to a United Nations Population Fund report. The change is expected to be particularly swift in Africa and Asia. A6

##### Wider Use of Latin Mass Likely

Pope Benedict XVI has signed a document that would allow more churches to adopt the old Latin Mass, which largely faded from use during the 1960s, when the groundbreaking Second Vatican Council opened the door to worship in the local vernacular, Vatican officials say. A3

#### NATIONALA13-19

##### Senate Committee Issues Subpoenas to White House

## News Summary

The Senate Judiciary Committee issued subpoenas to the White House, Vice President Dick Cheney's office and the Justice Department after what the panel's chairman called "stonewalling of the worst kind" of efforts to investigate the National Security Agency's policy of wiretapping without warrants. A1

## Tainted Toothpaste Found

Roughly 900,000 tubes of tainted toothpaste have turned up in hospitals for the mentally ill, prisons, juvenile detention facilities and even some hospitals serving the general population. A1

## Changes to Immigration Bill Fail

The Senate killed proposals from the left and the right for major changes in a comprehensive immigration bill, and the outlook for the bill remained in doubt as senators prepared for a crucial vote on whether to end debate and move to final passage. A18

## U.S. Urban Population Grows

According to figures from the Census Bureau, the biggest population growth nationwide occurred in urban hubs in the South and West and especially in the metropolitan suburbs of those regions. A14

## SCIENCE/HEALTH

## Surgeon Injuries Not Reported

Nearly all surgeons accidentally stick themselves with needles and sharp instruments while in training. But most fail to report the injuries, risking their health and that of their families and patients to the threat of diseases, according to a survey being published. A13

## NEW YORK/REGIONC16-17

## School's Wealthy Patrons Force Management Change

The founders and wealthy patrons of the Beginning With Children Charter School in Brooklyn, frustrated with student performance, have forced a majority of the school's trustees to resign, causing an uproar among parents and teachers. A1

## Lights Out in the City

An hourlong power failure that left big sections of the Upper East Side and the Bronx without electricity stirred fears of more dark days ahead this summer for Con Edison and its customers.C16

## 5 Graduates Killed in Crash

Five new high school graduates from Fairport, a Rochester suburb, on their way to the Finger Lakes for a few days of relaxation were killed when their sport utility vehicle crashed head on into a tractor-trailer on a remote rural road. C16

## BUSINESS DAYC1-15

## Bank's Reputation Wounded

Executives at the investment bank Bear Stearns scrambled to avert the collapse of two hedge funds. The embarrassment has forced Bear to provide loans of up to \$1.6 billion to bail out the smaller fund. The second, which has suffered much bigger losses, is expected to eventually be dissolved. C1

## China Closes Food Plants

## News Summary

After weeks of insisting that food in China is safe, regulators in China said that they had closed 180 food plants and that inspectors had uncovered more than 23,000 food safety violations. C1

Business DigestC2

OBITUARIESA20

Liz Claiborne

The designer of indefatigable career clothes for professional women, she was 78. A20

EDITORIALA22-23

Editorials: Housing and hedge funds; better protecting the vulnerable; the lobbyists behind the curtain; Ms. Bolden's black mark.

Columns: Timothy Egan and Nicholas D. Kristof.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** April 15, 2008

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## *Upper-class bombers no surprise*

The Halifax Daily News (Nova Scotia)

July 10, 2007 Tuesday

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**Section:** PERSPECTIVE; Pg. 13

**Length:** 747 words

**Byline:** Flemming, Brian

### **Body**

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There was good news and unsurprising news last week in Britain, where a gaggle of violent Muslim extremists screwed up three car bombings.

The good news was that these alleged wannabe jihadis were completely incompetent. After parking two petrol, rusty nail and propane -laden cars in central London, these idiots ran away, wearing neither ski-masks nor hoodies to conceal their identities.

No city in the world has more closed-circuit TVs surveilling its streets than London. Everyone appearing on London's streets during a normal day will have their picture taken about 300 times. Wear a niqab if you don't want to be identified.

There's more. These nominees for next year's Darwin Awards for Stupidity left their cell phones behind, packed with juicy phone numbers. The police now know who they've been talking to - for eons. Plus, their fingerprints were all over the cars.

Next, the homemade bombs used syringes as triggering devices, not the usual more reliable blasting caps. So police were able to confirm quickly the links between the alleged bombers and their day jobs in hospitals.

#### Privileged backgrounds

The unsurprising news was that this gang of alleged murderers-to-be came from privileged backgrounds, not from the slums of Karachi or Gaza. Some commentators appeared astonished by the upscale provenances of these pathetic people.

But that's a wrongheaded opinion. Throughout modern history, bloody extremists like Lenin, Stalin, Mao and Pol Pot all came from middle or upper- class families. And Osama bin Laden's a multimillionaire.

In this month of the 231st anniversary of what Nova Scotians in 1776 called the "American Rebellion," it is fitting to recall that most of the 58 signers of the Declaration of Independence were wealthy men. The American Rebellion was certainly not for the plebians, of the plebians and by the plebians - and still isn't.

Many of the alleged British bombers were - shock! horror! - medical doctors. Culturally, Canadians believe doctors are healers, not killers. These alleged killers-to-be were far from being simple shepherds from the hills of Palestine.

## Upper-class bombers no surprise

Many doctors apart from Jack Kervorkian don't mind the idea of killing innocent civilians. Bin Laden's top deputy is none other than Ayman al-Zahwahri, an Egyptian medical doctor who only last Thursday was distributing videos urging Hamas and al-Qaida militants to rain death and destruction upon the world.

Then there was Auschwitz's Josef Mengele. But I digress.

After each successful or attempted extremist outrage, the media swoop in to interview the families of the murderers or wannabe killers. Parents and siblings of this month's alleged British extremists said the same thing as the relatives of Mohammed Atta, leader of the 9-11 attack, did.

All claimed their Mohammed could never have done what they were being accused of. All were good boys and fine students. A sister of one of the doctors accused in the Glasgow airport bombings said accusations against her brother were "Israeli lies," so we're talking about deeply entrenched belief systems here.

Speaking of belief systems, why was one of the London car bombs put outside a club where it was "ladies' night," and where hundreds of women - many Asian and Middle Eastern - came within an ace of being killed or maimed? One British Islamist said they were "only sluts," so who gave a Fallujah fig for them?

Close relatives

This raises a delicate subject not much discussed in the media, but one that needs airing: there's a long tradition in many Muslim countries not only of arranged marriages, but of marriages to close relatives.

Saddam Hussein was, for example, married to his first cousin, as are about one-third of Iraqis today. Similar close-relative marriages are common throughout the Islamic world. In a letter to author Christopher Hitchens published on Slate.com, fellow author Nadeem Aslam said: "In some families in my street (in Yorkshire), the grandparents, parents, and the children are all first cousins - it's been going on for generations and so the effects of the inbreeding are quite pronounced by now."

The result, he said, was that his local hospital was filled with kids with birth defects.

Is there a connection between these close biological relationships: the structure of extremist families and the violence they spawn?

[BFlem8861@aol.com](mailto:BFlem8861@aol.com)

Brian Flemming believes the world is a more peaceful place in 2007 than it has been for a century. The failed attack of the British bombers didn't change his opinion.

## Graphic

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A Jeep Cherokee burns fiercely after an unsuccessful attempt to wreck the Glasgow, Scotland, airport last week. ;

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2007



## **Blair's Mideast mission is more than just vanity**

Financial Times (London, England)

July 13, 2007 Friday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2007 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 11

**Length:** 756 words

**Byline:** By MICHAEL FULLILOVE

### **Body**

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Tony Blair is expected to travel to the Middle East soon on his first working trip as a post-prime ministerial peacemaker. His appointment as the special envoy of the Quartet - the US, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations - produced something unprecedented for the Middle East: a consensus. Pundits were united in their response: why would anyone, let alone the parties to the world's most intractable conflict, listen to the Poodle?

Observers in the region rushed to label Mr Blair a "loser", a "lapdog", a "warmonger" and an "on-off button controlled by the White House". British commentators, grown weary of their former darling, thought the "preposterous" arrangement was simply a case of "jobs for the boys". One famous correspondent was "overwhelmed that this vain, deceitful man, this proven liar, a trumped-up lawyer who has the blood of thousands of Arab men, women and children on his hands, is really contemplating being 'our' Middle East envoy".

The critics are correct that the odds are stacked against the new emissary. The record of past Middle East negotiators is not pretty. The blood feud between Hamas and Fatah has brought the future of the Palestinian national project into question. Neither Israel nor the Palestinians seem to have leaders strong or skilful enough to reach meaningful agreements.

As a co-author of the Iraq folly, the former prime minister is in no danger of winning a popularity contest in the Arab and Muslim worlds. His role in that reckless war - given the lives lost, blood and treasure spent, influence squandered and adversaries emboldened - raises questions about his geopolitical judgment.

Finally, the unseemly rush to announce Mr Blair's commission on the day he vacated Downing Street suggests this appointment is not purely about the conflict: it is also about Tony. Enoch Powell observed that all political careers end in failure, but that was before the Carter Center, the Clinton Foundation and soon, no doubt, the Blair Foundation. These days, some political careers never end.

Does this mean the cynics are right and this is a fool's errand? Not necessarily. The fact that insiders are against this kind of high-profile envoy - that noses in Brussels are out of joint and the Foreign Office is reported to be in an "institutional sulk" - is the first clue that there might be something to it. Occasionally special envoys are able to achieve results that the striped-trousers brigade cannot. Think of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's representative Harry Hopkins, who helped establish the wartime triangular relationship between Washington, London and Moscow. Or Richard Holbrooke's pushy brinkmanship in the Balkans, or Senator George Mitchell's patient negotiations in Northern Ireland. The diplomatic freemasonry did not like any of those gentlemen either.

## Blair's Mideast mission is more than just vanity

Mr Blair has some relevant experience from his work in putting Belfast's trigger men on ice. He retains a prestige that must make other former world leaders such as Gerhard Schroder and Jacques Chirac sorely jealous. The Quartet has been moribund for some time; why not shine some star power on to it? Maybe Mr Blair can create a dynamic that develops into something more substantial.

Yes, Mr Blair's initial mandate is restricted, covering only Palestinian governance, institution-building and economic rejuvenation - but it may well expand over time. The fact that the former premier is so close to the Americans and Israelis is not a disqualification, but rather an essential precondition for success. Perhaps there is no one who can persuade Washington and Jerusalem to compromise on some issues, but Mr Blair stands a better chance than any other special representative. President George W. Bush owes his friend many quids in return for the quos he received over Iraq; and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert may find it easier to make concessions if Mr Blair, who refused to criticise Israel over the Lebanon war, is sitting at the negotiating table.

Mr Blair brings energy and optimism to a region that lacks both. There are grave risks attaching to his assignment - but for the most part they are risks to him and his reputation. Any improvement in circumstances would be welcome and it is unlikely he will make the situation any worse. Sure, Mr Blair probably views all this as part of his own personal narrative - but let us not prejudge the outcome of the mission before he even gets to the gates of Jerusalem.

The writer directs the global issues programme at the Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney

**Load-Date:** July 12, 2007

## *Soon, elections will be won and lost on the internet*

The Australian (Australia)

June 19, 2007 Tuesday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 15

**Length:** 746 words

**Byline:** Tim Montgomerie, Andrew Bolt

### **Body**

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Tim Montgomerie, editor of [www.conservativehome.com](http://www.conservativehome.com), in London's The Spectator, on democracy's future

THE next election campaign is likely to be remembered as Britain's first internet election. It will certainly be the first election when a large proportion of stories is broken by bloggers. It could be the first election when the best political ads are made on the home computers of political geeks rather than in the glassy offices of expensive advertising agencies. It will be the first election when the mainstream media aren't just fact-checking the politicians but when they'll get bias-checked themselves. As Google's CEO recently told Matthew d'Ancona on The Spectator's Coffee House blog: in this new political era, everyone has a camera phone, everyone is a blogger, everyone is a reporter.

If I were the campaign strategist for a major political party, I'd certainly be investing heavily in the internet. People now search as much as they email. I would want my party's official website to be at the top of every search page. I'd be even more keen for surrogate sites that scrutinise my opponents to be at the top of the Google results screen. I would be sending interns on to the campaign trail with rival candidates. Armed with \$400 mini-cameras, they would be watching everything, seeking to record the kind of gaffe that cost George Allen his US Senate seat and presidential ambitions after his allegedly racist remark was "YouTubed". I'd also be gathering long lists of email addresses, carefully categorising people according to the issues that motivate them.

Andrew Bolt, in Melbourne's Herald Sun, on a morally dubious intellectual culture:

WE now worship global-warming preachers who belch more greenhouse gases from their mansions and private planes than do their disciples. Our richest musicians stage Make Poverty History concerts in which not a dollar is raised for the poor and even the fans get in free.

Our politicians say sorry for stealing Aboriginal children no one can find or name.

The head of Melbourne University Press, formed to publish academic works of the highest quality, now wants to publish the memoirs of al-Qa'ida recruit and dropout David Hicks.

The Sydney Peace Prize is given to a writer who tells us to join the "Iraqi resistance" -- now blowing up women and children -- because their "battle is our battle".

Soon, elections will be won and lost on the internet

The Australian Catholic University gives an honorary PhD to The Age cartoonist Michael Leunig, who likens Israel to Auschwitz, paints George Bush as the devil, asks us to pray for Osama bin Laden and praises "the music you can hear playing in your toes at night".

Our leading historians defend the fashionable untruths they tell about our genocidal past by sighing -- as did Professor Lyndall Ryan -- "Two truths are told. Is only one truth correct?"

Marrickville Council, in inner Sydney, decides this month to twin not with any town in Israel but with the Palestinian town of Bethlehem, now under the control of Hamas extremists.

On it goes: the artists who take pride in displeasing; the Age columnist who [last week] declared: "I'd be happy with a benevolent socialist dictatorship"; the prominent leftists, led by the ABC's Phillip Adams, who invite Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez to come here to inspire us to be just that; the academics who want to try Bush, not Hicks; the immigrants who want Australia to be more like the countries they fled; the discrimination police who entrap Christian pastors but leave hate-preaching imams well alone.

From a London Daily Telegraph news story on a BBC report that finds left-liberal bias rampant at the British public broadcaster:

THE BBC has failed to promote proper debate on major political issues because of the inherent liberal culture of its staff, a report commissioned by the corporation has concluded ... The report concludes BBC staff must be more willing to challenge their own beliefs. It reads: "There is a tendency to 'group think', with too many staff inhabiting a shared space and comfort zone."

A staff impartiality seminar held last year is also documented in the report, at which executives admitted they would broadcast images of the Bible being thrown away but not the Koran in case Muslims were offended. During the seminar a senior BBC reporter criticised the corporation for being anti-American. The report was jointly commissioned by BBC managers and the board of governors and will be published by the BBC Trust, which has replaced the governors.

**Load-Date:** June 18, 2007

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## *That was the Week that Was...*

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

December 17, 2006 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 31

**Length:** 1620 words

**Byline:** Compiled by Anne-Marie Conway

### **Body**

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Home news

Prime Minister's questions

Tony Blair's place in history was confirmed on Thursday when he became the first British prime minister to help the police with their inquiries into a corruption scandal. The cash-for-peerages investigation drew nearer to Number 11 on Wednesday, with the revelation that in 2000, the all-party honours scrutiny committee rejected the nomination of Sir Ronald Cohen. The Chancellor denied that he had anything to do with the elevation of the man chairing his social investment task force.

Both unions and the Labour Left rejected the suggestion, in Sir Hayden Phillips's review of political funding, that donations should be progressively capped with a target of pounds 50,000 within four years. Some unions contribute more than pounds 1m a year to party funds.

Diana's crash was 'no conspiracy'

Diana, Princess of Wales, was not engaged to Dodi Fayed (although he might have been planning to ask her), not pregnant and not murdered, Lord Stevens's inquiry said firmly on Thursday. Conspiracy theorists thus had to content themselves with ferreting out all the bad news that the Government might reasonably have hoped would have been buried in the fuss over the Stevens report (but wasn't).

As well as the police visit to Number 10, there was the Serious Fraud Office's decision to "discontinue" its investigation into the defence company BAE Systems. This was solely to "safeguard national and international security" and nothing to do with commercial pressure from the Saudi royal family, or any threat to a pounds 6bn fighter plane order.

Also, the closure of 2,500 post offices; plans to give serving prisoners the vote, in line with European legislation; a proposal to build new runways at four British airports, including one at Heathrow; and a U-turn on abolishing the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

Oh yes, and a threat to reform the Freedom of Information Act to prevent too many "complex" requests and keep the lid on controversial information.

More bodies in Suffolk

## That was the Week that Was...

Fears that a serial killer was targeting women in Ipswich's red light district were confirmed with the discovery of three more naked bodies, one on Sunday, and two on Tuesday. Police distributed cash to prostitutes to help them stay off the streets. Another woman reported missing was found safe on Friday.

## Absentee fathers will pay

Absent parents who fail to pay main-tenance for their children could be tagged, lose their driving licences or have their wages docked, John Hutton, the Work and Pensions Secretary, said on Sunday. Sadly for those waiting for the Child Support Agency to get them the pounds 3.5bn their former partners owe them, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (C-Mec) won't be up and running much before 2010.

## Losses in translation

More than 5m Britons live abroad, the Institute for Public Policy Research reported, though the population fall was hidden by the number of immigrants - who, we learned on Wednesday, cost the taxpayer more than pounds 100m a year in translating and interpreting services.

The pounds 55m this cost the NHS can have done little to help trusts struggling with deficits under an accounting system that the NHS's chief executive admitted was "unsustainable and inconsistent". To achieve its target of a pounds 250m surplus by March 2008, the health service may also have to reconsider spending on management consultants, which, the National Audit Office said on Friday, had risen from pounds 31m to pounds 578m in three years.

## Spend a costly penny

Weary Christmas shoppers in central London can now visit "the world's first pounds 1m powder room". WC1 in Oxford Street opened on Wednesday, with scented candles, flowers, "considerate lighting" and air-conditioned loos big enough to change in. But the ladies (there is no gents) will have to spend a fiver rather than a penny.

## International news

## Jobseekers find death not work

At least 60 people were killed and 200 wounded on Tuesday in two near-simultaneous bombings in a Baghdad square where Shia labourers gather looking for work. One of the suicide bombers had drawn victims to his mini-bus by claiming he had jobs for them.

The resignation of Prince Turki al-Faisal, the Saudi ambassador to the US, was believed to be connected to his government's warning that it would arm Sunnis if the US were to withdraw from Iraq. President Bush announced he would not after all unveil a fresh Iraq strategy before Christmas.

## Palestinian factions square up to each other

Israel's Ehud Olmert hinted that his country had nuclear weapons (though he later said his remarks on German TV had been "misinterpreted") but had been too restrained to use them. Restraint was not much in evidence at Gaza International Airport, according to its chief of security, who claimed the terminal had been so comprehensively trashed by Israeli troops that repairs would cost pounds 8m.

Factional fighting among Palestinians escalated, with the shooting of a Fatah official's children on their way to school on Monday; attacks on Hamas rallies in the West Bank; and claims that Fatah had tried to assassinate the prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, on his way back from a fundraising tour of Arab countries on Thursday. The Hamas leader survived, though Israeli border guards prevented him bringing back the pounds 18m he had collected.

The presence of several rabbis among the Holocaust-deniers and Ku Klux Klan grand wizards at Iran's "Studying the Holocaust" conference was explained by their refusal to allow the murder of 6m Jews to be an excuse for "perpetuating unjust acts against the Palestinians".

## That was the Week that Was...

## Flanders scare

Reports that the Dutch-speaking half of Belgium had declared independence caused widespread alarm in Brussels on Wednesday. This changed to anger when the French-speaking public television station RTBF confessed it had run a bogus news report to stir up debate.

## People

## Honours richly deserved

Corporal Bryan Budd, a paratrooper who made a lone charge against Taliban lines after his platoon was ambushed in Afghanistan, was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross on Thursday. Among the other 133 services personnel honoured were Private Michelle Norris, 19, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, the first woman to be given the Military Cross, for courage under fire in Iraq.

On a lighter note, having been to Buckingham Palace to be given their CBEs by the Queen on Tuesday, Aard-man Animations' founders, Peter Lord and David Sproxton, then picked up the best film award for Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit, at Wednesday's British Comedy Awards. Catherine Tate was named best TV comedy actress (though was she bovvered?).

And the Telegraph's Matt (Pritchett) was named cartoonist of the year for the third time at the What the Papers Say awards on Thursday.

## They will be remembered

Frank Johnson, the journalist who invented the phrase "the chattering classes" and served as deputy editor of The Sunday Telegraph and editor of The Spectator (1995-99), aged 63.

Augusto Pinochet, Chilean dictator (1973-90) and friend of Baroness Thatcher, aged 91.

Georgia Gibbs, the American singer of the 1950 hit If I Knew You Were Coming, I'd Have Baked A Cake, aged 87.

Ahmet Ertegun, the Turkish-born co-founder of Atlantic Records, aged 83.

Angel Diaz, the Puerto-Rican murderer whose long-drawn-out death by lethal injection halted executions in Florida, at least temporarily, aged 55.

Michael Mephram, the Sunday Telegraph's puzzle compiler, aged 62.

## Business

## Corus steeled for takeover

On Sunday, the board of the Anglo-Dutch steel-maker Corus recommended a raised pounds 4.7bn takeover offer from Tata, its Indian rival, to the confusion of Brazil's Companhia Siderurgica Nacional (CSN), which later claimed its competing offer had been recommended. The CSN acquisition can now only go through if Corus shareholders reject the Tata scheme of arrangement, or if the scheme is withdrawn or lapses.

On Friday, Corus was fined pounds 1.3m, plus pounds 1.7m costs, for breaches of health and safety law at its Port Talbot plant, in Wales, where a blast furnace explosion killed three workers in 2001.

## Big bonuses for bankers

On Tuesday, Goldman Sachs reported a 70 per cent rise in full-year profits to pounds 4.8bn. This means bonuses all round for the bank's 26,000 employees, and up to \$50m a head for senior partners.

## That was the Week that Was...

Staff at Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns were also expecting generous bonuses after the two US banks reported record profits on Thursday.

## Russian blow to Shell

On Tuesday the Anglo-Dutch energy company Shell gave in to pressure from the Russian government and sold its controlling stake in the pounds 10bn Sakhalin-2 scheme in eastern Siberia, to the state-owned energy group Gazprom. Shell will continue to operate the development of the world's biggest liquefied gas project.

## Sport

## So farewell then, Mr Pardew

West Ham United's 4-0 trouncing by Bolton Wanderers at the weekend, their fifth defeat in six matches, left the 2006 FA Cup finalists facing relegation - and their manager, Alan Pardew, without a job on Monday. He took his dismissal gracefully, helped no doubt by a pounds 1m compensation package. He was replaced by Alan Curbishley, Charlton's old boss and a former West Ham player.

## Panesar pitches in

Despite an impressive Ashes debut from Monty Panesar, who took five wickets in the third Test on Thursday, England's grip on the urn seemed to be inexorably slipping - especially after Australia's Adam Gilchrist scored the second fastest Test century ever yesterday.

## Bad day on the baize

Snooker player Ronnie "The Rocket" O'Sullivan walked out in the middle of his UK Championship quarter-final against Stephen Hendry on Thursday after missing a red ball. "I had a bad day at the office," he said later.

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## *The Prestige Behind the Imperial Ethic*

The Moscow Times

May 2, 2007 Wednesday

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**Length:** 716 words

**Byline:** Yulia Latynina

### **Body**

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To Our Readers The Moscow Times welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication should be signed and bear the signatory's address and telephone number.

Letters to the editor should be sent by fax to (7-495) 232-6529, by e-mail to [oped@imedia.ru](mailto:oped@imedia.ru), or by post. The Moscow Times reserves the right to edit letters. Email the Opinion Page Editor Russia has once more affirmed its status as a great power and bolstered its authority in the world on President Vladimir Putin's watch. Shortly after the State Duma condemned the relocation of a World War II memorial in Tallinn, the valiant defenders of the Bronze Soldier provided us with a textbook example of how to fight injustice.

They looted the Wool & Cotton, Sportland and Hugo Boss stores late last week in the Estonian capital. They looted a wine shop and burned a few cars. One defender of the monument was stabbed to death during the riot. Dozens of people, including police, were injured. A **female** police officer's leg was broken. Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip received a death threat by e-mail.

There's nothing new about Russian attempts to implement policies aimed at restoring the country to greatness.

One recent example was in 2005, when thugs in Poland beat up the children of Russian diplomats and stole their mobile phones. Putin sharply criticized the actions of Polish authorities. A few days later, patriots beat up three Poles -- two diplomats and a journalist -- on the streets of Moscow.

Another case was in September 2006, when Georgia detained four Russian military officers on suspicion of espionage. Georgian Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili identified the officers as senior members of the General Staff's Main Intelligence Directorate, or GRU. The Defense Ministry immediately refuted the insinuation in the Georgian media that the GRU was involved in intelligence gathering. Then again, under Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov, the GRU may well have been involved in some other activity, such as cactus farming.

Putin responded with a call for measures to protect the rights of native vendors in our markets. After that, Russia declared war -- not against Georgia, but against Georgians living in Russia. The crackdown dealt Georgians a crushing financial blow that benefited the cops, and the deportation process claimed several lives.

Now Estonia is feeling the heat.

It should be noted that Russia reacts to external challenges in a very selective fashion. The Kremlin saw nothing amiss last July when a North Korean missile landed in Russian waters near the Pacific port of Nakhodka.

## The Prestige Behind the Imperial Ethic

When Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal arrived in Moscow for a recent official visit, he announced upon landing at the airport that his movement would not recognize Israel's right to exist, thereby rendering senseless Russia's attempt to draw him into the negotiating process. Once again, the Kremlin took the slight in stride.

In other words, Russia never takes offense when a so-called rogue state spits in its face.

There's no point even talking about the official reaction to events here at home. The parliament was unmoved last week when the remains of six Soviet World War II pilots buried at a memorial in Khimki were unearthed by a bulldozer, the gravestones were tossed around, protesters were beaten by police and the remains went missing. No one called for a boycott of goods from Khimki or for the mayor to be declared persona non grata.

Countries that were once part of the Soviet empire -- Poland, Georgia, Estonia -- are another matter entirely. When something happens there, the wrath of Putin, the Russian police and bands of curiously elusive avengers is always ready to rain down on those who forget the words of the old song: "Our armor is strong and our tanks are swift."

And this wrath delivers tangible results. After its diplomats were beaten up, Poland, for example, began talking about allowing the United States to install interceptor missiles on its territory, a move that infuriated the Kremlin. Georgia appealed to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and the Kremlin still can't figure out why.

Both of these examples clearly demonstrate how Putin's foreign policy bolsters Russia's prestige and restores its former imperial greatness.

Yulia Latynina hosts a political talk show on Ekho Moskvyy radio.

**Load-Date:** May 1, 2007

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End of Document

## *Give moderate Islam a chance; Morocco*

The International Herald Tribune

May 5, 2007 Saturday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 4

**Length:** 775 words

**Byline:** A.M. Spiegel - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** LONDON

### **Body**

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In the 1942 film "Road to Morocco," Bob Hope's character famously rendered the North African kingdom as the place "where they empty all the old hourglasses."

But following a dramatic surge in terrorism last month in North Africa, Morocco - long dismissed as an exotic place bounded by the Sahara and suspended in time - is now the last Arab frontier in the effort to stop the spread of global terrorism.

The barrage of recent attacks has included three terrorist assaults in Casablanca, a shootout in Tunisia between terrorists and police officers, and coordinated suicide bombings in Algeria, which killed 33 people.

How Morocco, the most liberal of Arab states, responds to Al Qaeda's forays in the region might provide answers to one of the key questions of our day: Can Islamist extremism be countered with Islamist moderation?

The wider world began paying closer attention to Al Qaeda's presence in Morocco after an Algerian-based terrorist organization, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, announced in January that it would rename itself Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. At first, many observers dismissed the significance of the change, seeing it as a sign that the group was scrambling for new relevance in an Algeria tired of bloodshed.

But Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb has now established ties with local groups in both Morocco and Tunisia. It also has managed to accomplish what the French colonial powers never could achieve - bridge the fates and policies of three historically distinctive and often sparring nations.

Morocco, a constitutional monarchy that grants the king strong executive powers - including control over the military and the authority to disband Parliament - has long been considered the model for reform in the region. The government also has offered a blueprint (at least on paper) for Arab counterterrorism measures that combine security and intelligence efforts with measures to preserve Islam from extremism.

Morocco's movement toward a moderate, Sufi-inspired Islam has included the establishment of Islamic Web sites, television and radio programs, the training of female clerics, and the redesign of old Koranic schools.

Yet much more is needed. It is time to encourage Morocco's other experiment - the political inclusion of a moderate Islamist party as an antidote to extremism. In elections scheduled for September, Morocco can provide a model of

## Give moderate Islam a chance Morocco

Islamic democracy by allowing the moderate Party of Justice and Development the opportunity to do what neighboring Algerian Islamists were never allowed to do: form an Islamist-led government.

Although skeptics question whether so-called moderate Islamists even exist, events on the ground demand new approaches. The debate should be reframed to reflect the urgent need to combat terror. An individual group's firm commitment to nonviolence - and its willingness to help fight extremism - should be the most important factor determining its acceptability.

Morocco, with its young reform-minded king, Mohammed VI, who is able to reign in the Islamists if necessary, offers the ideal test case.

The Justice and Development party, expected to post large gains when Moroccans head to the polls, is a rare Islamist party. Modeled after Germany's Christian Democrats, it focuses on political and economic reform over divisive social and religious issues. Most important, in contrast to groups like **Hamas**, it condemns violence and campaigns on an anti-extremist, anti-terrorism platform.

Some critics assert that moderate Islamists in North Africa have done little to stop terror, but these groups have never really been given the chance.

Following terrorist attacks in Casablanca in 2003, the Justice and Development party faced a major backlash. But four years later, the party, which has been running a sophisticated election campaign against a tired, less-organized amalgamation of secular parties, has managed to convince voters that it can help fight terror, and that its leadership would combat radicalism, not give rise to it.

Many Moroccans, frustrated with the inability of the government to stop terrorism, may be willing to take a chance on the party. And while the king - who has the ultimate authority to appoint the next prime minister - might be tempted to maintain the governing secular coalition, the prospect of Islamist-managed counterterrorism is now too compelling to dismiss.

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A.M. Spiegel, an American Institute of Maghreb Studies fellow at St. Antony's College, Oxford, served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. He is currently at work on a book on Islam and politics in Morocco.

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## *Islamic Democrats? - Correction Appended*

The New York Times

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Late Edition - Final

### **Correction Appended**

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**Byline:** By James Traub

James Traub is a contributing writer for the magazine. He is working on a book about democracy promotion.

## **Body**

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At 2 in the morning, a few days after I arrived in Cairo last month, a text message beeped into my cellphone: "Mahmoud Ghozlan, MB Guide Bureau, is being arrested NOW." Ghozlan was only the latest prominent member of the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist organization that commands deep loyalty in Egypt, to be hauled off by the dawn visitors of President Hosni Mubarak's security apparatus. In recent months, leaders of the organization, businessmen thought to be financial backers and other members of the brotherhood's Guidance Bureau have been arrested on a variety of charges. Forty members of the group have been indicted under Egypt's emergency laws and put under the jurisdiction of a military tribunal, which is likely to give them long jail sentences.

The arrest and imprisonment of political opponents is nothing new in Egypt, which has been ruled by a succession of authoritarian leaders since 1952; secular democrats are in jail along with the Islamists. Egypt is generally rated as one of the more repressive countries in the world's most repressive region. But two years ago, responding in part to White House pressure, the regime of President Hosni Mubarak allowed parliamentary elections to take place under conditions of unprecedented political freedom -- at least initially. And the brotherhood, though a banned organization that had to run candidates as independents, dominated the contest until the government cracked down in later rounds of voting. The organization still took 88 of the 454 seats in Egypt's lower house, the People's Assembly, becoming, in effect, the first opposition party of Egypt's modern era.

But it is not simply numbers that make the brotherhood a threat from the regime's point of view. While Mubarak and his allies regularly denounce the brothers as fundamentalists bent on turning Egypt into a theocracy, the new legislators have made common cause with judges, liberal intellectuals and secular activists in calling for increased political freedom. They have steered clear of cultural or religious issues. Abdel Monem Abou el-Fotouh, one of Ghozlan's colleagues on the Guidance Bureau, said to me flatly, "We are not a religious body." Only one of his 15 fellow guides, he said, is a sheik, or religious authority -- "and even he is political." While many secular critics fear that the brotherhood harbors a hidden Islamist agenda, so far the organization has posed a democratic political challenge to the regime, not a theological one; and that makes it all the more dangerous.

In his 2005 Inaugural Address, President Bush traced out the logic of a new, post-9/11 American foreign policy. "For as long as whole regions of the world simmer in resentment and tyranny," he declared, violence "will gather . .

## Islamic Democrats?

. and cross the most defended borders" -- i.e., our own. Therefore, he announced, "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." Thus was born the Freedom Agenda; and Egypt occupied the bull's-eye on this new target. Egypt was an authoritarian state that had supplied much of the leadership of Al Qaeda. It is also the largest nation in the Arab world and, historically, the center of the region's political and cultural life. Progress in Egypt's sclerotic political system would resonate all over the Islamic world. The nearly \$2 billion a year in military and economic aid that the U.S. had been providing since the Camp David accords in 1979 offered real leverage. And Egypt's early experience of democratic government (from 1922 to 1952), mostly under British occupation, and its lively community of democratic and human rights activists gave political reform a firmer foundation than it had elsewhere in the Arab world.

As it happened, presidential and parliamentary elections were scheduled for 2005. Not long after his inaugural address, President Bush called Mubarak to urge him to allow independent monitors to oversee the elections and to loose the asphyxiating controls on political activity and the press. For his part, Mubarak needed to respond not only to Washington but also to a rising tide of domestic dissent -- and to the continued enfeeblement of his own National Democratic Party, which performed badly in legislative elections five years earlier. He agreed to hold Egypt's first contested presidential elections and to permit unprecedented, if carefully circumscribed, political freedom. The U.S. Agency for International Development, which in years past had allowed the regime to control the hundreds of millions of dollars it spent in Egypt, earmarked \$50 million for democracy and governance; much of the money went to the training of political party activists and election monitors.

The Muslim Brotherhood was not at that time a major force in national electoral politics. Since its founding in 1928, the brotherhood had sunk deep roots in the country's urban working and middle classes, and especially among the professions, establishing a powerful base in the "syndicates" that represent doctors, lawyers, journalists and others. The organization began dipping its toes in the water of parliamentary electioneering in the mid-'80s; in 2000 it gained 17 seats. But the group responded to the new climate of openness by fielding a much larger slate of candidates for the 2005 elections -- 160 in all. Candidates from old-line Nasserist and left-wing parties ran as well.

After decades of quiet organizing, the Islamists proved to be far more popular, and more disciplined, than the isolated leaders of Mubarak's ruling party expected. In the first of three rounds of voting, the brothers won so many seats that the regime grew alarmed. In the second round, the police restricted access to polling areas in brotherhood strongholds; the Islamists still won most of the seats they sought. In the third round, the regime pulled out all the stops: despite the presence of hundreds of American-trained election monitors, security forces beat up and arrested opposition activists and shut down voting booths. In the end, election violence would claim 14 lives. Video footage showed old women in head scarves and veils scaling ladders to reach polling places -- this in a country notorious for dismal turnout. The regime had feared a surge of support for secular opposition forces like Ghad, a new party founded by Ayman Nour, a charismatic figure who also opposed Mubarak in the presidential race, or Tagammu, the traditional party of the left. These were the groups that the Bush administration's democracy agenda was designed to promote. But they proved to have relatively little national following; few voters risked arrest to cast a ballot in their behalf.

The brotherhood quickly proved that it was not only popular, but savvy. The leaders understood that it was not in their interests to provoke a confrontation with the regime and its hair-trigger security forces. They fielded candidates in only a fraction of the districts they could have won. According to Joshua Stacher, an American scholar of Egyptian politics who lives in Cairo, a brotherhood politician who projected winning 17 seats in his governorate was instructed by his superior to come back with a smaller number. Only when he whittled the figure to seven was he told to go ahead. The brotherhood won six of the seats. Stacher also notes that when the brotherhood held a press conference (which he attended) four days after the election to introduce their new legislators, a reporter asked Muhammad Akef, the "supreme guide," if they would be prepared to talk to the Americans. And Akef answered, "Yes, but they should forward the request to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry." He was saying both that the brotherhood was open to dialogue and that it had nothing to hide from the regime.

The brotherhood bloc took Parliament a great deal more seriously than the ruling party did. The entire 88-person contingent moved into a hotel in Cairo in order to be able to work and live together while the People's Assembly

## Islamic Democrats?

was in session. Merely showing up changed the dynamic of this torpid body, since N.D.P. lawmakers had to attend as well lest they be outvoted. The brothers formed a "parliamentary kitchen" with committees on various subjects; the committees, in turn, organized seminars to which outside experts were regularly invited. The Islamists formed a coalition with other opposition legislators, and with sympathetic members of the N.D.P., to protest the extension of emergency rule. They stood in solidarity with judges who were protesting growing infringements on their autonomy; hundreds of protesters, including some of the brotherhood's major figures, were arrested during several weeks of demonstrations in central Cairo. In an article in the journal *Middle East Report*, Joshua Stacher and Samer Shehata, a professor at Georgetown, concluded, "Brotherhood M.P.'s are attempting to transform the Egyptian parliament into a real legislative body, as well as an institution that represents citizens and a mechanism that keeps government accountable."

Many members of Egypt's secular opposition remain deeply skeptical of the brotherhood, which they see as the regime's silent ally in blocking their hopes for an open, pluralist society. Egypt's ruling elite has, in turn, traditionally worried far more about the secular opposition than about the Islamists. Anwar el-Sadat, the president from 1970 to his assassination in 1981, made peace with religious forces by initiating a thoroughgoing Islamization of Egyptian society. Sadat rewrote the educational curriculum along religious lines and amended Article 2 of Egypt's extremely progressive constitution to stipulate that Shariah -- Islamic law -- was the "main source" of the nation's laws. Mubarak, who was Sadat's vice president, continued this practice. Some secularists fear that the brotherhood, perhaps in collaboration with the military, would establish an authoritarian theocracy. "I have no doubt that they would implement Shariah if they ever came to power," says Hisham Kassem, a leading publisher in the progressive media. "I see them as a menace."

But opinions are shifting. After holding a symposium on free speech, Negad al-Borai, a democracy activist and human rights lawyer, says that he received an emissary from the supreme guide. "He came and said: 'We accept everything in your initiative as a beginning to the democratic process. The only thing we ask is that if issues arise where we wish to state our opposition according to our own views, we can have our own voice.' " Al-Borai readily agreed, and the brotherhood endorsed untrammelled free speech. Saad Eddin Ibrahim, the Egyptian dissident most widely known in the West, says that the performance of the brotherhood's parliamentary bloc over the last year has allayed his own concerns. The regime, he says, is brandishing the Islamist threat in order "to scare the foreigners and the middle class and the Copts" Egypt's ancient Christian minority, who fear being treated as "nonbelievers."

Indeed, since the 2005 election and the brotherhood's subsequent performance, the regime has turned the full force of its repressive energies on it. Last April and May, when brotherhood members demonstrated in solidarity with Egypt's judges, who had been seeking greater autonomy, security forces waded in, arresting hundreds of the brothers. The campaign of arrests resumed earlier this year, aiming at leading figures like Mahmoud Ghozlan, the Guidance Bureau member, as well as financiers; the government has frozen assets of brotherhood supporters said to amount to \$2 billion. And there could be no mistaking the intent of the constitutional "reforms" submitted last December. Article 5, which lays the basis for the regulation of political parties, was rewritten to stipulate that "political activity or political parties shall not be based on any religious background or foundation." This prohibition seemed to directly contradict the language of Article 2, which made Shariah the foundation of Egyptian law. How can a self-professed religious state prohibit political activity with a "religious background"? When I posed this question to Hossam Badrawi, a leading member of a group of young politicians who profess to be reforming the N.D.P. from within, he asked me in return, "If I go to Germany and I want to start a Nazi Party, would I be allowed to do that?"

"Is that a fair analogy?"

"Yes, because they don't respect the constitution, which lays out a separate role for politics and religion." Except that it doesn't or didn't, until just now.

This is the kind of language that, as Saad Eddin Ibrahim put it, is bound to scare foreigners and the middle class. President Mubarak has called the group a threat to national security. Mohamed Kamal, a political scientist who is close to Gamal Mubarak, the president's son and heir apparent, and who now serves as the N.D.P.'s semiofficial spokesman to the Western media, says of the brotherhood: "They're fundamentalist in their ideology. I'm not saying

## Islamic Democrats?

necessarily that they're terrorists; they want to establish a religious state based on their interpretation of the Koran and the Shariah." While some of their leaders "pay lip service to democracy, women's rights and so on," Kamal says, the grass roots are deeply reactionary.

Is that so? One night I drove out to the far northeastern edge of Cairo -- a trip that took an hour and a half through the city's insane traffic -- to meet with Magdy Ashour, a member of the brotherhood's parliamentary bloc. The caucus is heavy with lawyers, doctors and professors, but Ashour is an electrician with a technical diploma. The neighborhood he represents, al-Nozha, is a squalid quarter of shattered buildings and dusty lanes. Ashour had established himself in what seemed to be the only substantial structure in the area, a half-completed apartment building; I walked through plaster dust and exposed wiring to reach his office. Ashour hurried in from the evening prayer. He was a solemn, square-jawed 41-year-old with short hair and unfashionable glasses, a brown suit and a brown tie. He grew up, he said, in the neighborhood, and as a young man often gave the Friday sermon at the local mosque. He joined the brotherhood when he was 23. Why? "From my reading and my earliest meetings with brotherhood members," he said through a translator, "I could see that they were moderate, that they don't impose their religion on people, but at the same time they're not loose with their religious principles."

I asked Ashour if the spate of arrests had him worried, and he said that he indeed feared that the state might be seeking an "open confrontation" with the brotherhood. Might not that provoke the group's supporters to violence? Ashour answered by citing an aphorism he attributed to the brotherhood's founder, Hassan al-Banna: "Be like trees among the people: They strike you with stones, and you shower them with blessings." Ashour then embarked on a brief oration: "We would like to change the idea people have of us in the West," he said, "because when people hear the name Muslim Brotherhood, they think of terrorism and suicide bombings. We want to establish the perception of an Islamic group cooperating with other groups, concerned about human rights. We do not want a country like Iran, which thinks that it is ruling with a divine mandate. We want a government based on civil law with an Islamic source of lawmaking." If Magdy Ashour was a theocrat -- or a terrorist -- he was a very crafty one.

As it has fully entered the political arena, the brotherhood has been forced to come up with clear answers on issues about which it has been notably ambiguous in the past. Some are easy enough: There seems to be little appetite among them for stoning adulterers or lopping off the hands of thieves; and all deprecate the jizya, or tax on nonbelievers, as a relic of an era when only Muslims served in the military. Some are not so easy. I asked Magdy Ashour about the drinking of alcohol, which is prohibited in Saudi Arabia, Iran and other Islamic states. He was quite unfazed. "There is a concept in Shariah that if you commit the sin in private it's different from committing it in public," he explained. You can drink in a hotel, but not in the street. This was flexibility verging on pragmatism. I wondered if Ashour, and the other brotherhood candidates, had offered such nuanced judgments on the stump; a number of detractors insist that the group's campaign rhetoric was much more unabashedly Islamist.

There are, of course, more fundamental questions. In the course of a three-hour conversation in the brotherhood's extremely modest office in an apartment building in one of Cairo's residential neighborhoods, I asked Muhammad Habib, the deputy supreme guide, how the brotherhood would react if the Legislature passed a law that violated Shariah. "The People's Assembly has the absolute right in that situation," he said, "as long as it is elected in a free and fair election which manifests the people's will. The Parliament could go to religious scholars and hear their opinion" -- as it could seek the advice of economists on economic matters -- "but it is not obliged to listen to these opinions." Some consider grave moral issues, like homosexual marriage, beyond the pale of majoritarianism; others make no such exception. Hassan al-Banna famously wrote that people are the source of authority. This can be understood, if you wish to, as the Islamic version of the democratic credo.

The acceptance of democracy is itself a proxy for something else -- the repudiation of violence and terrorism. Here the brotherhood has a fair amount of history to answer for. The organization was established in 1928 in the wake of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's secularization of Turkey and his abolition of the caliphate, the line of religious rulers that stretched back to the Prophet Muhammad. Hassan al-Banna, the charismatic founder, aspired to revitalize the spirit of Islam among the umma, the worldwide body of believers, and ultimately to restore the caliphate and Shariah. But for all al-Banna's emphasis on peaceful evangelizing, he also created a paramilitary wing, like Mussolini's brown shirts, known as al-nizam al-khas -- the Special Apparatus. During the '40s, when Egyptians fought to free themselves from British rule, brotherhood operatives engaged in a campaign of bombings and assassinations. The



## Islamic Democrats?

organization was banned in 1948; soon afterward, a member of the group assassinated Egypt's prime minister. Al-Banna denounced the deed, but he was himself murdered by government security forces. And when a brotherhood plot to assassinate Gamal Abdel Nasser miscarried, most of the leading figures were jailed and tortured.

In 1964, the most prominent of the jailed leaders, Sayyid Qutb, produced a tract, "Milestones," which magnified the militant side of the brotherhood and rejected al-Banna's faith in the merits of instruction and moral example. Islamic regimes that failed to establish Shariah were apostates, he declared no better than the infidels themselves. Egypt was, of course, just such a state. "Milestones" was read as a call to revolution. Qutb was sentenced to death and hanged in 1966, making him a martyr throughout the Middle East. Among his disciples were the radical Islamists who conspired to murder Sadat in 1981 including Ayman al-Zawahiri, now Al Qaeda's second in command. Osama bin Laden was deeply influenced by Qutb's works and regularly attended lectures given by Qutb's younger brother, Muhammad. "Milestones" is now considered the founding manifesto of jihadism.

Qutb remains a heroic figure for many Egyptians. But Ibrahim Hudaibi, the young activist who sent me the text message about the arrest, pointed out to me when we met the next day that his own grandfather, Hasan Hudaibi, who replaced al-Banna as supreme guide and was jailed along with Qutb, wrote a book from prison, "Preachers, Not Judges," designed to reassert the brotherhood's commitment to peace and to open debate. Hudaibi was a thoroughly modern figure; we met in a coffee shop near the American University in Cairo, where he recently received his master's in political science. He was now working as a business consultant. Hudaibi wanted to see the brotherhood deal explicitly with the legacy of Qutb, even if doing so might not play well in the hustings. Other, more senior figures I spoke to insisted rather implausibly that Qutb had been misunderstood; but all swore by the philosophy of tolerance and the program of gradual reform laid out in "Preachers, Not Judges."

The brotherhood is an international organization. It has, however, no Comintern, no central apparatus. In Sudan, brotherhood members have formed an alliance with a deeply authoritarian ruling party. The brotherhood in Jordan and Morocco is considered relatively moderate. But in the Palestinian territories, the organization mutated into **Hamas**. Policy makers and academics in the West tend to be more concerned with the brotherhood's views of **Hamas** than with its understanding of Shariah. And here there is little satisfaction to be had. When I asked Muhammad Habib about **Hamas** attacks on Israeli civilians, he said, "With the continuous crackdown and ongoing war launched by the Israeli Army, which does not distinguish between civilians and noncivilians, you cannot speak about the Palestinians disregarding Israeli citizens." Brotherhood figures do not, at bottom, accept Israel's right to exist. Seif al-Islam, the son of Hassan al-Banna and a venerated elder of the group, said to me, in his stylized version of English: "Not any Palestine man or Egypt man feels that Jews who come from the outside have the right to stay in Palestine. At the same time, the Palestinian people on the outside cannot have a grave to bury in. This is not religion."

The more worldly among the brotherhood's legislators and thinkers understand that Israel is a test just as Qutb is a test, and that the Western audience matters even if it doesn't vote. Hazem Farouk Mansour, a dentist who is the head of the foreign-policy committee of the parliamentary bloc, says of Camp David, "We accept it as an agreement, whether we like it or not." Essam el-Erian, a clinical pathologist who is head of the brotherhood's political committee and perhaps its most sophisticated thinker, said to me: "Look, this is a historical and ideological and religious crisis. It cannot be solved in a few years. Every part in this conflict can be put forth for dialogue." Like virtually all of his colleagues, el-Erian urged me not to get too hung up on this or any other question of what the brotherhood might do in some unimaginably remote future in which the regime had somehow relinquished its grip on power. "We can solve the problem of our society," he said, "to have democratic reform respected by Europeans and Americans, whatever happens to the Palestinians."

From what I could tell, in fact, the brotherhood in its public oratory sticks to issues of political process, while voters worry about the kind of mundane issues that preoccupy people everywhere. Magdy Ashour said that few voters knew or cared anything about issues like constitutional reform. He agreed to let me sit by his side one evening as he met with constituents. None of the dozen or so petitioners who were ushered into the tiny, bare cell of his office asked about the political situation, and none had any complaints about cultural or moral issues. Rather, there were heart-rending stories of abuse by the powerful, like the profoundly palsied young man confined to a wheelchair who sold odds and ends from a kiosk under a bridge, and who was ejected, along with his meager goods, when a road-

## Islamic Democrats?

improvement project came through. (Ashour promised to go with him to the police station the following morning.) Mostly, though, people wanted help getting a job. One ancient gentleman with a white turban and walking stick wandered in as if from the Old Testament. He was accompanied by his daughter and 3-year-old granddaughter. His daughter's husband had abandoned her, and she needed a job. Ashour explained that since the woman had a business degree, she might find work in a private school.

The old man shook his head. "She must have a government job," he said. "She has three girls. I am too old to take care of her. She needs security." Ashour later explained to me that while a private job might pay \$90 a month and a public one only \$35, the government job would carry a guaranteed \$15 pension, which felt like insurance against destitution. Only a government job was considered real; Ashour himself had worked as the superintendent for lighting infrastructure for a portion of Cairo. Nasser caught the bug of socialism half a century earlier, and the government continued to dominate the economy and to sap the energies needed for private initiative. Egypt's arthritic economy and its deeply corrupt public administration were much more salient problems for Ashour than was, say, debauchery on TV.

arrived in Cairo in the middle of a heated national debate over Mubarak's proposed reform of the constitution. During the presidential campaign, Mubarak promised to reduce his own powers in favor of the Legislature and the cabinet and to loosen restrictions on political parties. Only trace elements of those vows remained; in fact, the reforms seemed designed to consolidate, rather than dissipate, the regime's authority. Article 88, which had stipulated that elections be held "under the supervision of members of the judiciary authority," now granted that control to "a higher commission marked by independence and impartiality." Since no such bodies had been known to exist in Egypt, few figures outside the ruling party were willing to take the proposal at face value. And a new anti-terrorism provision allowed the state to set aside civil liberties enumerated elsewhere in the constitution in the pursuit of suspected terrorists. Mohamed Kamal described this measure to me as the equivalent of the USA Patriot Act, but political activists are convinced that it will be used to snuff out opposition. (The brotherhood may be the chief target, since the regime regards it as a quasi-terrorist body.) Amnesty International described the package as the gravest threat to human rights in Egypt since Mubarak took power.

In mid-March, on the day the proposed amendments were presented to the People's Assembly, the brotherhood legislators and the dozen or so members of the secular opposition staged a joint protest. The entire group stood silently inside the gates of Parliament wearing black sashes that read, "No to the Constitutional Amendments," and carrying signs that read, "No to Electoral Fraud," "No to Dawn Visitors" and so on. The muezzin's call led to an interval of prayer, and then legislators squeezed one by one through the gates, backing the scrum of reporters and photographers into a busy two-way street. Drivers honked furiously while legislators struggled to be heard over the din. I had the impression that the brotherhood hadn't yet gotten the hang of press relations.

The entire opposition boycotted the debate; the regime, unimpressed, carried the day with the near-unanimous support of the N.D.P. and then scheduled the mandatory national referendum for the following week, presumably to prevent the opposition from mobilizing. But the tactic failed; opposition legislators urged supporters to boycott the ballot. All of the brotherhood legislators I spoke to that day said that the polling places in their constituency were literally empty. Civic groups canvassing Cairo and other major cities came to the same conclusion. Estimates of turnout varied from 2 to 8 percent. When it was over, government officials pegged turnout at 27 percent -- a figure so improbable that it scarcely seemed intended to be believed. Perhaps the implicit message was that the regime didn't care if it was believed or not.

In June 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice delivered a landmark address at the American University in Cairo in which she bluntly declared, "The day must come when the rule of law replaces emergency decrees and when the independent judiciary replaces arbitrary justice." Egypt's democracy activists were enthralled -- though they were to become increasingly disappointed, and then embittered, as the administration offered no public response to Mubarak's crackdown. But Rice's call to the political barricades was carefully modulated, perhaps in order to limit the offense to the regime. Asked after the speech about the Muslim Brotherhood, Rice said flatly, "We have not engaged the Muslim Brotherhood and . . . we won't." In fact, American diplomats had been in regular contact with brotherhood officials over the years; Rice was declaring -- in fact, making -- a new policy. And that policy still largely obtains. Rice's spokesman, Sean McCormack, told me, "We do not meet with the Muslim

## Islamic Democrats?

Brotherhood per se, as we don't want to get entangled in complexities surrounding its legality as a political party." He added, however, "Consistent with our practice elsewhere, we will nonetheless meet with any duly elected member of the parliamentary opposition." In fact, American officials in Cairo included leading brotherhood parliamentarians in a group of legislators who met recently with Representative Steny Hoyer, the Democratic majority leader of the House.

But why not engage the brotherhood openly? Is what is gained by mollifying the Mubarak regime worth what is lost by forgoing contact with the brotherhood? "Americans," Essam el-Erian said to me, "must have channels with all the people, not only in politics, but in economics, in social, in everything, if they want to change the image of America in the region." Of course, that principle applies only up to a point. The administration has, understandably, refused to recognize the democratic bona fides either of Hamas or of Hezbollah in Lebanon. But the Muslim Brotherhood, for all its rhetorical support of Hamas, could well be precisely the kind of moderate Islamic body that the administration says it seeks. And as with Islamist parties in Turkey and Morocco, the experience of practical politics has made the brotherhood more pragmatic, less doctrinaire. Finally, foreign policy is no longer a rarefied game of elites: public opinion shapes the world within which policy makers operate, and the refusal to deal with Hamas or Hezbollah has made publics in the Islamic world dismiss the whole idea of democracy promotion. Even a wary acceptance of the brotherhood, by contrast, would demonstrate that we take seriously the democratic preferences of Arab voters.

In general, I found the brothers deeply suspicious of American designs in the world but also curious about America itself. When I took my leave of Magdy Ashour once the crowd of petitioners thinned out, he asked if he could pose some questions of his own. "I've heard," he said, "that even George Bush's mother thinks he's an idiot; is that true?" And, "Why did George Bush say that America is going on a Christian crusade against the Muslim people?" And finally, "Is it true that the Jews control and manipulate the U.S. economy?" These are, alas, the kinds of questions -- with the possible exception of the first -- that people all over the Middle East ask.

Then Ashour said that he was thinking about visiting America. I asked how he could afford such an expensive journey, and he explained that the brotherhood has offered each legislator one free trip anywhere in the world -- a remarkable program for an organization said to be bent on returning Egypt to the Middle Ages. "I would," Ashour said, "like to see for myself."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Correction

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A picture caption with an article on Page 44 of The Times Magazine today about the Muslim Brotherhood misstates the dates of the photographs. The protest with brandishing of the Koran, in the first and fourth pictures, was in March of this year, not the fall of 2006. The other two photographs were taken in February of this year (the protester surrounded by the police) and in November 2006 (the protesters holding signs), not the in the spring of this year.

**Correction-Date:** April 29, 2007

## Graphic

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Photos: Nay Sayed Askar, a Muslim Brotherhood member of the Egyptian Parliament, voices dissent.

## Islamic Democrats?

Raising Their Voices Brotherhood members brandishing the Koran (fall 2006) and protesting what they consider repressive measures in Cairo (spring 2007). (Photographs by Nasser Nuri/Reuters/Newscom. Second From Left: Amr Dalsh/Reuters)

**Load-Date:** April 29, 2007

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End of Document

## *Pulitzers' liberal legacy*

Pittsburgh Tribune Review

April 22, 2007 Sunday

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**Length:** 778 words

**Byline:** L. Brent Bozell III

### **Body**

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Conservatives often ponder why more young conservatives don't go into journalism. Here's one easy reason: The path to prizes and prestige doesn't come from fierce investigative probing into liberal sacred cows or sharp-eyed conservative commentary. It comes from pleasing liberals with stories that advance their agenda.

The 2007 Pulitzer Prizes must have been a sad affair, what with no major prize for exposing and ruining an anti-terrorism program and no major natural disaster like Hurricane Katrina to blame on President Bush. But that doesn't mean the Pulitzers weren't typically political. After all, the panels of judges are stuffed with longstanding figures in the liberal media establishment.

Let's start with the commentary prize, awarded to Cynthia Tucker of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. The official Pulitzer Prize Board's press release hailed Tucker's "courageous, clear-headed columns that evince a strong sense of morality and persuasive knowledge of the community." Translation: She's liberal, and she hates George Bush.

Stephen Spruiell of National Review quickly found one recent column that complained: "There are plenty of unindicted liars walking the halls of the Bush White House. ... The Bush team knew they could never have sold American voters on an invasion of Iraq just because Saddam had illicit weapons. So they decided to distort, dissemble and lie."

What precisely is noteworthy in that? Hasn't that been said by every radical left-wing blogger with a modem?

What is noteworthy, perhaps, is the Pulitzer Prize committee standards. As with every other radical left-winger, Tucker can't deliver a shred of evidence to support the accusation of a presidential "lie."

Any conservative student who aspires to be a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist should really try another line of work. Here's the list since George Will won in 1977 and William Safire won in 1978: Charles Krauthammer in 1987, Paul Gigot in 2000 and Dorothy Rabinowitz in 2001. That's five conservatives in 30 years.

Three of the last five winners -- Tucker, Leonard Pitts and Colbert King -- were leftist black columnists. William Raspberry and E.R. Shipp have also won. But the Pulitzer Prize glorifiers have never honored Thomas Sowell or Walter Williams or other black conservatives.

Since 1992, eight of the 16 commentary prize winners have been women. Rabinowitz is the only conservative. Anna Quindlen, Maureen Dowd, Eileen McNamara and Shipp are on the liberal list. Mary McGrory (1975) and Ellen Goodman (1980) also won that prize. But there's been no Pulitzer for Mona Charen or Michelle Malkin or Linda Chavez or -- the Pulitzer people will faint -- Ann Coulter.

## Pulitzers' liberal legacy

There's never been a Pulitzer for Bill Buckley or Pat Buchanan or Cal Thomas or Robert Novak. Need we say more?

Perhaps the strangest honor, the one revealing the typical liberal attraction to the edgy and anti-American, is the feature reporting award given to Andrea Elliott of The New York Times for a three-part series lauding the Brooklyn-based imam Reda Shata.

Let's once again consult the gooey Pulitzer press release: They hailed Elliott "for her intimate, richly textured portrait of an immigrant imam striving to find his way and serve his faithful in America" -- even though Elliott glossed over and made excuses for how the imam and "his faithful" support the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas as a "powerful symbol of resistance."

The press release kept underlining the judges' liberal agenda. The National Reporting Prize was handed to Charlie Savage of The Boston Globe "for his revelations that President Bush often used 'signing statements' to assert his controversial right to bypass provisions of new laws." This indicates that heavy usage of a story on left-wing publicity machines such as Air America and the Huffington Post apparently wins you major Pulitzer considerations.

The International Reporting Prize was awarded to The Wall Street Journal "for its sharply edged reports on the adverse impact of China's booming capitalism on conditions, ranging from inequality to pollution." It might seem odd that this seemingly capitalist newspaper, "the daily diary of the American dream," is winning prizes for muckraking through the social evils of "booming capitalism," but it is certainly some flashy Pulitzer bait.

So when you hear a liberal-media person crow about someone's excellent journalistic qualifications, such as his Pulitzer Prize, it's fairly safe to assume that hallowed journalist wrote something that would make a Hillary Clinton smile from ear to ear -- and would make a Rush Limbaugh grimace.

L. Brent Bozell III is the president of the Media Research Center.

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

## *Pelosi's visit highlights hypocrisy*

University Wire

April 9, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 Mustang Daily via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 712 words

**Byline:** By Zach Austin, Mustang Daily; **SOURCE:** Cal Poly

**Dateline:** SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif.

### **Body**

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This past week, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi made headlines all over the world by visiting Syria to meet with President Bashar Assad. Pelosi's message was one of peace: she pressured Assad to discontinue his government's support of the militant groups **Hamas** and Hezbollah, and to engage in peace talks with Israel and throughout the region.

Unsurprisingly, the Bush administration quickly issued a strong rebuke of Pelosi, while right-wing commentators and their enablers in the mainstream media repeated and amplified lies and distortions about the trip itself.

It was a case of real, meaningful diplomacy being attacked for partisan gains and to reinforce the failed foreign policy stance of a failed presidency.

It began Wednesday, when Pelosi left Israel for Syria with a message of peace from the Israeli leadership: If Syria would terminate support for international terrorism, Israel would open peace talks. Immediately, President Bush released a statement saying any visit by Pelosi would be counterproductive, that it just "wouldn't work."

I would be glad if Bush could indicate to me a single way in which his administration's attempts to bring peace to the Middle East are working.

The American occupation of Iraq has resulted in more than 600,000 dead Iraqis, 3,000 dead U.S. troops, and created a civil war between Sunni and Shiites that is spreading throughout the Middle East. The government offers selective, hypocritical support for some countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, while it completely rebukes and does not recognize others, like Syria, when all three countries have shown to be supporters of terrorist groups. This destroys any credibility the United States may have had, and worse, indirectly supports terrorism, which Bush administration claims to abhor.

Many in the shrill, right-wing blogs and opinion pages have accused Pelosi of undercutting the president's diplomatic powers and overstepping Congress' constitutionally prescribed abilities by visiting Damascus.

Leaving aside this administration's treatment of the Constitution for an article or six, Pelosi's visit to Syria was a direct step towards opening a dialogue of peace within the Middle East, one that is desperately needed and has certainly not materialized during George Bush's presidency. According to The Washington Post, Pelosi's dealings in Syria "have (not) strayed far, it at all, from those typical of a congressional trip."

## Pelosi's visit highlights hypocrisy

Those shrill voices on the right also neglect the fact that five Republican congressmen visited Syria this past week, some with the president's blessing. I expect the political firestorm over these visits to begin any moment now.

No other aspect of this story illustrates the partisan hackism that is the right-wing opinion machine that the photos of Speaker Pelosi entering a mosque in Damascus wearing a headscarf, as is traditional for women. Many on the right were up in arms over these photos, claiming they gave the Syrians an air of domination, of control, over a visit by the third highest-ranking U.S. political officer.

These same voices must not have seen the numerous photos, which can be found on the White House's own Web site, of First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice wearing headscarves during diplomatic visits in the Middle East. If wearing a headscarf is a traitorous act, then I expect the calls for the resignation of the three most prominent women in the U.S. government to begin at any time.

What these critics fail to recognize is that respect for cultural and political traditions is vital to diplomacy, particularly on a visit to another country. The wearing of a headscarf by Pelosi was a sign of her willingness to work with the Syrian government towards a peace agreement in the Middle East.

Simply put, it is how diplomacy gets done.

Pelosi's visit to Syria is a sign of world leadership that is so lacking in our current presidential leadership. The trip is the exciting first step towards a real, substantive peace process within the Middle East. It leaves me excited for the 2008 presidential election, when we as a nation can finally put some grown-ups back in the White House. It is entirely clear that this visit is what global leadership looks like.

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**Load-Date:** April 9, 2007



## *Tarnished legacy clouds Sharon's 79th birthday*

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

February 25, 2007 Sunday

FIRST EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A10

**Length:** 692 words

**Byline:** By Craig Nelson Cox News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Ariel Sharon, still bedridden and deep in a coma after a massive stroke nearly 14 months ago, turns 79 on Tuesday.

Israelis will mark the former prime minister's birthday with sadness at the unlikelihood that Sharon will ever recover. Few, however, will be nostalgic.

Sharon's legacy no longer seems quite as shiny as the image of the endearing paterfamilias of his latter years suggests.

Israel's government is awash in charges of corruption and sexual scandal. Its vaunted military and intelligence services are under investigation after last summer's disappointing performance against Lebanon's radical Islamic Hezbollah militants. **Hamas**, an organization sworn to Israel's destruction, is a leading political and military force in the Palestinian territories.

The blame for these predicaments falls partly - and in some instances, mainly - on Sharon, said analysts and ordinary Israelis.

"I don't miss Sharon" exclaimed Nuriel Zarifi, 35, a Jerusalem coffee shop owner who said he had supported Sharon but now regretted it. "Look at Gaza! Look at Lebanon! Look at the corruption! I feel cheated."

Sharon's legacy is clouded in part by the scent of corruption that tinged his ascent to the premiership in the 1990s and lingered after he was elected prime minister in 2001.

His eldest son, Omri, 42, pleaded guilty last year of illegally raising more than \$1.3 million for his father's campaign for leadership of the Likud Party in 1999.

Sharon's youngest son, Gilad, 36, was investigated but never indicted on charges of bribe-taking, though he admitted to destroying documents and tape recordings sought as potential evidence by an Israeli court.

Sharon himself was the subject of at least three corruption investigations in his premiership, though charges were never filed.

## Tarnished legacy clouds Sharon's 79th birthday

"In terms of proper government, the Sharon era will be remembered as a very dark era, and the damage he caused is still being felt," said Barak Calev, head of the legal department of the non-profit, non-partisan Movement for Quality Government in Israel.

Indeed, since Sharon suffered a stroke and lapsed into a coma, investigations of his political heirs and appointees has reinforced the impression that under his rule, insider dealing and conflicts of interest were normal, and loyalty was valued more highly than competence or rectitude.

The list includes his former deputy and protégé, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who is under investigation about his role in the privatization of a bank two years ago when he was finance minister.

Moshe Karadi, Israel's chief of police, resigned last week after an independent commission accused him of failing to investigate the department's links to organized crime.

And President Moshe Katsav vacated his official residence last month to fight almost certain indictment on charges of rape and abuse of power. Another official, former justice minister Haim Ramon, was convicted of sexual misconduct for forcibly kissing a **female** soldier.

"Sharon and all his family were responsible for the deterioration of public standards and values that you see in Israel today," said Eyal Naveh, a professor of history at Tel Aviv University.

Sharon's political and military image has also suffered since his illness. Rocket firings from Gaza, the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers and the war with Hezbollah have taken their toll.

Though out of power and bedridden, Sharon shares partial blame for the war's failures because of appointments to the military command made while he was still in power, said Efraim Inbar, director the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies in Ramat Gan.

But the reassessment of Sharon's legacy does not mean he is held in wide disrepute.

When he is eulogized, Sharon is likely to be remembered as the last of Israel's charismatic, powerful leaders - a man with a strategic vision.

He was "a hero in the 1972 Yom Kippur war, promoted settlements in the 1970s and 1980s and defeated (Palestinian leader Yasser) Arafat in the 2001-2005 terror war," Steinberg said.

"Regardless of what he has done, he will be remembered as the last founding father of the generation present at the creation of the state. Everyone else is their son," Naveh said.

## Graphic

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### PHOTO

PHOTO - Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been in a coma since a stroke nearly 14 months ago. Getty Images

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

## *Pelosi tours market in Damascus*

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

April 4, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

**Length:** 755 words

**Byline:** Zeina Karam Associated Press

### **Body**

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

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

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

Soon after Pelosi's arrival in Damascus, Bush criticized her visit.

"A lot of people have gone to see President Assad ... and yet we haven't seen action. He hasn't responded," he told reporters at a Rose Garden news conference. "Sending delegations doesn't work. It's simply been counterproductive."

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

Wearing a flowered head scarf and a black abaya robe, Pelosi visited the 8th-century Omayyad Mosque, shaking hands with Syrian women inside and watching men in a religion class sitting cross-legged on the floor.

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

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

Democrats have argued that the U.S. should engage its top rivals in the Mideast -- Iran and Syria -- to make headway in easing crises in Iraq, Lebanon and the Israeli-Arab peace process. Last year, the bipartisan Iraq Study Group recommended talks with the two countries.

## Pelosi tours market in Damascus

Bush rejected the recommendations. But in February, the U.S. joined a gathering of regional diplomats in Baghdad that included Iran and Syria for talks on Iraq.

Visiting neighboring Lebanon on Monday, Pelosi shrugged off White House criticism of her trip to Syria, noting that Republican lawmakers met Assad on Sunday without comment from the Bush administration.

"I think that it was an excellent idea for them to go," she said. "And I think it's an excellent idea for us to go as well."

She said she hoped to rebuild lost confidence between Washington and Damascus and will tell Syrian leaders that Israel will talk peace with them only if Syria stops supporting Palestinian militants. She has said she will also talk to the Syrians about Iraq, their role in Lebanon and their support for the Hezbollah militant group.

"We have no illusions but we have great hope," said Pelosi, who met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah earlier Tuesday.

Relations between the U.S. and Syria reached a low point in early 2005 when Washington withdrew its ambassador to Damascus to protest the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Many Lebanese blamed Syria -- which had troops in Lebanon at the time -- for the assassination. Damascus denied involvement.

Washington has since succeeded in largely isolating Damascus, with its European and Arab allies shunning Assad. The last high-ranking U.S. official to visit Syria was then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage in January 2005.

The isolation, however, has begun to crumble in recent months, with visits by U.S. lawmakers and some European officials.

Syria treated Pelosi's visit as a diplomatic victory. "Welcome Dialogue," proclaimed a front-page headline in one state-run newspaper next to a photo of Pelosi.

Syria's ambassador to the U.S., Imad Moustapha, described the visit as a "positive step" but said "it does not necessarily mean that the U.S. administration would suddenly change its position."

In comments to the state-run Al-Thawra daily published Tuesday, he said the visit should be a "reminder that even though we might disagree on politics, we should remain diplomatically engaged in dialogue to reach some understandings."

**Load-Date:** April 4, 2007

## **Israeli police chief steps down; Country reeling after allegations of official misconduct**

The International Herald Tribune

February 19, 2007 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 770 words

**Byline:** Steven Erlanger - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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The Israeli police commissioner resigned Sunday after an investigative committee severely criticized his actions in a 1999 case involving an Israeli crime family.

The commissioner, Moshe Karadi, whose term expires in August, said he was resigning immediately to "set a personal example" and spare the police the harm of a scandal. He insisted that the allegations against him were untrue.

Avi Dichter, the Minister for Public Security, said he was accepting the resignation and would appoint Yaakov Ganot, the current head of the Prison Service, as the new commissioner. Dichter said he would also remove the deputy commissioner, even though he was not mentioned in the report, and offer him the prison job.

"The police must and can become better," Dichter said.

While the case is an old one, the resignation of Karadi is the latest scandal in an Israel reeling from accusations of illegal behavior among those in high office. The cases range from a possible rape charge against the current president, Moshe Katsav, to allegations of corruption by the current prime minister, Ehud Olmert, and by his suspended office director, currently under house arrest as part of a burgeoning investigation into the tax authority. The finance minister, Abraham Hirschson, is being investigated in another case involving embezzlement at a nonprofit organization.

Olmert's predecessor, Ariel Sharon, was widely suspected of political corruption and Sharon's son, Omri, has been sentenced to jail, although he is free because his father is in a coma.

Last month, former Justice Minister Haim Ramon was found guilty by a court of indecent behavior for kissing a young **female** soldier against her will, and there have been allegations of illegal behavior made against top religious figures, as well.

While the spate of investigations is seen by many here as a backlash against a tradition of political corruption, especially in political fundraising, the country's gloomy introspection has been worsened by the army's performance during the war last summer against Hezbollah.

## Israeli police chief steps down Country reeling after allegations of official misconduct

The chief of staff of the Israeli military resigned last month over failures during the war, and three Israeli soldiers captured by **Hamas** and Hezbollah remain in captivity.

A three-member investigating panel found in a report issued Sunday that in 1999, when Karadi was head of Israel's southern district, he failed to pursue an investigation into close ties between policemen and a crime family in the south.

In 1999, a suspected crime boss, Pinchas Buhbut, was murdered while in a hospital by a uniformed policeman working for a rival crime family, the Perinians. Buhbut was recovering from an assassination attempt and was supposed to be under police guard.

A year later, three months after he had left the police, the murderer, Tzachi Ben-Or, was arrested for a robbery and offered to testify. His offer was declined, and a judge, not informed of the Buhbut murder, released him to house arrest. Ben-Or later fled the country and was murdered himself, in Mexico in 2004.

Karadi was accused by the investigators of promoting a police commander in the southern district who was suspected of hushing up the case for the Perinian family.

The whole affair only came to light in August 2005 when it was cleared for publication.

Only one of the three committee members demanded that Karadi resign immediately; the two others decided that, because his record as police commissioner was clean, he could finish his term.

But Karadi's term has been marked by some embarrassments, including charges of police brutality during the pullout of Israeli settlers from Gaza in 2005, failures to solve some murders and the escape of a convicted serial rapist, Benny Sela, from police custody. While finally recaptured, Sela's days on the run became a hot topic on Israeli news programs and talk shows, which made fun of the police.

The report issued Sunday also criticized numerous other top police officials, recommending, for example, that the Jerusalem police chief, Ilan Franco, not be promoted to commissioner.

Vardi Zeiler, a retired judge, headed the inquiry. He said that firing Karadi would "highlight a clear norm for generations to come" and added that if the panel's "suspicions are correct, this is the beginning of a very corrupt police force, and the infiltration of underworld figures to the police, which corrupts the police and the regime."

Dichter's appointments were already being seen as controversial. Ganot was tried for bribery and cleared on a split vote, and the man Dichter said he would appoint as deputy commissioner, Mickey Levy, is known to be close to Olmert.

**Load-Date:** February 20, 2007

## News Summary

The New York Times

February 6, 2007 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

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

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### **Body**

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INTERNATIONAL A3-11In Shift, Saudis Push To Counter Iran in RegionWith the prospect of three civil wars looming over the Middle East, Saudi Arabia has taken on a central, aggressive role in reshaping the region's conflicts. The kingdom is playing host to the leaders of Hamas and Fatah, in what both Palestinian factions say could lead to a national unity government and reduced bloodshed. A1 Iraqi Urges Iran-U.S. TalksAbdel Aziz al-Hakim, one of Iraq's most powerful Shiite leaders, said that his country had urged Iran to hold talks with the United States and that such talks were important for the security of the region, according to the ISNA news agency at a news conference. A8 China Detains Lauded DoctorA retired Chinese doctor acclaimed for helping people with AIDS has been placed under house arrest to stop her from traveling to the United States to receive an award from a nonprofit group connected to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, a friend of the doctor said.

A6 Yukos Founder Charged AgainRussian prosecutors brought new charges against the imprisoned founder of the Yukos oil company and one of his business partners, opening a new line of legal attack against a Kremlin opponent. A10U.N. Chief Returns to DissentBan Ki-moon, the new secretary general, returned to headquarters after a two-week working trip to Africa and Europe and ran into dissension over restructuring changes he has proposed and concern at the slow pace of his appointing top officials since taking office. A9NATIONAL A14-19Bush Unveils Budget With Few ConcessionsPresident Bush proposed a \$2.9 trillion budget that he said would wipe out the deficit without raising taxes, setting up a clash of priorities with the Democratic-run Congress. It would trim or eliminate many domestic programs and cut the growth of Medicare and Medicaid. A1The president's budget contained \$141 billion to cover war costs next fiscal year, of which more than a quarter would go to repairing and replacing military equipment. In addition, the budget seeks \$93 billion for the war in the current fiscal year and money to increase the size of the Army. A19Trial of Army Officer OpensThe Army opened court-martial proceedings against the first officer to publicly refuse to deploy to Iraq because, he has said, the war is illegal. The officer, who faces up to four years in prison, has said the Bush administration falsely used the Sept. 11 attacks to justify the war. A14 Edwards's Health Care PlanJohn Edwards, the Democratic presidential candidate from North Carolina, proposed providing health care coverage to the 47 million Americans who lack it. The plan, which could cost \$120 billion a year, would require higher taxes on wealthy families. A18 Journalist's Record Time in JailA freelance videographer who has been in jail 169 days will become the longest-incarcerated journalist in modern American history. He has refused to testify or provide video footage in a grand jury investigation of a protest in 2005 in which a police officer was injured. A15NEW YORK/REGION B1-6Immigrant Entrepreneurs Face Expansion ChallengesMany foreign-born entrepreneurs are facing an unfamiliar crossroads as the flow of immigrants to suburban and small-town America outpaces the growth of bustling ethnic centers in New York. A1Hospitals Face Budget CutsPresident Bush's proposed budget includes deep cuts in spending to train young doctors, cuts that would hit New York especially hard. Combined with Governor Spitzer's plan to shrink hospitals in New York State, the reductions would

## News Summary

total more than \$1 billion a year. B1 Charges in Boating Accident The captain and the boat operator involved in one of the worst boating accidents in New York history were each charged with a misdemeanor more than a year after their tour boat capsized on Lake George, killing 20 elderly passengers. B1 Neediest Cases B5 BUSINESS DAY C1-12 S.E.C. Looks at Bank Leaks The Securities and Exchange Commission has begun a broad examination into whether Wall Street bank employees are leaking information about big trades to their favored clients in an effort to curry favor with those clients. A1 Warring Apples Make Peace Apple Inc., the company that makes computers and iPods, and Apple Corps, the one that manages the business interests of the Beatles, said they had agreed to end a trademark lawsuit. C1 Business Digest C2 OBITUARIES D8 Hans Wegner A designer who helped change the course of design history in the 1950s and '60s, he was 92. D8 EDITORIAL A20-21 Editorials: The other defense budget; a vaccine to save women's lives; the comptroller choice; the price of corn. Columns: Stacy Schiff, Nicholas D. Kristof. Crossword E8 TV Listings E10 Weather A16

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** February 6, 2007

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## *In Israel, Carter book not worthy of outrage*

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 4, 2007 Sunday

0 South Pinellas Edition

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. 17A

**Length:** 674 words

**Byline:** SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Times Senior Correspondent

Ulsrael's legendary hotel, the King David, is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Among the displays are a 1979 photo of two famous guests, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Begin is speaking emphatically while Carter, lips pursed, looks as if he can't wait to get away. Although the two were working on a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, the photo is revealing - Carter and Begin couldn't stand each other.

Carter's "animus toward the late Israeli leader is limitless," Emory University professor Kenneth Stein writes, and it helps explain Carter's attitude toward Israel in his controversial new book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*.

Carter argues that Israel's security wall and expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied land have undermined prospects of a viable Palestinian state. Playing down the Arabs' own role, he claims that the failure to achieve peace in the Middle East is largely due to intransigence by Begin and successive Israeli leaders.

The animosity between the two men began during the Egyptian peace negotiations, when Begin learned of maneuvering to wring more concessions from Israel. Distrusting Carter, Begin refused to allow any talk of Israel relinquishing the West Bank or parts of Jerusalem annexed after the 1967 Mideast War.

That killed Carter's hopes of a broader Arab-Israeli peace deal and "he never forgave Begin," Stein writes. Carter even blamed Begin in part for his loss to Ronald Reagan, as many American Jews, upset by the pressure on Israel, turned to other candidates.

A former director and fellow of the Carter Center, Stein resigned in December to protest what he calls "egregious errors" in the book.

Carter has backpedaled on one point, admitting he was "stupid" to suggest Palestinians are justified in using terror tactics. But he still insists there will be no peace until Israel withdraws from all occupied land.

## In Israel , Carter book not worthy of outrage

The book has caused an uproar in the United States where critics - most of them Jewish - accuse Carter of anti-Semitism. Others, though, applaud him for calling attention to the suffering of Palestinians, almost 70 percent of whom live in poverty.

Given the outcry, I was curious to learn what reaction Carter's book has caused here in Israel. The answer: not much.

"I'm not reading books on the modern Middle East because if you live here, you see what they all get wrong," said Marcel Marcus, owner of a book shop near the King David. "If it weren't for all the controversy, I wouldn't even look at it. Now I'll flip through it."

His assistant, Avital Porat, doesn't plan to do even that. A Hebrew University student, she and her friends "try not to discuss politics too much because it's too depressing," she said.

Indeed, Israelis acknowledge their country is in a malaise.

The radical groups **Hamas** and Hezbollah are still holding three captured Jewish soldiers. Israel's president faces trial on rape charges. The justice minister was convicted of sexual misconduct for forcibly kissing a young **female** soldier. And Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is under investigation in a banking scandal.

"Carter must come and live here and see what's going on and then he can write a book," said Rachel Schwarz, a retiree browsing in Marcus' store.

Palestine: Peace or Apartheid is doing better in the Arab part of Jerusalem, where customers have snapped up all 60 copies at one store. But Arab readers don't necessarily agree that Carter is a great friend of Arabs.

"My opinion is that he's the same as Bush," said Nihad Mune, a clerk. "Carter, he did not do anything special for the Palestinians."

Despite Carter's high profile, a lot of people here don't even remember him. As part of its anniversary celebration, the King David has lined the floor of its lobby with the enlarged signatures of notable guests.

Among those taking center stage are CNN's Wolf Blitzer and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Carter's signature is way down the hall - by the stairs to the rest rooms.

Susan Martin can be reached at [susan@sptimes.com](mailto:susan@sptimes.com).

## Graphic

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PHOTO, Associated Press: (1979) Despite the smiles between Egypt's Anwar Sadat, President Jimmy Carter and Israel's Menachem Begin in 1979, Carter and Begin had their differences.

Correction:

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2007

## *If It's 'Apartheid,' Then Who's the Palestinian Mandela?*

The Forward

January 19, 2007

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**Section:** News; Pg. A15

**Length:** 842 words

### **Body**

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Of all humanistic disciplines, history is the easiest to exploit for the advancement of one's political worldviews. Former president Jimmy Carter's recent book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, is an interesting case in point.

Carter compares Israel's policies toward the Palestinians to the notorious system of racial segregation that was imposed on blacks in South Africa. He is not the first to make such a comparison. Advocates of the Palestinian cause regularly raise the South African analogy. But Carter is the first prominent, mainstream American to make the comparison.

Since the term apartheid stirs up a host of bitter, angry associations, it is important to probe Carter's accusation carefully.

The charge is not without merit. Key aspects of Israel's occupation of Palestine are, indeed, analogous to the practices of South Africa's National Party: A system of separate roads and road blocks facilitates

the free travel of Jews while curtailing the movement of Arabs; the members

of one group live in well-groomed, heavily subsidized communities, while many members of the other group live in degrading poverty.

In addition, young Palestinian are routinely detained without trial, often for prolonged periods of time. These detentions are justified by repeated government declarations of a state of emergency, just as similar arrests were rationalized in South Africa. Like South African courts, Israeli tribunals have been lenient with soldiers and policemen accused of committing human rights violations,

failing, in essence, to exercise judicial review over the application of political power.

These similarities are frightening and should worry anyone who cares about Israel's commitment to democracy. And yet, Carter and many Palestinians use the South African analogy selectively. The comparison suffers from a glaring omission:

If many of Israel's policies resemble the practices of the white government in South Africa, how do the Palestinian armed organizations measure up to the South African resistance movement, the African National Congress?

For one thing, although both the ANC and the Palestinian organizations have targeted civilians, the ANC did so more sporadically and more reluctantly than the Palestine Liberation Organization, **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad. For almost five decades after its establishment, the ANC espoused nonviolence, arguing

## If It's 'Apartheid,' Then Who's the Palestinian Mandela?

that armed struggle would alienate whites.

The ANC adopted armed resistance in the early 1960s only after its repeated attempts to negotiate had failed. For several years, the group restricted itself to acts of sabotage against property. It was only when this policy proved fruitless

that the organization turned against security forces and, eventually, against civilians.

The Palestinian armed factions, by contrast, have shown little interest in nonviolence. The more extreme organizations have consistently refused to distinguish between Israeli military personnel and civilians. They have targeted women and children, for much longer, much more consistently and with far more devastating

results than the ANC.

Furthermore, the leadership of the ANC forcefully pursued compromise with whites when the opportunity for peace arose in the early 1990s. The Palestinians, on the other hand, snubbed the dramatic peace proposals put forth by President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Ehud Barak in the summer

of 2000. While the ANC remained committed to a peaceful settlement with whites in South Africa throughout

the struggle against apartheid, the Palestinians have voted into power a government that refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist, has called for its destruction and has aligned itself with Holocaust-denying Iran and its Lebanese client Hezbollah. If historical analogies are to be politically

instructive, those making them must consider all aspects of the case under discussion, not only those parallels that bolster their agendas. The struggle against apartheid in South Africa can, in fact, teach us valuable lessons about the Middle East conflict.

It can show us that war does not end before both sides give up on the maximal formulation of their claims. It suggests that enemies who acknowledge and account for their record of human rights abuses are likelier to reconcile than those who insist on burying the past. It indicates that peace depends on a rare mixture of fatigue among combatants, daring local leadership and significant international pressure.

Perhaps most importantly, the South African analogy shows us that hate is not a force of nature beyond the reach of human influence. As Nelson Mandela so eloquently put it: No one is born hating another person. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love.

Americans, Israelis and Palestinians could benefit greatly from studying South Africa's tortured past. But as long as we are focused on simply exploiting history to win arguments, these lessons are likely to be lost.

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2007

## *To Gain Immigrants' Trust, Police Reach Out To African Imams, Revive Dormant Unit*

New York Sun (Archive)

January 12, 2007 Friday

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**Section:** NEW YORK; Pg. 3

**Length:** 757 words

**Byline:** BRADLEY HOPE -, Staff Reporter of the Sun

### **Body**

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As the number of immigrants entering the city rises, the police department is reaching out to newly arrived communities to reduce any friction in their relations with the police and gain their trust to reduce crime and prevent terrorist attacks, officials said.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly met yesterday with a group of African imams at the Masjid Aqsa in Harlem to address their concerns about the police. It was one of many meetings the commissioner has had with community leaders throughout the year, a spokesman said.

The group's questions ranged from the more familiar issues - the racial tension since the Sean Bell shooting in November - to the lesser known: According to one imam, some recently arrived female immigrants women do not realize the consequences of a 911 call about domestic abuse.

"We are doing a great deal to educate our police officers about Islam. That's part of our job," he told the imams, who sat on the green, carpeted floor of the mosque. Mr. Kelly wore no shoes in accordance with the custom of entering a mosque.

Mr. Kelly's latest community outreach event comes on the heels of his revival of a long-dormant unit in the Community Affairs Bureau, the New Immigrant Outreach Unit. The unit recently hired a former African community advocate, Sadique Wai, to reach out to members of the West African and other immigrant communities.

Mr. Wai will work alongside the department's Muslim community coordinator, Erhan Yildirim, who has helped coordinate a pre-Ramadan security meeting with imams at police headquarters, as well as other events.

"I think that he realizes that in the way the city is now, with its diversity, we can't police properly without developing relations with those communities," the three-star chief in charge of the Community Affairs Bureau, Douglas Zeigler, said, adding that the Mexican and West African communities are growing at the fastest rate. Mosques are also being built in greater numbers, he said.

A sergeant in the Community Affairs Bureau, Lizbeth Villafane, leads the daily work of creating some of those relationships. She said her teams meet with politicians, religious leaders, and "anyone else who can give access to these communities."

"Those leaders can open the door for us," she said.

## To Gain Immigrants' Trust, Police Reach Out To African Imams, Revive Dormant Unit

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Mr. Kelly has made it an official policy of the police department not to stop people in the city based on their race, a practice known as racial profiling. Still, some members of the Islamic community say Muslims feel targeted for questioning.

At a recent forum at the Islamic Cultural Center on 96th Street, many of the questions focused on the police department's policies regarding racial profiling, the imam of the mosque, Omar Abu-Nabous, said.

The police department and the center have finalized an initiative through which regular patrol officers will visit the mosque to learn more about Islam. Precincts with high numbers of Muslims will hold similar visits at local mosques, Chief Zeigler said. Officers now watch a 30-minute film, "Streetwise," which uses interviews with regular New Yorkers to explain Islam.

"It is important to understand the tenets of Islam, what it is really for," Mr. Abu-Nabous said in an interview yesterday. He added that the cultural practices of Muslims, such as the way to proceed if a woman answers the door wearing a traditional headscarf and clothing, or what holidays are important to Muslims, are important to policing.

Another issue, Mr. Abu-Nabous said, is that police may treat a young person's comments as more than youthful banter.

"Sometimes young people say some things which are sometimes stupid. Such a comment, supporting, for example, Hamas or Al-Jihad. They are taken for serious statements and are detained. It becomes a very big issue," he said. "The police officers have to be better educated about these things."

Community policing was an initiative originally touted when Mr. Kelly was first commissioner from 1992 to 1994 under Mayor Dinkins, but in the era after September 11 it taken on a new meaning and urgency. In recent counterterrorism briefings, Mr. Kelly has pointed to the growing number of homegrown terrorist attacks around the world as an indication that the NYPD may be the first line of defense against another attack on the city.

"We continue to ask all New Yorkers to look at events through the prism of 9/11," he told the imams. "If you see or hear anything suspicious, anything that gives you pause, please notify the police department's counterterrorism bureau."

**Load-Date:** January 12, 2007

## *Moderate Islam May Be Key To Winning War on Terror*

New York Sun (Archive)

December 5, 2006 Tuesday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 7

**Length:** 788 words

**Byline:** DANIEL PIPES

### **Body**

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An effective counterterrorism strategy must focus on the fact that terrorism by Muslims in the name of Islam presents the strategic threat today to civilized peoples, whether Muslim or non-Muslim.

On the low end, this threat involves lone individuals seized by the Sudden Jihad Syndrome who unpredictably set off on a murder spree. At the high end, it involves an outlaw organization like **Hamas** running the quasi-governmental Palestinian Authority, or even Al Qaeda's efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. In all, were terrorism by Muslims halted, this would be a major advance toward winning what some call World War IV.

Can this be achieved?

Yes, and partially via effective conventional counterterrorism. Individuals must be hunted down, organizations closed, networks smashed, borders monitored, money denied, WMD restricted. These steps, however, address only the symptoms of the problem, not the problem itself. "The problem itself" consists of the motivating forces that lie behind the surge of violence by Muslims in the name of Islam. Only by isolating why terrorism has emerged as so prominent a feature of Muslim life can the violence be countered.

This aggression results not from some perverse impulse to inflict damage for its own sake, nor does it flow from the religion of Islam, which just a generation ago did not inspire such murderousness. Rather, it results from political ideas.

Ideas have no role in common criminality, which has purely selfish ends. But ideas, usually ones about radically changing the world, are central to terrorism, and especially to its suicidal variety. Unlike the rest of us, who generally accept life as it is, utopians insist on building a new and better order. To achieve this, they demand all powers for themselves, display a chilling contempt for human life, and harbor ambitions to spread their vision globally. Several utopian schemas exist, with fascism and communism historically the most consequential - each of them claimed tens of millions of casualties.

By 1945 and 1991, respectively, these two totalitarianisms had been vanquished through defeat in war, one violently (in World War II), the other subtly (in the Cold War). Their near demise emboldened some optimists to imagine that the era of utopianism and totalitarianism had come to end and that a liberal order had permanently replaced them.

Alas, this view ignored a third totalitarianism, growing since the 1920s: Islamism, most briefly defined as the belief that whatever the question, from child-rearing to war-making, "Islam is the solution." As the result of several factors

## Moderate Islam May Be Key To Winning War on Terror

- a historic rivalry with Jews and Christians, a boisterous birth rate, the capture of the Iranian state in 1979, support from oil-rich states - Islamists have come to dominate the ideological discourse of Muslims interested in their Islamic identity or faith.

As a result, Islamic law, in retreat over the previous two centuries, came roaring back, and with it jihad, or sacred war. The caliphate, defunct in real terms for more than a millennium, became a vibrant dream. Ideas proffered by such thinkers and organizers as Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, Shah Waliullah, Sayyid Abul Ala al-Mawdudi, Hasan al-Banna, Sayyid Qutb, and Ruhollah Khomeini aggressed successfully against traditional, modernist, and centrist approaches to Islam. To advance the poisoned vision of these utopians, their followers adopted violent means, including terrorism.

The most effective form of counterterrorism fights not the terrorists but the ideas that motivate them. This strategy involves two main steps. First, defeat the Islamist movement just as the fascist and communist movements were defeated - on every level and in every way, making use of every institution, public and private. This task falls mainly on non-Muslims, as Muslim communities are generally incapable or unwilling to purge their own.

In contrast, only Muslims can undertake the second step, the formulation and spread of an Islam that is modern, moderate, democratic, liberal, good-neighborly, humane, and respectful of women. Here, non-Muslims can help by distancing themselves from Islamists and supporting moderate Muslims.

Although theoretically possible, the weakness of its advocates at present makes moderate Islam appear impossibly remote. But however dim its current prospects, the success of moderate Islam ultimately represents the only effective form of counterterrorism. Terrorism, begun by bad ideas, can only be ended by good ones.

Mr. Pipes ([www.DanielPipes.org](http://www.DanielPipes.org)), director of the Middle East Forum, presented a longer version of this analysis last week in Brazil, at a conference hosted by the country's intelligence agency, the Agência Brasileira de Inteligência.

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2006



## News Summary

The New York Times  
November 9, 2006 Thursday  
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**Section:** Section A; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

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### **Body**

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#### INTERNATIONAL A3-24

##### Israeli Tank Shelling Kills 18 Palestinians in Gaza

Israeli tank shells killed 18 Palestinians, including 8 children and 6 women, at a cluster of houses in Beit Hanun, one of the largest single losses of life in Gaza in years. Several Hamas leaders called for suicide bombing retaliation inside Israel. A1

##### 42 Killed in Pakistan Attack

A suicide bomber detonated his explosives on a military training ground in northwestern Pakistan, killing at least 42 army recruits and wounding about 20 more, government officials said. A24

##### Iraq Reacts to U.S. Elections

Iraq's political leaders scrambled to interpret what a new political landscape in Washington might mean for the future of their war-ravaged country. A18

Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki predicted in a televised interview that former President Saddam Hussein would be hanged by the end of the year. A18

##### Poll Finds Afghans Losing Hope

Afghans have lost a considerable amount of confidence in the direction of their country over the past two years, according to an extensive nationwide survey conducted by the Asia Foundation. A6

##### Turkey Warned on Cyprus

The governing commission of the European Union issued its strongest warning yet to Turkey to open its ports to Cyprus and make more progress on human rights or face a possible suspension of talks over allowing the country to join. A5

#### THE ELECTIONS P1-16

##### Rumsfeld to Depart Post, As Democrats Gain Control

## News Summary

Faced with the collapse of his Republican majority in Congress, President Bush responded swiftly by announcing the departure of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and vowing to work with Democrats "to find common ground" on the war in Iraq and domestic issues. A1

## A.P. Calls Virginia for Webb

Despite the fact that Senator George Allen of Virginia had not conceded, Jim Webb, his Democratic opponent, claimed victory on the strength of a 7,316-vote margin. And The Associated Press agreed with Mr. Webb, declaring Mr. Allen the loser. A1

## New Democratic Faces

While much of the focus in the campaign was on the more moderate tendencies of Democratic contenders, the scope of Tuesday's Democratic surge makes for a more complex picture. P1

## Challenger Wins in Montana

Democrats picked up the fifth of six seats needed to win control of the Senate when the late counting of votes from the mining town of Butte, Mont., showed Jon Tester had unseated the three-term Republican incumbent, Conrad Burns. P5

## New York Agenda on the Hill

Senator Charles E. Schumer and New York's Congressional delegation suddenly find themselves a locus of power on Capitol Hill, after years of being on the outs in Washington. And for a state with a long wish list, the ascendant Democrats in the House and Senate are well positioned to deliver hundreds of millions of new dollars to New York. P1

## NATIONAL A25-30

## Veterans Await Place To Find Eternal Rest

The federal government is racing to keep pace with the death of America's warriors. Half of the country's 124 veterans cemeteries are closed to burials. More than 1,800 veterans die each day, with 12 percent choosing a military burial. A25

## Neanderthals in Gene Pool

Scientists have found new genetic evidence that they say may answer the longstanding question of whether modern humans and Neanderthals interbred when they co-existed thousands of years ago. The answer is: probably yes, though not often. A27

## NEW YORK/REGION B1-7

## S.U.V. Accident Kills Child

A sport utility vehicle careered onto a sidewalk in Brooklyn, hitting a mother and her three children, killing the woman's 5-year-old son, the police said. The driver then continued for about a block until she was forced to stop by at least one other driver, they said. She was charged with criminally negligent homicide and leaving the scene of an accident. B1

## No Subway Cell Contract Yet

It has been nearly 10 months since the Metropolitan Transportation Authority received four bids from companies interested in bringing cellphone service to the New York subway system. But the agency has yet to announce a winner. B1

## BUSINESS DAY C1-16

## Microsoft to Pay Vivendi

News Summary

Microsoft agreed to pay a percentage of sales of its new portable media player, the Zune, to Vivendi's Universal Music Group, according to executives briefed on the deal. C1

Business Digest C2

EDITORIAL A32-33

Editorials: Rumsfeld's departure; a clean start; Lawrence Downes on a game of block the vote.

Columns: David Brooks, Bob Herbert, Maureen Dowd.

Bridge E8

Crossword E8

TV Listings E10

Weather D2

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**Load-Date:** November 9, 2006

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## News Summary

The New York Times  
November 4, 2006 Saturday  
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**Section:** Section A; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

**Length:** 743 words

### **Body**

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#### INTERNATIONAL A3-10

##### Rise in Iraqi Sniper Activity Plagues American Forces

Insurgents across Iraq have been using snipers more frequently, disrupting operations and sowing rage and frustration among American forces, United States military officers and enlisted marines say. A1

##### Israeli Troops Kill 2 Civilians

Israeli troops killed two Palestinian women and wounded some 10 others who were seeking to serve as human shields for Hamas militants holed up in a Gaza mosque after an overnight standoff. The troops fired on a crowd of women and at least a few men as they marched to the mosque. A3

##### Taiwan May Charge Leader

Prosecutors in Taiwan say they have enough evidence to bring corruption charges against President Chen Shui-bian, whose wife was indicted for misuse of diplomatic funds. A8

##### Beijing Rejects Appeal Request

The High Court of Beijing rejected a request by a jailed Chinese researcher for The New York Times for a hearing to appeal his conviction on a fraud charge, one of his defense lawyers said. Instead, he must argue his appeal in writing. A8

##### Hussein Faces Death Penalty

Nearly three years after being captured, Saddam Hussein faces the possibility of a death sentence tomorrow from an Iraqi court for the brutal repression of a Shiite town north of Baghdad in the 1980s. A10

##### Iran Nuclear Resolution in Flux

Russia submitted a broad revision of a draft resolution intended to curb Iran's nuclear program, and the United States promised counterproposals, casting talks on the subject into increasing doubt and delay. A6

#### NATIONAL A12-17

##### Republicans Seize on Drop In the Unemployment Rate

## News Summary

Republicans seized on a drop in the unemployment rate to assert that tax cuts were invigorating the economy, highlighting just four days before the election an issue that party strategists are counting on to offset bad news about the war. A1

Days from what Republicans and Democrats expect to be a close election, the legal machinery of a messy political fight is shifting into gear. Both parties are sending their largest concentrations of lawyers to states with the tightest races. A1

## Minister Admits Buying Drugs

One of the nation's leading evangelical ministers, the Rev. Ted Haggard, admitted summoning a male escort for a massage and buying methamphetamine from him, but maintained that they did not have sex and that he threw out the drugs. A13

## Voting Local for Governors

A few of this year's 36 governors' races have been buffeted by the question of which party will control Congress. But more have been focused on state-centered issues: popularity, the local economy, education and the environment. A16

## EDUCATION

## Focus on Foundation Successor

Many will be watching the search for a successor to Tom Vander Ark, executive director for education at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who will step down next month after holding the position for seven years. A12

Religion Journal A17

## NEW YORK/REGION B1-5

## At Elite Public School, Parents Were Evaluated

An examination of the New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math school's kindergarten admissions show that officials were not only looking at student performance, but were also making judgments about parents. A1

## Hevesi Pays \$90,000 More

The controversy over State Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi's use of a state worker to chauffeur his wife broadened as he paid \$90,000 more to New York State, after Attorney General Eliot Spitzer found that he had not reimbursed the driver. B1

## SPORTSSATURDAY D1-8

## NCAA Investing in Academics

The National Collegiate Athletic Association said Division I athletic departments spend at least \$150 million annually on academic support programs to attract the most talented football prospects. A1

## Non-Runners Fund Marathon

About \$360,000 of The New York City Marathon's funding came from a nonrefundable fee paid by the tens of thousands of runners who tried to get into the field but were denied. D3

## BUSINESS DAY C1-9

## U.S. Labor Market Improves

## News Summary

The labor market for American workers continues to improve, with job growth advancing and the unemployment rate falling to the lowest level since May 2001. C1

Business Digest C2

OBITUARIES C10

Jens Christian Hauge

A leader of Norway's underground military resistance during World War II, he was 91. C10

EDITORIAL A18-19

Editorials: Blinding the taxpayers on Iraq; the economy cools; repairing the Red Cross; fairer pay for the City Council.

Columns: Maureen Dowd, John Tierney.

Bridge B15

Crossword B14

TV Listings B16

Weather A20

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** November 4, 2006

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## *Political cannibalism*

The Nation (AsiaNet)

September 27, 2007 Thursday

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**Length:** 782 words

**Byline:** DR A.H. KHAYAL

### **Body**

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A maxim says: "Everything is fair in love and war." Obviously, the maxim-creator must have been a professional lover as well as a professional soldier. Had he, after his retirement as a soldier, embraced politics as his profession, he would have severely cursed himself for his ignorance and amended the maxim thus "No doubt, everything is fair in love and war. But what is fair in politics is unfair even in love and war." And he might add "When politics was born, morality committed suicide."

Washington is asking us to hold fair and just elections. We must be grateful to President Bush for his free counselling. And we must be more grateful to him for demonstrating as to what he precisely means by fair and just elections. The elections in Iraq and Afghanistan under his military occupation are his models of fair and just elections. The civil wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are the gifts of his fair and just elections there.

President Bush passionately desires that every democracy in the East must be a democracy of Afghani and Iraqi brand so that a civil war could eternally flourish in every country of the East.

For President Bush, elections in a country of the East are fair and just only if the elected candidates are Washington's puppets. Otherwise, the elections are monstrously illegal elections.

Here is an example. When recently, the Palestinians elected *Hamas* as their representative party, the elections were universally acclaimed as fair and just. But President Bush crushed the results under his political jackboots. He did the crushing because he firmly regards himself as the political patron-saint of Israel. What was fair and just for the entire world was entirely unfair for President Bush. God is in his heaven and everything is chaotic in the world.

President Bush has created a linguistic problem for the users of the English language. Should they continue to understand by 'fair' and 'just' what the words mean according to their dictionaries? Or should they erase the traditional meanings from their dictionaries and insert in their places President Bush's meanings of the words? One just cannot have any idea of what man can do with words.

In the East almost every democracy is a political restaurant where the masses are broiled and served to the politicians. The politicians are born to eat the masses and the masses are born to be eaten by the politicians. This patriotic cannibalism is the defining characteristic of almost every democracy in the East.

If, however, the politicians of a democracy in the East cannot eat their own compatriots, they can ease their hunger by eating human sheep living in the adjoining territories. Israel is a superb example. The Israeli politicians have been broiling and eating the Palestinian men, *women* and children for decades. Israel has been doing so simply

## Political cannibalism

because it dogmatically believes that its democracy has commanded it to eat the Palestinians at will. President Bush has been vicariously enjoying Israel's regular man-eating festivals across the borders.

No word has a meaning of its own. A word means what its user wants it to mean. Thus there are as many meanings of 'love' as there have been lovers. There are as many meanings of 'war' as there have been warriors. And there have been as many meanings of 'democracy' as there have been democracies.

When the user of a word uses the word in the sense which he personally believes the word has, nobody has a right to be critical about it. It is the user's own private affair. Thus, what 'democracy' means for the Pakistani politicians is the politicians' own private affair. And likewise what it means for the Western politicians is the Western politicians' own private affair.

Have the Pakistani politicians ever been critical of the Western democracy? Why should the Western politicians be critical of our politicians' democracy? Obviously, the Western politicians' criticism of the Pakistani democracy is an unethical interference in the Pakistani politicians' private affairs.

No doubt, the Pakistani democracy has always been a source of extreme misery for the Pakistani masses. But why should the West be concerned about it? It should mind its own business. The masses are themselves to be blamed. If a common Pakistani did not want to live a miserable life, he ought to have been born as a politician.

Because of our 'democracy', millions of Pakistanis are living below the poverty line. They are fighting starvation. Unfortunately, some of them are unable to fight. They commit suicide. The suicides are tributes paid by the suiciders to the rulers. As a token of their thankfulness, the rulers seem determined not to deprive the masses of their misery.

**Load-Date:** September 28, 2007



## News Summary

The New York Times  
September 22, 2007 Saturday  
Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 0; ; Pg. 2

**Length:** 807 words

### **Body**

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#### INTERNATIONAL A3-7

##### Chilean Court Approves Peruvian's Extradition

Chile's Supreme Court approved the extradition of Peru's former president, Alberto K. Fujimori, on charges of human rights abuses and corruption related to his time in power during the 1990s. A1

##### Nuclear Questions on Syria

The Sept. 6 Israeli airstrike inside Syria has reignited debate in Washington over whether the Syrians are trying to overcome past obstacles by starting their own small nuclear program. A1 Israel Holds Plot Leader

Israeli forces captured a senior Hamas commander who Israeli military officials said was the leader of a cell that was preparing a suicide bombing in Israel for Yom Kippur. A3

##### Blackwater Convoys Resume

American diplomats resumed travel in convoys escorted by Blackwater USA, the private American security contractor, three days after the Iraqi government banned the company following a shooting in which at least eight Iraqis were killed. A7

American and Iraqi forces control a little more than half of Baghdad's neighborhoods but only 8 percent of them are "free of enemy influence," and being secured primarily by Iraqi units, according to a senior American commander. A7

##### Musharraf Promotes Ally

Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, promoted a close ally to the important post of intelligence chief, shoring up his power base as he prepares to run for another term as president. A6

##### U.S. and France Agree on Iran

The United States and France agreed on increasing diplomatic pressure to force Iran to abandon its nuclear program, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said. A6

#### NATIONALA8-13

## News Summary

## Candidates Look Overseas In Race for Campaign Cash

Presidential candidates are broadening their fund-raising overseas, targeting financial centers like London and Hong Kong in the hunt for campaign cash. A1

## A Church Adapts

An influx of immigrants and refugees transformed Clarkston, Ga., in a little over a decade, sparking a battle within a local church over its identity and faithfulness to the Bible. The battle led it to change not just its name but also its mission. A1

## Giuliani Defends Gun Views

Rudolph W. Giuliani appeared before the National Rifle Association -- a group he once likened to extremists -- and defended his very vocal past advocacy of tougher gun laws while affirming the right of law-abiding citizens to bear arms. A13

## Edwards's Education Plan

Former Senator John Edwards laid out a proposal to overhaul the education system, saying that the current No Child Left Behind law was not working and that poor children were still being sent to schools that are "separate and unequal." A13

## Two Hurt in Campus Shooting

The campus of Delaware State University was locked down after two freshmen students were shot and wounded when an argument that had begun at a university cafeteria resumed on the street, the police said. A8

## SCIENCE/HEALTH

## H.I.V. Vaccine Falls Short

A much-heralded H.I.V. vaccine failed to work in a large clinical trial, dealing another serious setback to efforts to stop the AIDS epidemic. A8

## NEW YORK/REGIONB12-13

## Illegal Immigrants Lose Chemotherapy Coverage

The federal government has told New York State health officials that chemotherapy, which had been covered for illegal immigrants under a government-financed program, no longer qualifies for coverage. The change comes amid a national debate on providing medical care to immigrants. A1

## Licenses for Immigrants

New York State, home to more than 500,000 of the nation's illegal immigrants, will issue driver's licenses without regard to immigration status under a policy change announced by Gov. Eliot Spitzer. B12

## Religion Journal B11

## BUSINESS DAYB1-9

## Bush Alters Budget View

George W. Bush is portraying himself as a fiscal conservative, leaving some in his party to ask what took so long. B1

## Second Guess On Deals

## News Summary

Two private equity firms and an investment bank intend to walk away from the \$8 billion buyout of Harman International Industries, as buyers and bankers are becoming wary of purchases they rushed into months ago. B1

Business DigestB2

SPORTSSATURDAYB14-17

Driving Toward the Elite

Much of the evolution of the University of South Florida's football program can be traced to Ben Moffitt, a senior who has become one of the nation's best linebackers and who makes a 110-mile commute each day to assure a family-oriented life for his wife and two children. B14

OBITUARIESB10

Alice Ghostley

A Tony Award-winning actress who became known to television viewers for her roles as dizzy sidekicks on television shows including "Bewitched" and "Designing Women," she was 81. B10

EDITORIALA26-27

Editorials: Climate week; when markets are too big to fail; New York's immigrant drivers; free the Statue of Liberty.

Columns: Bob Herbert and Gail Collins.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

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

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Australian (Australia)

March 9, 2007 Friday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Letters; Pg. 15

**Length:** 2630 words

### **Body**

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MATP

Sheik Omran passes himself off as just an ordinary guy

MOST TALKED ABOUT

BRIDGING THE GAP

MIKE Steketee's rather disdainful dismissal of criticism of last weekend's deliberative poll ("Facts and figures punch holes in the fear of veils", Opinion, 8/3) does not add much value to the debate. He would have us believe that only closet supporters of Pauline Hanson are concerned about Muslim immigration; if that were true, it would give great comfort to Hanson's electoral prospects.

As Janet Albrechtsen rightly asks ("Group hugs can be dangerous", Opinion, 7/3), what is the worth of a confab like this when the obvious issue -- some Australian Muslims' violent hostility to Western values -- is skated around? Steketee writes that, according to the 2001 census, 282,000 Australians identified themselves as Muslims and 358,000 as Buddhists. That we do not see the need to convene similar debates in respect of Buddhists, Sikhs, Jews or any religious group other than Muslims speaks volumes in itself.

That someone with such dangerous views as Mohammed Omran passes himself off as just an ordinary guy, without dissent from most of the assembled throng, just shows that exercises like this are symptomatic of denial of a problem and can never be part of any worthwhile solution. Unless and until the obvious issues of terrorism and integration are confronted and constructively engaged, talkfests like this can be nothing more than a waste of a good weekend.

David Edwards

Chapel Hill, Qld

THE juxtapositioning of Mike Steketee's piece, reassuring us that Islam's impact on Australia is and will remain positive, and Pamela Bone's ("Western sisters failing the fight", Opinion, 8/3), lamenting the absence of feminist attack on the woeful state of women's rights under Islam, was excellent journalism. Much food for thought.

The spectacle of Muslim women demanding the right to wear the veil, the symbol of so much misogynist claptrap, smacks of Patty Hearst's famous conversion. The Stockholm Syndrome writ large.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No amount of weasel-worded cultural relativism or reluctance to condemn the enemies of the enemy of the Left (the US) can excuse this abject feminist retreat.

Tom Waring

Ainslie, ACT

MIKE Steketee says that the deliberative poll (read, manipulative brainwashing exercise) on attitudes towards Muslims in Australia "drew in 58 advisers and consultants (including) John Stone ...". This is untrue.

The organisers of what Janet Albrechtsen rightly described as a "con job" first contacted me on November 20, seeking my participation as an advisory board member and/or plenary session panellist. I asked questions and reserved my decision. Successive emails dated November 21, December 8, December 20 and January 12 (asking if Dr Pam Ryan, the principal organiser, could visit me) culminated in her 90-minute visit to my home on February 8 during which she pleaded for my participation. I agreed to think about it further and asked for a copy of the briefing document. Having confirmed its "loaded" nature, I formally advised Ryan of my non-participation.

Steketee has sought to confer respectability on this scam by reporting Cardinal George Pell's attendance. It is indeed regrettable that he attended, and allowed himself to be photographed not only drinking tea with, but also shaking hands with, one of Australia's more questionable Muslim figures, Sheik Mohammed Omran. Didn't His Eminence see the sucker punch coming?

John Stone

Lane Cove, NSW

BRETT Willis (Letters, 8/3) put his finger on the real issue for Australian Muslims, while sadly, Angelika Peter missed the point completely by reciting the same old "freedom of worship" mantra.

The problem is not culture, nor ethnicity, nor a combination of any of these with a particular religion; the problem is religion itself. Carefully examined, almost all religions, and certainly the monotheistic, Abraham-derived religions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, are inimical to and incompatible with what we like to describe as Western society. All three tell their followers that their particular brand of theism is the only true religion and all others are idolators or sinners and doomed to hell.

Some of the Christian sects are less strident these days, because, I suspect, that in the West, at least, their subjects are better educated and more critical and will simply not accept the authoritarian practices of old, so the churches have moderated the message to keep at least some followers. But it isn't that long ago that the threats that were used to keep people in the fold were dire indeed, involving intellectual terrorism ("Do as we say or you will burn in Hell forever!"), which other ex-Catholics of my generation will remember well. The divisions between the various breeds of Christianity were well entrenched in our Australian society, evinced in verbal and often physical warfare between kids who went to Catholic schools and state schools, and between Catholics and Masons/Protestants in the adult portion of society. They were real, entrenched and destructive, and they still exert powerful influences today, particularly in politics.

The Islamic faith is no different from Judaism or Christianity, in that it encourages apartheid at all levels and enforces it with social, intellectual, moral and on occasion physical punishment.

Greg Brodie-Tyrrell

Balhannah, SA

Beware the paralysing effect of compassion fatigue

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TONY Letford (Letters, 8/3) singles out academics and health professionals for their alleged failure to make an appearance in the debate about indigenous community dysfunction during the past decade or two. He accuses such people of indulging in "the silence of the lambs". This is, in the main, misleading.

Books by academics Audrey Bolger, Judy Atkinson and Joan Kimm, along with that of The Australian's Rosemary Neill, have squarely addressed these issues in recent years, and several academics, including anthropologists, have published on the same issues not just in learned journals but in national dailies including The Australian. A series of government inquiries, including the Robertson, Fitzgerald and Gordon inquiries, have repeatedly drawn on academics when facing down these same issues. It does seem true, though, that the political policing of public words has had a greater effect in the indigenous health field than it has among the social scientists and journalists.

There is unfortunately nothing new in Louis Nowra's revelations. They swept Queensland in 1999 and the rest of the country very publicly in 2001 and again in 2006. Even though public memory can be short, a great danger in this case is the paralysing effect of compassion fatigue.

Just as dangerous is the idea that public exposure followed by low-level interventions will be enough to alter behaviours that rest on deep structural and historical foundations. Biting the bullet of deep structural change is a fearsome but necessary prospect.

It is difficult to see how indigenous people themselves can be enabled to forge these deep changes while so many - not by any means all -- remain in the present cycle of problematic early socialisation, lack of schooling, dangerous social conditions and welfare dependence. Incentive for change is bound to be scarce where people are cocooned in government-run webs of racially separate infrastructure and programs. If the long view is that indigenous people should be as free as anyone else from government involvement in their lives, then it should follow that government will need to gradually withdraw from those lives, delivering its aid on the basis only of need, and no longer on the basis of race.

Peter Sutton

Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow, School of Social Sciences, University of Adelaide

Age of plane not the issue

STEVE Creedy ("Rules on age would have grounded jet", 8/3) states if a mooted government ban on aircraft more than 10 years old had been in force in Indonesia, the Garuda Airlines Boeing 737-400 that crashed on landing at Yogyakarta on Wednesday would not have been flying.

True, but the age of the aircraft is not the point. Aircraft are subject to constant renewal and overhaul in compliance with a very demanding schedule. They are not second-hand cars. I would not claim to know why Indonesia has its present problems with aircraft accidents, but I'm very doubtful that an arbitrary ban on aircraft over 10 years old is going to help.

Michael Stanbridge

Bonnet Bay, NSW

Privateers are rich enough

NOW that the federal Government has cleared the way for the takeover of Qantas by privateers ("Qantas cleared for sale", 7/3), it is time it also stopped behaving as though the airline is some kind of national carrier.

The Government should immediately disband the protective international agreements which limit competition from foreign carriers, especially on those favoured routes to London and Los Angeles. It should also put a stop to the cross-subsidisation offered by the disproportionate purchase of domestic seats on Qantas flights by members of parliament and public servants.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The privateers purchasing Qantas are already very wealthy. There is no justification whatsoever for the Australian taxpayer to help make them even wealthier.

Margaret Flynn

Chatswood, NSW

IT'S great to know that Qantas's heart will remain in Australia, but it's a damned shame its wallet won't do likewise. Future governments will need to monitor things closely to ensure compliance with the sale approval terms. The recently over-used chestnut "Nobody told us it was happening" won't wash.

Ian Collins

Seaford, Vic

Manning Clark's fabrication

WHO would have guessed that Manning Clark's famous encounter with Kristallnacht was a piece of fiction ("Historian sought dramatic effect", 6/3)? According to biographer Mark McKenna, he was there, but not just then. So, not a big lie of the kind alleged in the history wars, but a minor fabrication of personal history, the better to bear witness to appalling events. No harm has been done to history perhaps, but it's not what we expect from a historian. And when other historians excuse such a lapse -- as McKenna seems set to do -- it makes matters worse. The excuses so far are that Clark "unconsciously" re-imagined the events; or he did it for dramatic effect; or he was a "historian-artist".

With all due sympathy to McKenna's dilemma, these are flimsy alibis. In an age when scholars often feel ignored, there are two risks in defending such a lapse by one of their own. How can they credibly insist on standards they won't apply to themselves? And what odds that if historians fudge the issue, Clark will pass into blogosphere folklore as "the bullshit-artist formerly known as a historian"?

Geoff Sharrock

Surrey Hills, Vic

EVERY historian knows, or should know, just how unreliable memory is as a tool of historical research. Manning Clark may have come to believe that he was where he said he was. This is a mistake; it is hardly fraud. And isn't it fascinating that Peter Ryan knew all about this and much else but told us nothing while Clark was alive? I find this a much more interesting topic for historical investigation.

George Parsons

Modern History Department

Macquarie University, Sydney

Suspect bona fides

ANTONY Loewenstein, founder of Independent Australian Jewish Voices, does not accept Israel's commitment to a two-state solution and admits IAJV's petition singles out Israel as solely responsible for its impasse with the Palestinians ("Jews 'free to debate Israel'", 07/3).

One must question the IAJV's supposed even-handedness when its founder ignores, for example, the Camp David summit in 2000 when Yassar Arafat rejected then Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak's offer of the creation of a Palestinian state (following Israeli withdrawal from all of the Gaza Strip and some 95 per cent of the West Bank) and Palestinian control over East Jerusalem.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Similarly, IAJV's bona fides are suspect if its signatories disregard any Palestinian responsibility. The Palestinian government's position is unequivocal: "Palestine is an Islamic Waqf land consecrated for Muslim generations until Judgement Day (**Hamas** Covenant, Article 11)" and "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad (Article 13)".

Neither Australian Jews nor Israelis need convincing of a two-state solution. Rather, it's intractable Islamists whom IAJV should be targeting.

Geoffrey Zygier

Executive director, Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc, South Caulfield, Vic

IAJV's proclaimed manifesto appears almost identical to Israeli government policy and mainstream Jewish thought, except that the blanket condemnation of "violence by all parties, whether state-sanctioned or not" seems to imply a completely fallacious equivalence between Israel's use of military force and **Hamas**'s terrorist aggressions. If this is IAJV's intention, then surely "self-hating" is an exact description. What else can you call someone who supports and applauds those who wish to kill him? **Hamas** and other Palestinian militias rejoice at shedding Jewish blood and IAJV's signatories are just as much on their hit-list as I am.

Judith Rona

Bondi, NSW

Clover Moore replies

CONTRARY to Imre Salusinszky's article ("Two hats help keep city MP in clover", 6/3) my presence, along with 90 supporters, marching in the Mardi Gras was not funded by the City of Sydney. As an Independent member of the NSW parliament, I do not rely on party funds -- I personally paid the entry fee and the car I rode in was provided and driven by a volunteer.

Clover Moore

Lord Mayor of Sydney

FIRST BYTE

[letters@theaustralian.com.au](mailto:letters@theaustralian.com.au)

Does anyone really think they can get the clot out of Dick Cheney?

Lawrie Gubb

Cannonvale, Qld

Surely anyone who's had dealings with anyone who's had dealings with Lewis Libby is morally and politically compromised?

Seth Richardson

Chippendale, NSW

Unbelievable! Liberal MP Andrew Laming is in trouble and he hasn't even had anything to do with Brian Burke.

John Byrne

Randwick, NSW

Is rorting your printing allowance the same as rorting your stamp allowance?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Russell Castley

Newlyn, Vic

I read that the PM has said all three MPs being investigated by the AFP are entitled to the presumption of innocence. Shouldn't that also apply to Kevin Rudd and to David Hicks, Mr Howard?

Dorothy Nilon

Arana Hills, Qld

Janet Albrechtsen once predicted "union ticks and fleas" were the biggest threat to Kevin Rudd's revival of the ALP. Looks like they are starting to itch ("Rudd faces challenge from unions", 8/3).

Rod Bates

Ardross, WA

No wonder they can't sustain peace in the Middle East. Judging by recent letters, Australian Jews spend most of their time fighting each other.

Kel Joaquin-Byrne

Randwick, NSW

I would welcome advertisements coming down my phone ("Phone ads the content frontier", 8/3) if they would interrupt overseas call centre staff trying to pronounce my name.

Roger Hooton

Nuriootpa, SA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## *Tension precedes Emory U. visit by controversial speaker*

University Wire

September 25, 2007 Tuesday

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**Length:** 807 words

**Byline:** By Mithu Maheswaranathan, Emory Wheel; SOURCE: Emory U.

**Dateline:** ATLANTA

### **Body**

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The College Republicans are bringing conservative commentator David Horowitz to Emory to speak about Islamic radicalism next month, a decision that could spark controversy on campus.

Horowitz's visit is part of the College Republicans-sponsored Terrorism Awareness Week, which in turn is linked to a national Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week that is being organized by the Horowitz Freedom Center.

Kelse Moen, the College Republicans' attorney general and organizer of the week's events, said the purpose "is to raise awareness of the threat of terrorism worldwide and to fight the idea that this is a threat created by the Bush administration."

"It is not an attack on the Muslim community, but more an issue on the extremists within that community," he added.

College Republicans President Ben Clark said the organization did not invite Horowitz -- Clark was contacted by the national Terrorism Awareness Project and asked if Emory would be interested in having an awareness week.

"I thought it would be good for people to hear his point of view," Clark said. "I was excited when he asked to come; excited about being able to bring him to campus."

The week, which will be held Oct. 22 through Oct. 26, will involve a memorial service for victims of terrorism worldwide and the showing of a video relevant to terrorism awareness, Moen said. The College Republicans have not decided on the video yet.

Aysha Hidayatullah, the Muslim religious advisor in Emory's Office of Religious Life, said Horowitz's campaign is designed to silence discussion and that either advocating or protesting his visit would be detrimental to the Muslim community.

Hidayatullah said withholding comments allows Horowitz a free reign to disseminate his views. Disagreeing with him, on the other hand, would invite Horowitz to target the protester as a "suppressor of free speech and academic freedom and supporter of the enemy," she said.

"This event is problematic in the way that it is happening, creating a climate of fear, suspicion, and silence that only creates more hatred reminiscent of 1950s McCarythism," she said.

Director of Emory Hillel Michael Rabkin said the issue needs to be treated with "the care and sophistication it deserves."

## Tension precedes Emory U. visit by controversial speaker

"Horowitz's Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week project makes it more difficult for voices of moderation on both sides to speak out and achieve the results they are seeking," he said.

Some Muslim students have expressed concern about Horowitz's visit because of his organization's sharp rhetoric regarding Islam. For example, a statement on the Terrorism Awareness Project website says the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the national Muslim Students Association are "fronts for the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas."

Members of Emory MSA's executive board declined to comment on Horowitz's upcoming visit, except to say, "We fully respect the right to free speech, and Horowitz's right to appear on Emory's campus."

Shaheen Sharif, a College sophomore who is Muslim, said she is unhappy Horowitz is coming to campus because she feels he will further skew the already misunderstood Islamic faith.

"The College Republicans should not sponsor a man who is attacking religious views of a faith he obviously knows nothing about," Sharif said, citing the advertisement created by Horowitz that ran in the Wheel last semester claiming jihad is an effort for "world domination" instead of "an inner holy struggle to find God."

Moen said the College Republicans are taking a different angle than the Horowitz Freedom Center by focusing on global terrorism because they decided that Islamo-Fascism was not a good "P.R. term."

Jeff Wiener, the national coordinator for Horowitz's Terrorism Awareness Project, said the purpose of the week is to protest the oppression of women in Islamic societies.

Weiner added that the Terrorism Awareness Project "hopes to illuminate the radical element of Islam and how they use elements of the religion for violent purposes."

Moen said that some people might think bringing Horowitz to campus was a divisive move that does not promote unity among student groups, but that was not the intention of the College Republicans.

"We are trying really hard to not let that happen," he said. "We have been having a steady back and forth with the Muslim Student Association to make sure their needs are addressed."

Clark said he encouraged people who disagree with Horowitz to come and listen to him speak.

"The best way to defend your position if you disagree with someone is to know where they stand too," Clark said.

But Hidayatullah characterized Horowitz's approach as extreme and said people who do not completely agree with him are cast as enemies.

"I do believe there are ways of talking about religious violence without perpetuating violence, but this is not the way to do it," she said.

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**Load-Date:** September 25, 2007

## *Greek Tragedy From the West Bank*

New York Sun (Archive)

July 17, 2007 Tuesday

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**Section:** ARTS AND LETTERS; Pg. 11

**Length:** 808 words

**Byline:** GABRIELLE BIRKNER

### **Body**

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After scores of productions throughout Israel and Europe, "Masked," a fictional play about three Palestinian Arab brothers - divided by political ideology and allegiances during the first Palestinian uprising nearly two decades ago - is arriving this week in New York City.

Penned in 1990 by a Jewish Israeli, Ilan Hatsor, then a student-playwright, "Masked" is a traditional Greek tragedy, transpiring over several hours in a West Bank butcher shop. Like the controversial New York production of "My Name is Rachel Corrie," it unfolds amid a violent intifada, and its sympathies lie with the Palestinian Arabs it depicts. Yet Mr. Hatsor's play has not sparked the kind of heated debate that preceded the local premiere of "My Name is Rachel Corrie."

Last year, the New York Theatre Workshop indefinitely postponed its planned production of "My Name Is Rachel Corrie," following an onslaught of criticism that it was anti-Semitic agitprop masquerading as art. Despite threats of a boycott, the biographical play, whose title character is a young American killed by an Israeli bulldozer while attempting to stop the army from razing a house in Gaza, opened several months later at the Minetta Lane Theatre - closing last December after a two-month run.

The run-up to "Masked" has been much quieter. After organizing a series of staged readings last fall, director Ami Dayan secured an open-ended "Masked" run at DR2, an off-Broadway performance space of veteran theater producer Daryl Roth.

Opening in previews Friday, the play depicts the rising tensions between Daoud, a 30-year-old husband and father working in a Tel Aviv restaurant, and his two younger brothers. There's the 20-something Na'im, a senior member of an unnamed Palestinian militant group, and the teenage Khalid, a recent recruit of that group.

When Na'im informs his brothers that Daoud, a suspected Israeli informant, is a marked man, Khalid - the play's one-man Greek chorus, of sorts - attempts to broker a solution "without blood." Such a solution ultimately eludes this familial dispute, as it has eluded those seeking a bloodless end to the larger regional conflicts.

Mr. Dayan, an Israeli-American, said he was motivated to import "Masked" stateside by Hamas's surprise victory against its rival Fatah in the January 2006 Palestinian legislative elections. Seeing the play as emblematic of that factional struggle weakening bonds in families and among peoples, he transported "Masked" to his adopted hometown of Boulder, Colo.

## Greek Tragedy From the West Bank

Mr. Dayan, a cousin of the late Israeli military leader, Moshe Dayan, said he was surprised by the audience reception in Boulder. "It's a place where everyone is protected, where people do yoga - and this play landed them in the reality of the conflict," he said. "Every night, they would wait after the play. They would ask me, 'What can be done? Is there any solution? Are they ready for peace?' I told them that it was important to talk, that it was important to look at the issue, but didn't want to come across as having answers. I don't have any."

In New York, "Masked" theatergoers will have an outlet for the questions that the script, and performances provoke. A series of panel discussions on topics such as "Where are the Women?" and "Creating Sustainable Peace" will follow several performances each week. Speakers include Jewish and Muslim spiritual leaders, journalists, and representatives from organizations working to foster dialogue between Israelis and Palestinian Arabs.

While the dialogue-heavy "Masked" depicts the Israel Defense Force as employing heavyhanded tactics to locate Palestinian Arab militants, Mr. Dayan insists the play reserves judgment on matters of ideology, strategy, and geographical borders. "As far as New York, I've had some people here say they think the play's going to be used to spread anti-Semitic propaganda, but I don't believe it," he said. "I think art will prevail here."

As a result Mr. Dayan said he does not expect to encounter the kind of delays or boycotts that plagued "My Name is Rachel Corrie," whose script was constructed from diary entries and e-mail messages of its activist title-character.

"This is not a manifesto," the writer, Mr. Hatsor, told The New York Sun. "When you set out to deliver a political message, you miss out on good theater, which has the power to show the enemy - not just as monsters, but as human beings, with human dilemmas, who are part of a family."

Mr. Hatsor said the prospect of a Middle East peace in the early '90s enabled him to write "Masked." These days - with such prospects ever-more bleak - he turns out comedies instead. "When reality gives you so much tragedy, on both sides, you can't compete," he said. "I think you can write tragedy only when there is hope."

Previews begin July 20. Opens August 2 (103 E. 15th St. at Union Square East, 212- 375-1110).

**Load-Date:** July 18, 2007

## *Canada can't be afraid to champion democracy*

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

June 3, 2007 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. D2; Kate Heartfield

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** Kate Heartfield, Ottawa Citizen

### **Body**

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Last month I met a woman whose husband, an Indonesian human-rights activist, was poisoned to death on an international flight in 2004, six years after the downfall of Suharto. The march of freedom seems to be flagging.

There are three main ways Canada can promote democracy in the world. It can spend on development, which encourages freedom. It can offer expertise and support to fragile democracies. And it can try to change the behaviour of less-democratic governments.

The last method has gone out of vogue in the past few years, and it's not hard to see why. It's difficult. It requires picking sides and taking risks. Other than in Afghanistan, Canada's attempts have been half-hearted.

There are many ways of influencing bad governments short of overthrowing them. Indeed, the failing attempt to establish democracy by force in Iraq is one reason democratization is becoming a dirty word that makes some people cringe.

In February, Ben Rowswell, a policy adviser in the Foreign Affairs Department, spoke at a conference organized by a branch of Canadian Lawyers Abroad. He mentioned another reason for the "backlash" against democratization: Dismay at the results of democratic processes, including the empowerment of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela and **Hamas** in the Palestinian Authority.

We don't have to go through an Afghanistan or Iraq every time we champion freedom. And we can't let pseudo-democrats such as Chavez poison us against democracy. Elections alone do not make a democracy.

Governments such as Canada's have many levers other than force: Trade policy, sanctions, diplomacy, statements, international resolutions, partnerships with opposition groups.

Any effort is risky: You can alienate trading partners, back the wrong horse, close diplomatic doors, make dangerous enemies and, worst of all, you can fail and be seen to fail.

But to choose not to try is the coward's way out. It's cowardly to resign ourselves to living in an insecure, unjust world. It's cowardly to wait for governments to improve on their own or be conquered by domestic forces that might never be strong enough.

## Canada can't be afraid to champion democracy

Which brings me back to the man who got on a plane and was killed by a large dose of arsenic. His name was Munir Said Thalib. His widow, Suciwati, said the investigation into his death is a test case for democracy in Indonesia: "It's very difficult to see how democracy will succeed until basic human rights are respected."

The pilot's murder conviction was overturned. Now other men are under suspicion; the whole thing looks like an exercise in scapegoating, perhaps to protect the military. Until the truth is uncovered, Indonesia cannot claim to be a free country. Canada, which has regular dialogues on human rights with Indonesia, has the power to keep nudging it in the direction of freedom.

Some governments you nudge, some you push. Burma's has extended the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nelson Mandela of her country. One of her countrymen, Soe Myint, now lives in India and is editor-in-chief of a news agency in exile called Mizzima News. It's a seedling waiting to be transplanted back into native soil when Burma is free. Soe Myint, on a recent visit to Ottawa, said that while he admires Canada's efforts for refugees and other victims, he wishes we would promote democracy more vigorously. "It's not only support we are seeking. It is also involvement. It is solidarity we are seeking."

Canada has made statements about Burma. It can do more. One way to influence Burma is to influence our business partners, China and India. The 2008 Olympics could be the opportunity of a generation to push for change in Chinese domestic and foreign policy.

UN Watch recently published a Human Rights Scorecard: Canada at the United Nations, 2006-2007. It lists many missed opportunities: "Canada took no action whatsoever at the Human Rights Council or the General Assembly against China's violations of civil, political and religious rights -- which harm over a sixth of the world's population. Canada was equally silent regarding Fidel Castro's police state, where journalists languish in jail for daring to speak the truth. It said nothing about Saudi Arabia's refusal to allow women to vote or drive a car, or its state-sponsored schoolbooks that teach children to hate Christians and other non-Muslims. Nor did it protest Robert Mugabe's repression in Zimbabwe."

The report called on Canada to speak out strongly more often and to "forge a broader alliance in support of human rights, democracy, and peace."

In other words, make democratization fashionable again.

**Load-Date:** June 3, 2007



## *Between Dust And Deliverance*

The New York Times

June 13, 2007 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 6; Editorial Desk; Pg. 21

**Length:** 770 words

**Byline:** By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

**Dateline:** Ramallah, West Bank

### **Body**

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I'm sitting in Ramallah at The Yasir Arafat Foundation listening to Nasser al-Kidwa, the thoughtful former Palestinian foreign minister, talk about Palestinian society "disintegrating" around him. What pains him most, he explains, is that any of his neighbors today with money, skills or a foreign passport are fleeing for the West or the Gulf. As he speaks, an old saying pops into my mind -- one that applies today to Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine: "Would the last one out please turn off the lights."

The other day I wrote about how Israel was looking for a "Fourth Way" -- after the collapse of the Israeli Left's land-for-peace strategy, the Right's permanent occupation strategy and the Israeli third way's unilateral withdrawal strategy. Well, the Arab world also needs a Fourth Way.

The Arabs tried Nasserism, i.e. authoritarian-nationalism, and that didn't work. It tried various brands of Arab socialism, and that didn't work. It even took a flier with bin Ladenism. Bin Laden was the thumb that many Arabs stuck in the eye of the West and of their own hated regimes. But, I would argue, bin Ladenism, and its various jihadist offshoots, has died in Iraq. Yes, it will still have adherents, but it has lost its revolutionary shine, because it has turned out to be nothing more than a death cult.

In my book, the day it died was May 24, 2007, in Falluja, Iraq. Why? Because on that day, 27 people were killed when a suicide bomber in a car attacked a funeral procession for Allawi al-Isawi, a local contractor, who was killed earlier in the day. According to Reuters, "as mourners walked down a main street holding aloft al-Isawi's coffin, the bomber drove into the crowd and blew himself up."

Think about that. No -- really think about it: A Muslim suicide bomber blew up a Muslim funeral. Is there anything lower? But that is what bin Laden and the jihadists have become: utter nihilists, responsible for killing more Muslims than anyone in the world today and totally uninterested in governing, only in making life ungovernable.

But who offers a way forward? Right now the best Arabs can hope for are the decent, modernizing monarchies, like Jordan, Qatar, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates. I do not see any secular progressivism -- a Fourth Way -- emerging in the big Arab states like Egypt, Syria, Algeria and Iraq, that is, a progressivism that would effectively promote more rule of law, global integration, multiparty elections, women's empowerment and modern education to lay the foundations of decent governance. Far from it, Egypt had an election in 2005, and Ayman Nour, the candidate who dared to run against President Mubarak, got thrown in jail on phony charges.

## Between Dust And Deliverance

I also don't see a religious Fourth Way emerging -- a progressive Islam articulated by the big, popular Islamic parties like **Hamas**, Hezbollah and the Muslim Brotherhood. Hezbollah took seats in the Lebanese cabinet and then proceeded to launch its own war with Israel. What a great vision.

"Sadly," observed Middle East analyst Fawaz A. Gerges, in a recent essay on YaleGlobal Online, "mainstream Islamists have provided neither vision nor initiative to build a broad alliance of social forces and transform the political space. They arm themselves with vacuous slogans like 'Islam is the solution.' " No wonder, he adds, that the average Arab citizen is fed up today with both their rulers and the opposition, "who promised heaven and delivered dust."

But since the Islamic parties have monopolized the mosques and the authoritarian regimes have monopolized the public square, anyone trying to articulate an Arab Fourth Way today "is competing against either God or the state -- and between God and the state, what room is left for secular democrats?" asked Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki.

Only weeds can grow there -- small nihilist weeds, like Fatah al Islam in Lebanon or Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia in Iraq or Islamic Jihad in Gaza. And they are growing.

"Now any five guys who want to work together and believe they can uphold God's name and have guns can start an army," said Mr. Kidwa. "Money is all over the place. There is no money for the needed things, but there is a lot of money to finance [armed] groups."

That's why decent people, particularly Arab college grads, are leaving the area. They have no one to cheer for. The only hope for getting them back or for getting us out of Iraq -- without leaving the region to the most nihilistic or impoverished elements -- is an Arab Fourth Way. But it has to come from them -- and right now, it is not happening, not inside Iraq, not outside.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

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

## *Democratization isn't a bad word*

Ottawa Citizen

May 29, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A12; Kate Heartfield

**Length:** 792 words

**Byline:** Kate Heartfield, The Ottawa Citizen

### **Body**

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There are three main ways Canada can promote democracy in the world. It can spend on development, which encourages freedom. It can offer expertise and support to fragile democracies. And it can try to change the behaviour of less democratic governments.

The last method has gone out of vogue in the past few years, and it's not hard to see why. It's difficult. It requires picking sides and taking risks. Canada's attempts have been half-hearted, other than in Afghanistan.

There are many ways of influencing bad governments short of overthrowing them. Indeed, the failing attempt to establish democracy by force in Iraq is one reason democratization is becoming a dirty word that makes some people cringe.

In February, Ben Rowsell, a policy adviser in the foreign affairs department, spoke at a conference organized by a branch of Canadian Lawyers Abroad. He mentioned another reason for the "backlash" against democratization: dismay at the results of democratic processes, including the empowerment of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela and **Hamas** in the Palestinian Authority.

We don't have to go through an Afghanistan or Iraq every time we champion freedom. And we can't let pseudo-democrats such as Mr. Chavez poison us against democracy. Elections alone do not make a democracy.

Governments such as Canada's have many levers other than force: trade policy, sanctions, diplomacy, statements, international resolutions, partnerships with opposition groups. Any effort is risky: You can alienate trading partners, back the wrong horse, close diplomatic doors, make dangerous enemies, and worst of all, you can fail and be seen to fail.

But to choose not to try is the coward's way out. It's cowardly to resign ourselves to living in an insecure, unjust world. It's cowardly to wait for governments to improve on their own, or be conquered by domestic forces that might never be strong enough.

Which brings me back to the man who got on a plane and was killed by a large dose of arsenic. His name was Munir Said Thalib. His widow, Suciwati, spoke to me through an interpreter. She said the investigation into his death

## Democratization isn't a bad word

is a test case for democracy in Indonesia: "It's very difficult to see how democracy will succeed until basic human rights are respected."

The pilot's conviction for the murder was overturned. Now other men are under suspicion; the whole thing looks like an exercise in scapegoating, perhaps to protect the military. Until the truth is uncovered, Indonesia cannot claim to be a free country. Canada, which has regular dialogues on human rights with Indonesia, has the power to keep nudging it in the direction of freedom.

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The report called on Canada to speak out strongly more often and to "forge a broader alliance in support of human rights, democracy, and peace." In other words, make democratization fashionable again.

Kate Heartfield is a member of the Citizen's editorial board. Her blog is at [ottawacitizen.com/worldnextdoor](http://ottawacitizen.com/worldnextdoor).

**Load-Date:** May 29, 2007

## *Between dust and deliverance*

The International Herald Tribune

June 14, 2007 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 8

**Length:** 763 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank

### **Body**

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I'm sitting in Ramallah at the Yasir Arafat Foundation, listening to Nasser al-Kidwa, the thoughtful former Palestinian foreign minister, talk about Palestinian society "disintegrating" around him.

What pains him most, he explains, is that any of his neighbors today with money, skills or a foreign passport are fleeing for the West or the Gulf. As he speaks, an old saying pops into my mind - one that applies today to Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine: "Would the last one out please turn off the lights."

The other day I wrote about how Israel was looking for a "Fourth Way" - after the collapse of the Israeli Left's land-for-peace strategy, the Right's permanent occupation strategy and the Israeli third way's unilateral withdrawal strategy. Well, the Arab world also needs a Fourth Way.

The Arabs tried Nasserism, i.e. authoritarian-nationalism, and that didn't work. It tried various brands of Arab socialism, and that didn't work. It even took a flier with bin Ladenism. Bin Laden was the thumb that many Arabs stuck in the eye of the West and of their own hated regimes.

But, I would argue, bin Ladenism, and its various jihadist offshoots, has died in Iraq. Yes, it will still have adherents, but it has lost its revolutionary shine, because it has turned out to be nothing more than a death cult.

In my book, the day it died was May 24, 2007, in Falluja, Iraq. Why? Because on that day, 27 people were killed when a suicide bomber in a car attacked a funeral procession for Allawi al-Isawi, a local contractor, who was killed earlier in the day. According to Reuters, "as mourners walked down a main street holding aloft al-Isawi's coffin, the bomber drove into the crowd and blew himself up."

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But who offers a way forward? Right now the best Arabs can hope for are the decent, modernizing monarchies, like Jordan, Qatar, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

I do not see any secular progressivism - a Fourth Way - emerging in the big Arab states like Egypt, Syria, Algeria and Iraq, that is, a progressivism that would effectively promote more rule of law, global integration, multiparty elections, women's empowerment and modern education to lay the foundations of decent governance.

## Between dust and deliverance

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"Sadly," observed Middle East analyst Fawaz A. Gerges, in a recent essay on YaleGlobal Online, "mainstream Islamists have provided neither vision nor initiative to build a broad alliance of social forces and transform the political space. They arm themselves with vacuous slogans like 'Islam is the solution.' " No wonder, he adds, that the average Arab citizen is fed up today with both their rulers and the opposition, "who promised heaven and delivered dust."

But since the Islamic parties have monopolized the mosques and the authoritarian regimes have monopolized the public square, anyone trying to articulate an Arab Fourth Way today "is competing against either God or the state - and between God and the state, what room is left for secular democrats?" asked Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki.

Only weeds can grow there - small nihilist weeds, like Fatah al Islam in Lebanon or Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia in Iraq or Islamic Jihad in Gaza. And they are growing.

"Now any five guys who want to work together and believe they can uphold God's name and have guns can start an army," said Kidwa. "Money is all over the place. There is no money for the needed things, but there is a lot of money to finance [armed] groups."

That's why decent people, particularly Arab college grads, are leaving the area. They have no one to cheer for. The only hope for getting them back or for getting us out of Iraq - without leaving the region to the most nihilistic or impoverished elements - is an Arab Fourth Way.

But it has to come from them - and right now, it is not happening, not inside Iraq, not outside.

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

***There's little hope for Fourth Way in Arab world; Best and brightest are leaving Mideast to make their fortunes elsewhere***

The Gazette (Montreal)

June 14, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A25; THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

**Length:** 761 words

**Byline:** THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN, New York Times

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank

## **Body**

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**Load-Date:** June 14, 2007



## *Lebanon rebels to fight to the death*

The Australian (Australia)

May 24, 2007 Thursday

Vic First Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 798 words

**Byline:** Martin Chulov, Tripoli

### **Body**

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MATP

ABOUT 50 al-Qa'ida-linked insurgents were holed up last night in a battered shantytown deep inside a besieged Palestinian refugee camp, vowing to die fighting the surrounding Lebanese army.

Close to half of the camp's 34,000 inhabitants had by last night fled the fighting that erupted on Sunday as a fragile truce held between Fatah al-Islam and the soldiers ordered to crush them.

Most of the remaining residents were expected to join the exodus before sunset yesterday ahead of a widely anticipated last stand.

Black smoke hung above the Nahr al-Barad camp, near the northern city of Tripoli, and thousands of bullet casings and shattered glass lay strewn across perimeter roads. Three days of fierce fighting has killed more than 60 militants and soldiers

as well as at least 27 civilians.

The Lebanese Red Cross was still trying to negotiate access to the scenes of the most intensive fighting to rescue many civilians, who fleeing refugees say remain trapped under dozens of ruined buildings.

"There are many people dead and dying inside," said Fatima al-Qassimi, a Palestinian who fled the camp with her family late on Tuesday night.

"The bombs fell like rain and it is only by God's will that we survived."

Maimed children filled the wards of the Beddawi Hospital, north of Tripoli, many recounting stories of brushes with death.

"I was hiding under a table with my uncle and my cousins when a huge explosion hit the house next to us," said 10-year-old Ratfat Shaabib. "My arm was broken and my uncle is still unconscious."

A UN aid convoy attempting to bring in food and medical supplies was caught in crossfire late on Tuesday in an exchange that wounded several volunteers.

## Lebanon rebels to fight to the death

The PLO last night suspended a four-decade ban on the Lebanese army entering Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps, clearing the way for the army to carry out Prime Minister Fouad Siniora's order to annihilate the remaining rebels.

"We have declared that the country is for Lebanon and sovereignty is for Lebanon, and whatever Lebanon decides or considers its higher interests, we support it," said Abbas Ziki, the PLO representative in Lebanon.

Army officers said the militants were vowing to defy them from within four heavily damaged three-storey buildings near the centre of the camp, a 25sqkm corner of land on the Mediterranean, 15km north of Tripoli.

Nahr al-Barad, meaning the Cold River, is one of 12 impoverished Palestinian camps in Lebanon that are home to more than 215,000 out of a total of 400,000 refugees in the country.

Fears of large numbers of dead or wounded civilians have threatened to ignite an uprising in other camps, where leaders claim the army has been reckless in its pursuit of the militants.

The camp has been shattered by 30-year-old Russian-made tanks, firing non-precision shells. Many of its white concrete buildings appear to be either damaged or destroyed.

Continued -- Page 7

From Page 1

Lebanese armoured personnel carriers were backed into car workshops and alleyways, with exhausted soldiers resting on top of them after the heavy combat.

"The shelling is heavy, not only on our positions, but also on children and women. Destruction is all over," Fatah al-Islam spokesman Abu Salim Tahar said yesterday.

Palestinian factions, including Hamas and Fatah, have distanced themselves from Fatah al-Islam, which touts itself as a Palestinian liberation movement.

Many see it intrinsically linked to the al-Qa'ida worldview with a key goal of toppling the Lebanese Government, which it views as un-Islamic.

The group has been accused of acting on the orders of Syrian military intelligence chiefs, who have been widely blamed with destabilising the Government as a means to derail the establishment of a UN tribunal to try the assassins of former prime minister Rafiq Hariri.

Lebanon last night asked the US for \$280 million in aid to suppress the uprising and alleged al-Qa'ida-linked attempts to penetrate other Palestinian areas in the country.

Western and Lebanese security forces had been monitoring Fatah al-Islam since last November, but had not established the size of the group, or whether it intended to act on its militant Salafi Islamic ideology.

In March, fears were raised of an imminent Fatah al-Islam attack against members of the 15,000-strong UNIFIL intervention force in south Lebanon, which was established to prevent renewed fighting between Hezbollah and Israel, who fought a bloody 34-day war last July-August.

Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps have been off-limits to the army for decades under a 1969 agreement which was annulled by parliament in 1987.

But in line with a tacit agreement since then, the camps have remained under the control of armed Palestinian factions, with the Lebanese army enforcing security around the shantytowns.

Lebanon rebels to fight to the death

[More reports -- Page 7](#)

**Load-Date:** May 23, 2007

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## **Battle engulfs refugee camp**

The Times (London)

May 22, 2007, Tuesday

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**Section:** OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 33

**Length:** 829 words

**Byline:** Nicholas Blandford in Nahr al-Bared refugee camp

### **Body**

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\* Lebanese troops confront militants

\* Siege backed by Palestinian leaders

Dozens were feared dead last night as Lebanese troops pounded a Palestinian refugee camp with artillery and tank fire in fierce battles with Islamic militants.

For a second day hundreds of troops laid siege to the huge Nahr al-Bared camp on the outskirts of the port city of Tripoli, backed by tanks and armoured carriers.

With relief agencies unable to enter the camp -home to 40,000 refugees, including women and children -it was impossible to determine how many had been killed or injured. About 50 combatants died on Sunday when battles broke out in the city centre before spreading to the camp.

Yesterday heavy machinegun fire and exploding mortar rounds echoed across the dusty roads, orange groves and banana plantations surrounding the seaside camp.

Exhausted-looking soldiers manned positions at the three entrances. Some slept in the shade, using backpacks as pillows. An exposed stretch of road running about 300 yards from the camp was a no man's land where cars drove as fast as possible to avoid snipers. A captain in the Lebanese Special Forces said that it had taken only 20 minutes to recapture army positions overrun by the Fatah allslam militants on Sunday morning. "None of them surrendered. They kept fighting until they were killed or ran back into the camp," he said.

Palestinian factions have offered their support for the Government's moves and have undertaken precautions to prevent fighting in other refugee camps. Fatah al-Islam is viewed with suspicion by other Palestinian groups, which should help to ensure that the violence in Nahr al-Bared is contained.

The Lebanese Government has vowed to crush the group once and for all, but says that it will continue to abide by a longstanding agreement that prevents the State from entering Lebanon's 12 established Palestinian refugee camps.

"We have them hermetically sealed inside Nahr al-Bared and we will use political means and the army to get rid of Fatah al-Islam," Marwan Hamade, head of the Telecommunications Ministry, said There were unconfirmed reports of a ceasefire last night, even as a car bomb in an affluent Muslim sector of Beirut injured five people.

## Battle engulfs refugee camp

An official in the Lebanese Army -which has been in talks with the militants - announced that it was prepared to call a truce if Islamist militants halted attacks.

Lebanon has a bloody history of Palestinian-related violence. Many Lebanese blamed the presence of armed Palestinian factions for sparking the 16-year civil war in 1975. The Palestinians live miserable lives in overcrowded refugee camps, denied employment in many Lebanese professions and subject to bitter internecine feuds. Successive Lebanese governments have forbidden the refugees from expanding their camps, despite swelling populations, which has resulted in unsanitary conditions and dangerously frail homes stacked on top of each other. The Nahr al-Bared camp is typical, with its tightly packed five-storey buildings ringed with orchards.

The fighting intensified in mid-afternoon with army mortar rounds exploding amid the cramped flat blocks. The militants struck back, firing their own mortar shells at army positions. A huge column of black smoke rose from the centre of the camp and several buildings could be seen burning.

Witnesses at one of the camp's three entrances said that one Fatah al-Islam militant, wearing an explosive vest, had stormed a Lebanese army position in the morning, but was shot dead before he could reach the soldiers.

With the camp sealed off and ambulances unable to reach casualties, there was no clear way of knowing how many people had been wounded or killed inside. Dozens of young men hovered at the edge of the camp, supporters of the Future Movement led by Saad Hariri, the son and political heir of Rafik Hariri, the late former Prime Minister. Walid Hussein said: "We are here to help the army. We have been carrying ammunition and water to them." With the Government ruling out sending troops into the camp in case of civilian casualties, the troops facing the Fatah al-Islam militants feared a prolonged siege.

Fatah al-Islam arose after its leader, Shaker al-Absi, a Palestinian, was expelled from Syria, where he had been held in custody, and set himself up in Nahr al-Bared last year. This year he told The New York Times that he was training fighters inside the camp for attacks on other countries and that he aimed to spread al-Qaeda's ideology.

Yesterday the US State Department said that the Lebanese Army was working in a "legitimate manner" against "provocations by violent extremists" operating in the camp.

Germany, which holds the EU presidency, promised its support for the Government of Fouad Siniora, the Prime Minister, but urged both sides to do everything possible to prevent the situation from escalating.

Leading article, page 16 **Hamas** suicide threat, page 34 IQ&A: Nicholas Blandford on the Lebanon violence [timesonline.co.uk/mideast](http://timesonline.co.uk/mideast)

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

## *Between dust and deliverance*

Yukon News (Yukon)

June 13, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** INSIGHT; Pg. 7; The World Today

**Length:** 774 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman, Special to Yukon News

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank

### **Body**

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I'm sitting in Ramallah at The Yasser Arafat Foundation listening to Nasser al-Kidwa, the thoughtful former Palestinian foreign minister, talk about Palestinian society "disintegrating" around him.

What pains him most, he explains, is that any of his neighbours today with money, skills, or a foreign passport are fleeing for the West or the Gulf.

As he speaks, an old saying pops into my mind -- one that applies today to Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine: "Would the last one out please turn off the lights."

The other day, I wrote about how Israel was looking for a "Fourth Way" -- after the collapse of the Israeli Left's land-for-peace strategy, the Right's permanent occupation strategy, and the Israeli third way's unilateral withdrawal strategy.

Well, the Arab world also needs a Fourth Way.

The Arabs tried Nasserism, i.e., authoritarian-nationalism, and that didn't work. It tried various brands of Arab socialism, and that didn't work. It even took a flier with bin Ladenism.

Bin Laden was the thumb that many Arabs stuck in the eye of the West and of their own hated regimes. But, I would argue, bin Ladenism, and its various jihadist offshoots, has died in Iraq.

Yes, it will still have adherents, but it has lost its revolutionary shine, because it has turned out to be nothing more than a death cult.

In my book, the day it died was May 24, 2007, in Fallujah, Iraq. Why? Because on that day, 27 people were killed when a suicide bomber in a car attacked a funeral procession for Allawi al-Isawi, a local contractor, who was killed earlier in the day.

According to Reuters, "as mourners walked down a main street holding aloft al-Isawi's coffin, the bomber drove into the crowd and blew himself up."

## Between dust and deliverance

Think about that. No -- really think about it: A Muslim suicide bomber blew up a Muslim funeral. Is there anything lower?

But that is what bin Laden and the jihadists have become: utter nihilists, responsible for killing more Muslims than anyone in the world today and totally uninterested in governing, only in making life ungovernable.

But who offers a way forward? Right now, the best Arabs can hope for are the decent, modernizing monarchies, like Jordan, Qatar, Dubai, and the United Arab Emirates.

I do not see any secular progressivism -- a Fourth Way -- emerging in the big Arab states like Egypt, Syria, Algeria, and Iraq, that is, a progressivism that would effectively promote more rule of law, global integration, multiparty elections, women's empowerment, and modern education to lay the foundations of decent governance.

Far from it, Egypt had an election in 2005, and Ayman Nour, the candidate who dared to run against President Mubarak, got thrown into jail on phony charges.

I also don't see a religious Fourth Way emerging -- a progressive Islam articulated by the big, popular Islamic parties like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Hezbollah took seats in the Lebanese Cabinet and then proceeded to launch its own war with Israel. What a great vision.

"Sadly," observed Middle East analyst Fawaz A. Gerges, in a recent essay on YaleGlobal Online, "mainstream Islamists have provided neither vision nor initiative to build a broad alliance of social forces and transform the political space.

They arm themselves with vacuous slogans like 'Islam is the solution.'" No wonder, he adds, that the average Arab citizen is fed up today with both their rulers and the opposition, "who promised heaven and delivered dust."

But since the Islamic parties have monopolized the mosques and the authoritarian regimes have monopolized the public square, anyone trying to articulate an Arab Fourth Way today "is competing against either God or the state -- and between God and the state, what room is left for secular democrats?" asked Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki.

Only weeds can grow there -- small nihilist weeds, like Fatah al Islam in Lebanon or al-Qaida in Mesopotamia in Iraq or Islamic Jihad in Gaza. And they are growing.

"Now any five guys who want to work together and believe they can uphold God's name and have guns can start an army," said Kidwa.

"Money is all over the place. There is no money for the needed things, but there is a lot of money to finance (armed) groups."

That's why decent people, particularly Arab college grads, are leaving the area. They have no one to cheer for.

The only hope for getting them back or for getting us out of Iraq -- without leaving the region to the most nihilistic or impoverished elements -- is an Arab Fourth Way. But it has to come from them -- and right now, it is not happening, not inside Iraq, not outside.

Thomas L. Friedman writes on international affairs for the New York Times.

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

## *From bored youths to bombers*

The Times (London)

May 2, 2007, Wednesday

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Pg. 28

**Length:** 784 words

**Byline:** Nicola Woolcock, Dominic Kennedy

### **Body**

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\* Extremists preyed on aimless teenagers

\* Crawley path led to the terror camps

The path from bored British teenager to terrorist traitor was carefully laid down for the ordinary young men seduced into hatching the spectacular bomb plot foiled by MI5 and police.

The humdrum lives of the plotters were transformed by their dream of becoming freedom fighters for radical Islam. The most vainglorious took to calling himself "Superstar".

All had unremarkable starts to life. Four were Pakistani in origin, the other was born in Algeria. Typical teenage boys, most had been happy to drink, smoke and chase girls. Their aimless existence and vague Muslim identities made them easy prey for wily extremists.

It began at Langley Green mosque, a detached house that serves part of Crawley nicknamed "Langleydesh". The ringleader, Omar Khyam, now 25, was radicalised there in the late 1990s. Jawad Akbar, 23, a student, and Waheed Mahmood, 35, were both neighbours.

A young worshipper described the mood of the times, well before 9/11. "They were into implementing Sharia law in this country. They were into finding out about Chechnya and combat training. These guys liked watching tapes from Chechnya showing soldiers giving up their lives, and bin Laden tapes...I saw them playing a DVD on a laptop in the mosque. It was of Hamas people saying they were against the infidels and that Muslims needed to rise up around the world."

Omar Bakri Mohammed's radical Muslim youth organisation, al-Muhajiroun, was on the rise. Two of his former pupils in Derby would go on to commit the first suicide bombing by a Briton, killing three people at a bar in Tel Aviv in 2003. In Crawley, Mahmood, a former Mujahidin fighter in Afghanistan, was the linchpin for the radicalising group. Bakri now lives in exile in Lebanon; his organisation has been disbanded.

"Some Muslims in Langley Green became involved with al-Muhajiroun. It became a tussle," the worshipper said. "A lot of those in favour of Omar Bakri went to Langley Green mosque -about ten or fifteen of them. Eventually, quite a few people from London were coming down here. They used to hire Langley Green community centre and do talks there."



## From bored youths to bombers

"We went once to see what it was about. He (Bakri) was banging his fists. We told him, 'Islam is peace and you look like a raging bull' ...

They were eventually kicked out of the mosque because people were saying that it was getting a bad reputation. The moderates were quite vocal about it.

"We used to say to them, if you really want to fight, why don't you go to Afghanistan or Pakistan?"

Some did. Three Crawley Muslims were killed fighting for the Taleban in Afghanistan in 2001.

Khyam, who led the fertiliser bomb plot, also responded to the call to foreign jihad, dismaying his family. "Omar is a bit of a weirdo. His parents ran off after him when he went to Pakistan. He said he was going to become a Mujahidin," the worshipper said. "He was a bit of a loner, then had a group to join. The others got sucked in."

Salahuddin Amin, 32, a quiet, bespectacled taxi driver, met the Crawley gang when they paid a visit to his Luton mosque to drum up support. He defrauded British banks and building societies of £ 21,000 to help jihadis and fled to Pakistan, his birthplace, taking two greyhounds and four fighting cocks to indulge his love for animal sports.

He decided to return after hearing a sermon from Abu Hamza, another radical cleric, now jailed in Britain for soliciting murder. Amin was seized by the Pakistani authorities and claims that they tortured him by threatening him with an electric drill.

Anthony Garcia, 25, the Algerian, was a self-confessed "Ali G character", obsessed with music and girls, until he traipsed behind his devout older brother to Islamic Society meetings. Garcia failed most of his GCSEs and worked as a security guard while longing to be a male model. He wore crocodile shoes and, in court, avoided putting his headphones over his hair in case they damaged his perfect preening.

Garcia went to the religious talks at his brother's college in Romford because he liked the food. He was converted to the cause after watching a video showing atrocities in Kashmir. "It was the worst thing anyone could have seen. Little children sexually abused, and women," he said. Garcia eventually made it to Pakistan to learn to fight. In Britain, he bought the fertiliser for the bomb.

Although Akbar achieved four grade As at A level, he chose to study at Brunel, possibly because of its reputation as an Islamist recruiting ground. He too went to Pakistan to join a paramilitary training camp. There, rather than try to cross the border to Afghanistan, the plotters decided to fight in their British homeland.

**Load-Date:** May 2, 2007

## *How terrorism finds root in the West*

Christian Science Monitor

May 23, 2007, Wednesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 9

**Length:** 836 words

**Byline:** John K. Cooley

**Dateline:** ATHENS

### **Body**

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It's conventional wisdom that Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian terrorists attack Western societies partly as reactions to conflicts in their own regions, such as the Palestinian-Israeli strife. But there's plenty of evidence that extremist ideologies, even if born abroad, are often nurtured in the West.

New French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his advisers and supporters in the academic world realize this. It's why they recommend that France, Britain, and their European neighbors strengthen integration of their Muslim and other immigrant populations - in the way, for example, that millions of Arab-Americans, Iranian-Americans, and Hispanics have been helped to be successful members of US society.

Leading French Islamic expert Olivier Roy has pointed out what this journalist has experienced over decades of reporting: Domestic extremism in North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia isn't just domestic. Sometimes it even originates or is nourished in the West.

Examples: Movements against French colonialism in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia were encouraged by leftist French thinkers such as Jean-Paul Sartre. Henri Alleg, who supported Algeria's eight-year struggle for independence, was a French Communist. He also wrote about the French Army's use of torture against terrorists and militants of the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN). The FLN won a bloody and costly war for Algeria's freedom in 1962. It's still Algeria's ruling party, as confirmed in May 17 elections, which featured record-low turnout of about 35 percent. This was partly because extremist Islamist parties were banned from the polls, following outbreaks of lethal terrorism claimed by an umbrella Islamist group, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

Algerians, including millions now living in France, abhor terrorism. They have bitter memories of the 1990s civil war that Islamists fomented after the Army-backed FLN government banned them from a national election in 1992 that they were certain to win.

Early leaders of Morocco and Tunisia, where Paris's rule ended in 1956, were steeped in French and other European democratic and secular ideologies. Tunisia's Habib Bourguiba, president from 1957 to 1987, empowered Tunisian women and otherwise modernized his country.

Morocco and Tunisia, like Algeria, sternly fight to neutralize Islamist terrorists. Some of the terrorists moved to Europe: Moroccans now on trial for the Madrid train bombings of 2004 and several Tunisians held or tried in Italy are examples.

## How terrorism finds root in the West

However, many high-profile terrorists on the Western scene were born in the West - Zacarias Moussaoui, convicted for the 9/11 atrocities in the US, for one. Others, such as lead 9/11 hijacker Mohammed Atta, came as students. Radical political ideas picked up in Europe are often equal in weight to religion in such cases.

British-born Muslims, involved in the July 7, 2005, London terrorist bombings, often train in Afghanistan or Pakistan but don't usually return to their parents' homelands for jihad there.

European-born Muslims and Muslim converts and Middle Eastern and North African Arabs often fight for Muslim causes in other lands: Bosnia, Chechnya, Kashmir, or - since the US invasion of 2003 - Iraq. Thus far, the Islamist Hamas movement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has shown little interest in the internationalist ideology of Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda, which preaches establishment of a global Islamist state. Since terrorist attacks by Palestinians in Europe a generation ago, very few, if any, Palestinians, Afghans, or Iraqis have turned up in violent groups operating in Western Europe. North Africans involved in terrorism in Spain and Italy and those of Pakistani origin or ancestry in Britain are often young people belonging to the second generation of immigrants.

Turks in Germany and France, and the ethnic Turkish minority in northern Greece (whom the Athens government prefers to call Greek Muslims) are exceptions. They have fewer identity problems. They speak Turkish as well as the language of their host country; they're de facto Europeans without divided loyalties.

Islamist radicalism and its stepchild, terrorism, are problems associated with a younger generation of immigrants. Youth was also a feature of European leftist terrorists of the 1970s, who bombed trains and kidnapped bankers and politicians in Germany, Italy, and France.

America's success in integrating the vast majority of Muslim immigrants into its society could serve as an example in Europe. France's President Sarkozy, in partnership with like-minded German Chancellor Angela Merkel, realizes this. More forceful action against poverty and encouraging education and upward social mobility should be main weapons in the so-called war on terror.

\* Former Monitor correspondent John K. Cooley covered countries between Morocco and Pakistan for nearly a half-century. One of his books is "Unholy Wars: Afghanistan, America and International Terrorism."

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

**Textiles pair do their bit for Mideast peace and ethical prosperity A clothing project that cuts through religious divides and promotes good labour practice is under way in the West Bank, writes Sharmila Devi**

Financial Times (London, England)

May 22, 2007 Tuesday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2007 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Pg. 12

**Length:** 765 words

**Byline:** By SHARMILA DEVI

## **Body**

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Two noble goals - the promotion of Middle East peace and the ethical production of sweatshop- free clothing - are being combined in a project launched by a Jewish American businessman and his Palestinian supplier in the West Bank. Adam Neiman is a self-styled Jewish liberal.

"I'm as far to the left as you can get while still staying in the Democratic party," he said by telephone from Boston, Massachusetts. A Harvard dropout, he ran his own roofing company based in Boston, and then in 2000 founded Bienestar International, which produces the No Sweat label of shoes and clothing.

Last summer he teamed up with Elias al-Arja, a Palestinian Christian who runs a textile factory set up by his parents in the West Bank city of Bethlehem. Only about 4 per cent of his output is for No Sweat - a line of T-shirts made from Turkish organic cotton - at present, but there are plans to expand into yoga clothes and underwear. "Anything that helps us to reach new and bigger markets is a good thing," said Mr Arja at his factory, where Christian and Muslim women work side by side.

His business suffered when the Palestinian intifada began in 2000, but has somewhat recovered. The situation in Bethlehem is much calmer than in the Gaza Strip, where factional fighting and Israeli air raids have claimed dozens of lives in the past week.

Most Palestinians are glad of a job, given the economic problems linked to the western boycott of Hamas, the Islamist group that won last year's election.

Because the West Bank is under Israeli occupation, Mr Arja uses Israeli partners to facilitate supply lines and exports. It is easier for him to sell abroad than to neighbouring Palestinian towns and villages, which are cut off by Israeli army controls such as checkpoints and the West Bank security barrier.

"Exporting to the West Bank is very difficult and takes a long time because of all the barriers," said Mr Arja, whose business has a monthly turnover of about 2m shekels (Dollars 500,000, Euros 372,000, Pounds 254,000). "But we do want to expand - maybe to Jericho."

Textiles pair do their bit for Mideast peace and ethical prosperity A clothing project that cuts through religious divides and promotes good labour practice is ....

No Sweat is still small. Turnover last year was about Dollars 1.2m (Euros 892,000, Pounds 610,000) but Mr Neiman hopes to push it up to Dollars 5m this year on the strength of the Bethlehem project.

Awareness among western consumers of working conditions in the developing world has been growing thanks to campaigners such as Jeff Ballinger, who more than a decade ago highlighted labour practices at Nike, the US sportswear business.

Mr Ballinger advises No Sweat. However, few large companies have comprehensively addressed the challenge of producing clothes that meet a range of labour and ethical standards. No Sweat's first product was a canvas shoe. Each box came with a card giving a breakdown of how much the Indonesian workers received in terms of salary, medical allowances, maternity leave - and even their Ramadan bonus. Mr Neiman challenged Nike and Reebok to do the same with their products, but they failed to respond.

Mr Neiman says there is growing wholesale demand for his products from Jewish, Christian and Muslim groups in the US.

"We all know the sublime things these religions have in common. But there's one very banal thing, too. They purchase prodigious quantities of T-shirts for their schools and camps," he said. "Interestingly, we're also getting great response from the anarcho-atheist hordes. The punk bands all want these Ts for their merchandise."

He visited the Bethlehem factory last summer to check pay and conditions such as working hours, ventilation and even if lavatory paper was freely available. "If the toilet paper's locked away, it means the workers aren't being paid enough and have to steal."

Union organisation was in a parlous state because of the intifada in the fledgling state-to-be that is Palestine. Mr Neiman offered to help the factory prepare for union membership. "If you look around the developing world, unions are a good indicator of democratic movement," he said.

Seven per cent of No Sweat's profits are pledged to the Parents Circle Families Forum, a group representing bereaved Israelis and Palestinians.

Both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities have given backing to the project. But some Palestinian officials are disappointed the T-shirts are not labelled "Made in Palestine". Instead, they say "Made in Bethlehem".

No Sweat is clear that economic development cannot be a substitute for a diplomatic settlement.

"Still, a concrete act of good faith can help build goodwill between peoples and help build the prosperity needed to sustain the peace to come," said Mr Neiman.

**Load-Date:** May 21, 2007

## *The Dubious Record of Pelosi and Her Cronies*

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

April 12, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. A-13

**Length:** 814 words

**Byline:** Ross Mackenzie

### **Body**

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The insults of Nancy Pelosi and her congressional cronies exceed even Don Imus'.

With a single phrase he has disparaged black women. (Question: Will a nation properly indignant over what Imus said now display an equal anger at the denigration of women infusing, e.g., hip-hop and rap?)

The egregious Pelosi and her like-minded limousine lefties in Congress persist in (a) trying to take down a president ineligible to seek re-election and (b) building higher the obstacles to success in Iraq.

These days Speaker Pelosi is cooing about essentially two things: the multitudinous accomplishments of her House of Representatives in its first 100 days, and the landmark importance of her hegira from Congress' marbled halls to - principally - the Damascus palace of a leading financier of planetary terror.

WHAT OF the 100 days?

-The House has passed an increase in the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour and a measure to implement fully the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. Both bills now languish in House-Senate conference.

-The House has held 100 investigatory hearings - on Iraq, on Afghanistan, on Guantanamo, on rendition, on electronic surveillance of terrorists, on U.S. attorney firings. And those hearings may be just the beginning. Notes Virginia Republican Rep. Tom Davis:

"It's going to be a problem for this administration over the next three years.... [The Democrats] are overdoing this [investigation business] with a vengeance ... trying to cripple the administration. They are not focusing, for the most part, on policies - just focusing on personalities, focusing on trying to tear things down."

-Both houses have done little about lobbying and nothing about Social Security. Democrats in both have talked much about ending the Bush tax cuts - thereby imposing history's largest tax increases. And of course both have approved measures limiting funding for American troops in Iraq and demanding the pullout of all troops before the November 2008 presidential election.

-(Apparently to stress that hostilities in Iraq are unrelated to anything, the House Armed Services Committee has banned the use of the phrase global war on terror and "colloquialisms" such as the long war in references to Iraq.

## The Dubious Record of Pelosi and Her Cronies

And Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has pledged to respond to presidential vetoes of congressional pullout demands with measures to end all funding for the troops.)

THE PELOSI hegira - she covered by a maple-leafed babushka in Damascus - recalls nothing so much as Jane Fonda astride an anti-aircraft gun-mount in Hanoi.

But this is worse. Pelosi is speaker of the House of Representatives. Not only has she undermined the morale of U.S. troops in the field. She also has delivered to our enemies messages of fractures in U.S. foreign policy - not least regarding the isolation of Syria.

In venturing from Jerusalem to Damascus, Pelosi said: "We came in friendship, hope, and determined that the road to Damascus is a road to peace." In (her words) communicating "a message from Prime Minister [Ehud] Olmert that Israel was ready to engage in peace talks," she also misrepresented the position of the Israeli government. Said Olmert later:

"What was communicated to [Syria by] the U.S. House speaker does not contain any change in the policies of Israel. . . . Syria must cease its support of terror, cease its sponsoring of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations, refrain from providing weapons to Hezbollah and bringing about the destabilizing of Lebanon, cease its support of terror in Iraq, and relinquish the strategic ties it is building with the extremist regime in Iran."

THEN THERE is the Logan Act, a federal statute for more than 200 years. Logan makes it a felony for anyone not authorized by the administration to discuss with foreign governments "disputes or controversies with the United States."

Robert Turner, a former chairman of the American Bar Association's standing committee on law and national security, offers two quotes from 1798-1800 regarding the Logan Act:

Rep. Isaac Parker: "The people of the United States have given to the executive department the power to negotiate with foreign governments, and to carry on all foreign relations, and ... it is therefore an usurpation of that power for an individual to undertake to correspond with any foreign power on any dispute between the two governments...."

Rep. Albert Gallatin, Thomas Jefferson's future secretary of the Treasury: "It would be extremely improper for a member of this House to enter into any correspondence with the French Republic.... As we are not at war with France, an offense of this kind would not be high treason, yet it would be as criminal an act, as if we were at war...."

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It's quite a list of dubious accomplishment by Pelosi and her congressional cronies - and all in just 100 days.

Ross Mackenzie is the retired editor of the Editorial Pages.

## Graphic

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COLUMN

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

## News Summary

The New York Times  
February 10, 2007 Saturday  
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

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

**Length:** 861 words

### **Body**

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INTERNATIONAL A3-8U.S. Officials Explain View Iran Is Arming Iraqi ShiitesAmerican civilian and military officials provided specific details to support what until now had been a more generally worded claim by the government that Iran was providing "lethal support" to Shiite militants in Iraq. A1 U.S. Finds Gaza Deal WantingThe agreement in Mecca between Fatah and **Hamas** on how to form a unity government was greeted with relief by many Palestinians. But it poses a challenge for the Bush administration, which still wants the new government to meet benchmarks for normal relations. A8 Haiti Uses U.N. to Fight GangsIn an effort to defeat the street gangs that have long competed with politicians for control of Haiti, President Rene Preval enlisted United Nations peacekeepers in the fight, a risky move that could determine both the security of the country and the success of his young government.

A1 U.S. Kills 9 Iraqi Kurds in ErrorAn American military helicopter killed nine Kurdish militia fighters in Iraq when the aircraft mistakenly attacked a guard post at offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the political party of the Iraqi president, Jalal Talabani. A6 The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said he would ask current and former White House aides to testify about a Pentagon inspector general's report criticizing the Defense Department for seeking "alternative intelligence" making the case for invading Iraq. A6 North Korea Deal Seems NearNorth Korea and the United States appeared closer to a deal that would establish a schedule for the North to shut down its main nuclear facilities in return for shipments of fuel oil from South Korea and the beginning of talks over normalization of relations with Washington. A7 NATIONAL A9-11; 16 Eyes on '08, Giuliani Shifts Abortion Speech to RightAs Rudolph W. Giuliani prepares for a possible run for president he takes with him a belief in abortion rights that many say could derail his bid to win the Republican nomination. But in recent weeks, Mr. Giuliani has highlighted a different element of his thinking on the abortion debate. A1 It can be hard to keep track of everyone running for president, let alone those who are merely "exploring" it, "unofficially running," "testing the waters" or "starting a conversation with the American people." A10 Detention Center Offers TourResponding to complaints about conditions at the nation's main family detention center for illegal immigrants, officials threw open the gates for a first news media tour. A9 Rule Calls to Reduce GasesUnder a new rule, the Environmental Protection Agency is requiring significant reductions of cancer-causing benzene and other toxic, pungent hydrocarbon gases contained in the gasoline supply. A9EDUCATIONFemale President at HarvardHarvard, the nation's oldest university, plans to name Drew Gilpin Faust, a historian of the Civil War South, to be the first **female** president in its 371-year history, university officials said. A1 SCIENCE/HEALTHPrinceton Laboratory to CloseA small laboratory at Princeton University, the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research laboratory, which made headlines trying to prove that thoughts can alter the course of events, will close after almost three decades. A1NEW YORK/REGION B1-6Greenwich Village Hospital Unveils New Building PlanSt. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village plans to build an entirely new hospital for an estimated \$600 million, then sell most of its valuable



## News Summary

real estate on Seventh Avenue to a developer. The proposal is a bold, confident stroke for St. Vincent's, which has lost money for several years. B1Thousands Lose WaterA water main break in West New York, N.J., left tens of thousands of residents without water in five towns in northern New Jersey and forced the evacuation of dozens of residents -- including some who had to flee on rafts in the frigid water. B1Religion Journal B6SPORTSSATURDAY D1-6Cycling Team Loses SponsorThe Discovery Channel will drop its sponsorship next year of the professional cycling team that was formerly led by Lance Armstrong. The decision leaves the top United States team scrambling to find a new primary sponsor at a time when the sport is in turmoil over allegations of widespread use of performance-enhancing drugs by riders. D4OBITUARIES C10Hank BauerA pipe fitter and decorated combat veteran who became an All-Star outfielder for the Yankees, playing in nine World Series, and who later managed the Baltimore Orioles to a Series victory, he was 84. C10Ian RichardsonThe Scottish actor who gained international fame for his television portrayal of a deliciously villainous politician, he was 72. C10BUSINESS DAY C1-9 Scrutiny of Municipal BondsBank of America's cooperation with the Justice Department in exchange for leniency may prove to be a significant breakthrough for investigators looking into bidding practices in the municipal bond business. C1 EDITORIAL A14-15Editorials: The build-a-war workshop; bad faith on Social Security; the iNanny alert; an instructive moment. Columns: Maureen Dowd, Stacy Schiff.Bridge B17Crossword B14TV Listings B19Weather A12

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** February 10, 2007

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## *Anti-American feelings soar as Muslim society is radicalised by War on Terror*

The Times (London)

February 21, 2007, Wednesday

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**Section:** OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 805 words

**Byline:** Ruth Gledhill Religion Correspondent

### **Body**

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\* Worldwide survey reveals opinion shift

\* No link between religion and radicals

The War on Terror has radicalised Muslims around the world to unprecedented levels of anti-American feeling, according to the largest survey of Muslims ever to be conducted.

Seven per cent believe that the events of 9/11 were "completely justified". In Saudi Arabia, 79 per cent had an "unfavourable view" of the US.

The Gallup's Centre for Muslim Studies in New York carried out surveys of 10,000 Muslims in ten predominantly Muslim countries. One finding was that the wealthier and better-educated were more likely to be radicalised.

The surveys were carried out in 2005 and 2006. Along with an earlier Gallup survey in nine other countries in 2001, they represent the views of more than 90 per cent of the world's Muslims. A further 1,500 Muslims in London, Paris and Berlin are involved in a separate poll to be published in April.

The findings come in a climate of growing mistrust between Islam and the West.

Another recent survey in the US found that 39 per cent of Americans felt some prejudice towards Muslims.

The Gallup findings indicate that, in terms of spiritual values and the emphasis on the family and the future, Americans have more in common with Muslims than they do with their Western counterparts in Europe.

A large number of Muslims supported the Western ideal of democratic government.

Fifty per cent of radicals supported democracy, compared with 35 per cent of moderates.

Religion was found to have little to do with radicalisation or antipathy towards Western culture. Muslims were condemnatory of promiscuity and a sense of moral decay. What they admired most was liberty, its democratic system, technology and freedom of speech. While there was widespread support for Sharia, or Islamic law, only a minority wanted religious leaders to be making laws. Most women in the predominantly Muslim countries believed that Sharia should be the source of a nation's laws, but they strongly believed in equal rights for women.

## Anti- American feelings soar as Muslim society is radicalised by War on Terror

This finding indicates the complexity of the struggle ahead for Western understanding. Few Western commentators can see how women could embrace the veil, Sharia and equal rights at the same time.

Researchers set out to examine the truth behind the stock response in the West to the question of when it will know it is winning the war on terror. Foreign policy experts tend to believe that victory will come when the Islamic world rejects radicalism. "Every politician has a theory: radicals are religious fundamentalists; they are poor; they are full of hopelessness and hate. But those theories are wrong," the researchers reported.

"We find that Muslim radicals have more in common with their moderate brethren than is often assumed. If the West wants to reach the extremists, and empower the moderate majority, it must first recognise who it's up against."

Gallup says that because terrorists often hijack Islamic precepts for their own ends, pundits and politicians in the West sometimes portray Islam as a religion of terrorism.

"They often charge that religious fervour triggers radical and violent views," said John Esposito, a religion professor, and Dalia Mogahed, Gallup's Muslim studies director, in one analysis. "But the data say otherwise. There is no significant difference in religiosity between moderates and radicals. Radicals are no more likely to attend religious services regularly than are moderates."

They continue: "It's no secret that many in the Muslim world suffer from crippling poverty and lack of education. But are radicals any poorer than their fellow Muslims? We found the opposite: there is indeed a key difference between radicals and moderates when it comes to income and education, but it is the radicals who earn more and stay in school longer."

In fact, the surveys found that the radicals were more satisfied with their finances and quality of life than moderates.

Genieve Abdo, a senior Gallup analyst and author of *Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America After 9/11*, said that the findings of a high level of religious belief among both moderate and radical Muslims had "huge implications" for Western governments.

She said: "We have to assume that these Islamic parties and movements that are coming to power are popular and have a large constituency. People are not just voting for a party, they are voting for a religion, a way of life." She said that the Gallup findings countered the argument that, for example, a vote for Hamas was a vote against the former Palestinian Government of Arafat rather than a vote for the extreme religious position of the new government.

### LOOKING WEST

Percentage with unfavourable view of US in 2005 (all increased since 9/11 except where indicated:

79%

Saudi Arabia

65%

Jordan

49%

Morocco

52%

Iran (down from 63 in 2001)

Anti- American feelings soar as Muslim society is radicalised by War on Terror

65%

Pakistan (down from 69 in 2001)

**Load-Date:** February 21, 2007

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End of Document

## **Not-So-Strange Bedfellow**

The New York Times

January 31, 2007 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 5; Editorial Desk; Pg. 19

**Length:** 763 words

**Byline:** By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

### **Body**

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Here's a little foreign policy test. I am going to describe two countries -- "Country A" and "Country B" -- and you tell me which one is America's ally and which one is not.

Let's start: Country A actively helped the U.S. defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan and replace it with a pro-U.S. elected alliance of moderate Muslims. Country A regularly holds sort-of-free elections. Country A's women vote, hold office, are the majority of its university students and are fully integrated into the work force.

On 9/11, residents of Country A were among the very few in the Muslim world to hold spontaneous pro-U.S. demonstrations. Country A's radical president recently held a conference about why the Holocaust never happened -- to try to gain popularity. A month later, Country A held nationwide elections for local councils, and that same president saw his candidates get wiped out by voters who preferred more moderate conservatives. Country A has a strategic interest in the success of the pro-U.S., Shiite-led, elected Iraqi government. Although it's a Muslim country right next to Iraq, Country A has never sent any suicide bombers to Iraq, and has long protected its Christians and Jews. Country A has more bloggers per capita than any country in the Muslim Middle East.

The brand of Islam practiced by Country A respects women, is open to reinterpretation in light of modernity and rejects Al Qaeda's nihilism.

Now Country B: Country B gave us 15 of the 19 hijackers on 9/11. Country B does not allow its women to drive, vote or run for office. It is illegal in Country B to build a church, synagogue or Hindu temple. Country B helped finance the Taliban.

Country B's private charities help sustain Al Qaeda. Young men from Country B's mosques have been regularly recruited to carry out suicide bombings in Iraq. Mosques and charities in Country B raise funds to support the insurgency in Iraq. Country B does not want the elected, Shiite-led government in Iraq to succeed. While Country B's leaders are pro-U.S., polls show many of its people are hostile to America -- some of them celebrated on 9/11. The brand of Islam supported by Country B and exported by it to mosques around the world is the most hostile to modernity and other faiths.

Question: Which country is America's natural ally: A or B?

Country A is, of course. Country A is Iran. Country B is Saudi Arabia.

## Not-So-Strange Bedfellow

Don't worry. I know that Iran has also engaged in terrorism against the U.S. and that the Saudis have supported America at key times in some areas. The point I'm trying to make, though, is that the hostility between Iran and the U.S. since the overthrow of the shah in 1979 is not organic. By dint of culture, history and geography, we actually have a lot of interests in common with Iran's people. And I am not the only one to notice that.

Because the U.S. has destroyed Iran's two biggest enemies -- the Taliban and Saddam -- "there is now a debate in Iran as to whether we should continue to act so harshly against the Americans," Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Iran's former ambassador to London, told me at Davos. "There is now more readiness for dialogue with the United States."

More important, when people say, "The most important thing America could do today to stabilize the Middle East is solve the Israel-Palestine conflict," they are wrong. It's second. The most important thing would be to resolve the Iran-U.S. conflict.

That would change the whole Middle East and open up the way to solving the Israel-Palestine conflict, because Iran is the key backer of **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and Syria. Iran's active help could also be critical for stabilizing Iraq.

This is why I oppose war with Iran. I favor negotiations. Isolating Iran like Castro's Cuba has produced only the same result as in Cuba: strengthening Iran's Castros. But for talks with Iran to bear fruit, we have to negotiate with Iran with leverage.

How do we get leverage? Make it clear that Iran can't push us out of the gulf militarily; bring down the price of oil, which is key to the cockiness of Iran's hard-line leadership; squeeze the hard-liners financially. But all this has to be accompanied with a clear declaration that the U.S. is not seeking regime change in Iran, but a change of behavior, that the U.S. wants to immediately restore its embassy in Tehran and that the first thing it will do is grant 50,000 student visas for young Iranians to study at U.S. universities.

Just do that -- and then sit back and watch the most amazing debate explode inside Iran. You can bet the farm on it.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** January 31, 2007

*Diane Sawyer, apple polisher*

Pittsburgh Tribune Review

February 11, 2007 Sunday

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**Length:** 806 words

**Byline:** L. Brent Bozell III

## **Body**

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Never try to say ABC anchor Diane Sawyer hasn't been tough on oppressors. In one interview in 1998, she stared one in the face and said: "You've been compared to Saddam Hussein. Nero. To Torquemada, who was head of the Inquisition."

Oh, forgive me. That wasn't a dictator she was questioning. It was Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel investigating Bill Clinton's lying under oath.

This was a common practice for ABC at the time. Their Web site had an infamous instant poll asking if there was an "Ig-Nobel" prize, who should win it? The choices were Saddam, Slobodan Milosevic, Osama bin Laden and ... Linda Tripp.

So how do ABC news anchors like Sawyer perform when they land "exclusive" interviews with actual dictators? The rings of international thugs are kissed for the privilege. Their obvious lack of respect for the concept of democracy is politely skimmed over. The real threat they pose to America is downplayed -- or ignored.

Last fall, Sawyer traveled to North Korea and interviewed a general in the world's harshest communist tyranny. She was incredibly passive, relating back to her American audience that the general insisted President Bush should be blamed for any nuclear weapons testing in North Korea and added that "the general said to us he does want peace. And he also said, again, reiterated, North Korea will not be the first to use a nuclear weapon."

From there, Sawyer produced a very strange piece about regimented, yet refreshing, North Korean schoolchildren, "a world away from the unruly individualism of any American school." Proclaimed a student, no doubt surrounded by minders watching her every word, "We are the happiest children in the world!"

Last week, ABC and Sawyer were at it again. Another continent, another ruthless anti-American dictator, but the same results. This time, Sawyer flew to Syria, following in the footsteps of Sen. John Kerry, who warmly announced a few weeks back that dictator Bashar Assad is ready to work with the United States. That was exactly Sawyer's message, too, on the Feb. 5 "Good Morning America." Sawyer diplomatically awarded Assad the title of "president," although no one elected him there. Dictatorship was handed down as the family business, but she called him "your excellency."

Sawyer lamely suggested to Assad in the first day's interview that "Americans would say they voted" in Iraq, that there's a democracy. Assad shot back, "What is the benefit of democracy if you're dead?" Sawyer didn't challenge him about, say, his father Hafez Assad's massacre at Hama of more than 10,000 people. She moved on, instead, to discuss gently how a peace process with America would work.

Diane Sawyer, apple polisher

But the truly maddening part was Sawyer trying to take this dictator and turn him into a sympathetic human being. "You like video games? ... Do you have an iPod?" Obviously, she was slavishly toeing a PR line some Syrian functionary spoon-fed her. "You're a country music fan. Faith Hill? Shania Twain?" Assad laughed and said, "Is it considered an ad?" Sawyer played along: "Yes, that's true. They get free advertising." Yippee!

The problem here is the free advertising ABC is handing the dictator of Syria. Can we imagine that if Hitler were alive and still ruling Germany with an iron fist, Sawyer would be asking him about his iPod, too?

On the second day, Feb. 6, Sawyer asked the more serious questions -- about political prisoners in Syria, about Syria's role in assassinating Lebanese political leaders, its support for the terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas. But Sawyer had an odd tic throughout all of this, and it's one that drives this writer mad. It was always "Americans say" or "human rights groups say" that Syria is unfree and supports terror, etc. Can't the glorious fact-checkers at ABC News determine for themselves if Syria is oppressive? Or is an obsequious tone before dictators more important than giving American viewers the impression you have a firm grasp on hard facts?

Then, once again, after a few of those questions about democracy and terror, Sawyer went back to humanizing the Assads, not just the dictator, but the "elegant, athletic" dictator's wife, Asma, the "31-year-old former career girl" who once lived in New York. What followed was a pathetic trail of ooze about the "amazing" work this woman is doing for women's and children's rights -- in the middle of this dictatorship. We're told the Assads "famously live in a modest home" and drive the kids to school and bike together.

ABC forbids its reporters to wear flag pins, lest they be seen as tools of the U.S. government. But once again, in their frantic desperation to be "independent" of America, they look instead like enthusiastic apple-polishing tools for every dictatorial enemy America faces in the world.

L. Brent Bozell III is the president of the Media Research Center.

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2007

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*Iraq's refugee crisis offers problem, opportunity for U.S.*

USA TODAY

January 5, 2007 Friday

FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8A

**Length:** 731 words

## **Body**

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Architects of the Iraq war planned for many things that didn't happen and didn't plan for many things that did. One of the things that didn't happen, at least not right away, was a refugee crisis. In fact, from the fall of Saddam Hussein in early 2003 through 2005, about 300,000 Iraqis returned to their homeland from other countries.

Today, with Iraq consumed by chaos and sectarian violence, the flow has reversed. The number of returnees has slowed to a trickle. As many as 1.8 million Iraqis -- about the population of New Mexico -- have fled to neighboring nations, some of them before the war began. Since 2003, about 750,000 more have been displaced within Iraq.

Earlier in the war, it was the wealthier Iraqis who left, often driving Mercedes. Now, says Ron Redmond, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, they're fleeing their homes in battered buses or however they can -- at a rate of 40,000 to 50,000 a month. Many have such meager resources, Redmond says, that women are turning to prostitution and kids to child labor.

The Bush administration has been slow to acknowledge this unfolding disaster. To recognize the refugee crisis is, after all, to undermine the White House insistence that the war was the right decision and that Iraq is on the way to stability. But the situation is so acute that it can't responsibly be ignored. The Iraq Study Group, co-chaired by former secretary of State James Baker, reached a similar conclusion in its exhaustive report last month.

This human tragedy in the making adds a new problem for the United States, as well as an opportunity. U.S. security requires a Middle East that is not a seething hotbed of anti-Americanism. The Iraqis who have fled their country or have been internally displaced have the potential to become the Palestinians of the 21st century: an increasingly militant and anti-American diaspora destabilizing the region.

President Bush's new strategy for Iraq, to be announced next week, ought to include a U.S.-led surge of international attention on the refugee situation. Such humanitarian efforts should be coordinated with the United Nations, which until recently had assumed that Iraq would stabilize enough for the refugees to return home. Now the U.N. is so alarmed at the growing violence and exodus that it is switching gears. It is launching an appeal for money and assistance for three urgent tasks: helping the displaced survive where they are; helping host countries to absorb them; and persuading other countries, including the USA, to let more of them in.

The United States has a moral obligation to take care of the many Iraqis who have risked their lives and their families by cooperating with the U.S. effort. Iraqis associated with the USA are all too often signing their own death warrants. Many have fled and are stuck in limbo, too fearful to return. Yet the United States last year resettled just 202 Iraqis and is not planning any big increase. That needs to change. Much like the Vietnamese refugees who

## Iraq 's refugee crisis offers problem, opportunity for U.S.

were taken in after fleeing the Vietnam War, the Iraqis' past help makes them a valuable resource for future investment and possible engine of political change.

Direct U.S. aid programs for refugees could also win influence in the Muslim world, where extremist groups such as **Hamas** and Hezbollah have for too long wooed hearts and minds through social services, and with little competition.

The flow of humanity from Iraq is starting to overwhelm its neighbors. Already, Jordan is refusing entry to most young men, Syria has stopped giving Iraqis free health care, and Saudi Arabia is building a fence along its border. As the Iraq Study Group pointed out, any Iraq solution has to involve the whole region.

The refugee crisis offers an opportunity to appeal to the self-interest of Iraq's neighbors and enlist their help in efforts to subdue the insurgency and contain the violence. Syria, in particular, has been sending signals that it wants to talk, despite snubs from the Bush administration.

During the nearly four years of the Iraq war, the administration has consistently failed to deal with crises before it was too late. Most fundamentally, it was for too long in denial about the insurgency that has plunged the country into civil war. Jumping on the unfolding humanitarian crisis now could break the pattern, forestall future problems and ease an eventual U.S. exit.

## Graphic

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GRAPHIC, B/W, Sam Ward, USA TODAY, Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (BAR GRAPH, MAP)

PHOTO, B/W, Alaa al-Marjani, AP

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2007

## THE WEST AND MUSLIMS

The Nation (AsiaNet)

January 10, 2007 Wednesday

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**Length:** 834 words

**Byline:** INAM KHAWAJA

### **Body**

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The Western countries talk of tolerance, multilateralism and dialogue. The Muslims have been practicing all this since the advent of Islam. The history of the past 1427 years is witness to the fact that Muslim countries from Spain to Indonesia and from Kazakhstan to Somalia have practiced religious freedom, tolerance and respect of the sensibilities of the minorities. There have been no Ghettos or Pogroms; on the contrary non-Muslims have occupied high offices (Ministers and Generals) in many Muslim countries.

In contrast in Europe Jews were confined to Ghettos and there were innumerable Pogroms, the last being in Germany (the Holocaust) a little over forty years ago. Then there was the notorious Spanish Inquisition. The British claim of practicing pluralism and the talk against the wearing of veil by Muslim women do not go together.

In the recent past obnoxious cartoons were published in Denmark and also republished in several other European countries. These deplorable acts were justified in the name of freedom of speech. Is insulting Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the only way of demonstrating the freedom of speech? I would like the sane and reasonable people in the civilised Western world to please reflect and think about the fact that Muslims historically have never insulted or used insulting or derogatory language about Jesus Christ, Saint Paul, Saint Peter or any other Christian personality.

At present at US airports Muslims are singled out for detailed search, this is nothing but plain discrimination either on religious or ethnic basis. Yet today USA claims to be the champion of freedom, democracy and tolerance. The Prime Minister of Israel has recently admitted that they possess nuclear weapons; which analysts estimate to number about two hundred. Why has there been no condemnation of this by USA? Why are the Western nations not moving UN to at least pass a resolution condemning it?

Israel continues to occupy the West Bank and the Golan Heights with impunity because of US Veto in the Security Council, which makes US equally guilty of the state terrorism of Israel. It needs to be noted that Israel first attacked, killed several Hezbollah fighters and kidnapped others and when Hezbollah retaliated by killing a few and kidnapping two Israeli soldiers, Israel attacked Lebanon. The wonton destruction of Lebanese civil infrastructure continued for over a month, yet there was no condemnation by USA of this State Terrorism by Israel.

President Bush has signed the "Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006", thus banning US aid to Palestinian Authority aiming to isolate Hamas the group which swept the election with overwhelming majority in the March 2006 elections. It is strange that the Act states that it is; "designed to promote the development of democratic institutions in the areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority". What it really means is that only the institution acceptable to Israel is considered democratic by USA.

## THE WEST AND MUSLIMS

Iran a signatory of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is engaged in developing Nuclear Technology for peaceful purposes. This is permissible under the provisions of NPT. The West particularly the US is opposed to Iran enriching Uranium,' because they claim that Iran intends to build nuclear weapons. This is nothing but plain discrimination based upon prejudice. In spite of this Iran is prepared to engage in a dialogue with USA.

Muslims have in fact never been opposed to dialogue. However due to the actions and the behaviour of the West one doubts if they are seriously interested in a meaningful dialogue. It appears that by dialogue they mean that they want the Muslims to change the face of Islam then I am afraid they are pursuing an unachievable goal.

Muslims claim that they stand for peace and peaceful coexistence but the attacks on US

embassies in Africa, the attacks of 9/11, the Bali bombings and the London train bombings make this claim hollow. Allah forbids killing of women, children and non-combatants. It is irrelevant that the opponents carry out these heinous crimes; this cannot be accepted as a justification for retaliation in kind. What is worse is the fact that Ulema and the politicians have not raised their voices against these atrocities.

Suicide is forbidden in Islam, yet some Muslims emulate the Tamil Tigers and carry out suicide bombings. It is deplorable that there is no condemnation of this un-Islamic practice by the Ulema and the Muslim leaders. Muslims say that Islam stands for liberation of human beings and democracy but out of fifty-eight members of OIC only in Malaysia there is democracy and not even one country practically enforces in full the injunctions of the Quran and the Sunnah. Where is the model for the world to emulate?

Both Muslims and the West need to set their houses in order before there can be any meaningful and purposeful dialogue. The West has change its behaviour and the Muslims should discourage un-Islamic acts practiced by some.

**Load-Date:** January 12, 2007

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## News Summary

The New York Times

December 15, 2006 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

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

**Length:** 818 words

### **Body**

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#### INTERNATIONAL A3-20

##### Inquiry Into Diana's Death Fails to Find a Conspiracy

After years of conspiracy theories regarding the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, a British police inquiry concluded that she had been killed the way the authorities always said she had been: in a car accident, with her boyfriend and their driver. A1

##### Talk of More U.S. Troops in Iraq

Senator John McCain visited Iraq and said American commanders were discussing the possibility of sending as many as 35,000 more troops to help "bring the situation under control" and stem the worsening violence. A16

The review of Iraq policy by senior commanders appears headed toward a call to increase the overall size of the American military, military officials said. A16

##### Palestinian Stopped With Cash

**Hamas** gunmen clashed with Palestinian and Egyptian security forces after Israel barred the Palestinian prime minister from returning home to the Gaza Strip from Egypt, saying he was carrying tens of millions of dollars in cash that could be used for terror attacks. A3

##### U.N. Swears In New Leader

Ban Ki-moon of South Korea was sworn in as the next secretary general of the United Nations, and he pledged to rebuild faith in an organization tarnished by scandal and riven by disputes between rich and poor nations. A5

##### Senators Defy Bush on Syria

The White House said a Democratic senator's meeting with President Bashar al-Assad of Syria was inappropriate and undermined democracy in the region, while three more senators, including a Republican, made plans to visit Damascus in defiance of President Bush. A18

#### NATIONAL A24-38

##### Breast Cancer Rates Drop; Ending Hormone Use Cited

## News Summary

Rates of the most common form of breast cancer dropped 15 percent from August 2002 to December 2003, researchers reported. The reason may be because, during that time, millions of women abandoned hormone treatment. A1

## Ill Senator Said to Respond

Senator Tim Johnson, Democrat of South Dakota, was said to be in critical condition but "responsive" after surgery to stop bleeding in his brain, as Democrats said that his condition would not imperil their narrow majority in the new Senate. A1

## Border Security Plan Dropped

Homeland Security officials have quietly abandoned efforts to develop a facial or fingerprint recognition system that would ensure that the vast majority of foreigners who visit the United States actually leave the country, officials say. A1

## Late Legislative Additions

In the final, chaotic hours before the 109th Congress adjourned, obscure provisions of interest to just a few lawmakers were stuffed into a grab bag of legislation, including a major change in Medicare policy by Speaker J. Dennis Hastert. A24

## Death Sentences on Decline

The number of death sentences in the United States has dropped to its lowest level in decades, according to recent studies, including one just released that predicts the trend will continue. A28

## Call for an Overhaul of Schools

Warning that Americans face losing their prosperity and high quality of life to better-educated workers overseas, a panel of education, labor and other public policy experts proposed a far-reaching redesign of the American education system. A33

## NEW YORK/REGION B1-9

## A Muslim Woman In Uncle Sam's Army

The United States military has long prided itself on molding raw recruits into hardened soldiers. Perhaps none have undergone a transformation quite like that of Fadwa Hamdan, a Muslim woman from Saudi Arabia who moved to Queens after her marriage fell apart and joined the United States Army. A1

## Civil Unions Legal in New Jersey

The State Legislature voted to make New Jersey the third state in the nation to allow civil unions between same-sex couples. In doing so, it moved quickly to fulfill a court mandate to provide equal rights to gays and lesbians but frustrated people on both sides of the issue. A1

## Neediest Cases B6

## WEEKEND E1-40; E41-52

## Golden Globe Nominations

This year's Golden Globe nominations were announced in Los Angeles. "Babel," a multicharacter drama about cultural misunderstanding, led the nominations with seven. E3

## SPORTSFRIDAY D1-8

## Red Sox Sign Matsuzaka

## News Summary

After 29 days of negotiations, the Boston Red Sox and the Japanese pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka agreed to a six-year, \$52 million contract. D1

## OBITUARIES C12-13

Ahmet Ertegun

The record-company magnate who founded Atlantic Records and shaped the careers of many musicians, he was 83. C13

## BUSINESS DAY C1-12

Criminal Inquiry of Oil Funds

The Justice Department has opened two criminal investigations into the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service, which is already the focus of several inquiries into its collection of royalties for oil and gas produced on federal property. C1

Business Digest C2

## EDITORIAL A40-41

Editorials: A gag on free speech; high-speed colonoscopies; rogues and fools; I'll take 'pork barrel' for \$400,000.

Column: Thomas L. Friedman.

Crossword E50

Public Lives B4

TV Listings E39

Weather B11

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** December 15, 2006

## *The good, bad and ugly: Things I learned in 2006*

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

January 2, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. A11; Dianne Rinehart

**Length:** 755 words

**Byline:** Dianne Rinehart, Special to the Sun

### **Body**

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With apologies to Esquire's annual tribute, here's what I learned in 2006 . . .

Of TomKats and Brangelinas: That you can be as pretty, talented, funny, rich and babe-a-li-cious as Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Aniston, and your husband is still going to fantasize about Penelope Cruz and Angelina Jolie.

Under Where? That you can be as rich and famous as pop star Britney Spears, actress Lindsay Lohan, and nobody Paris Hilton, and, apparently, still not be able to find a clean pair of underwear when you need 'em.

Dirty Dancing: That the lowest fertility rate in the world, and a promise from women that they'd have more babies if their husbands would help them with the housework isn't, apparently, enough to get a guy in Japan to do dishes.

Drug Lords: That the emergency contraception, Plan B, is legal in this country -- unless your local pharmacist doesn't believe in it; in which case, prepare yourself for a grilling on your personal life that would make 24's Jack Bauer's anti-terrorism interrogators proud.

"A Shot in the Dark" Takes on New Meaning: That when a bunch of rich white cowboys shoot exhausted, run-ragged and terrorized prey from a helicopter in Quebec, it's bad, but when a bunch of native guys shoot exhausted, run ragged and terrorized prey from pickup trucks at night with rifles and spotlights on Vancouver Island, it's good. The Supreme Court, after all, says so, concluding for good measure -- in case we miss it -- that safety concerns do not trump native hunting rights. Perhaps the Quebec hunters have a helicopter they'd like to sell.

How We Know Newspeak is Alive and Well: That we can have 87 per cent unemployment rates on the Kashechewan reserve and still think the answer is more grants (though the government provides \$10 billion in grants a year to reserves housing less than 300,000 natives), cleaner water, and a move to slightly higher ground. Do you dare think about Economics 101: no local economy, no jobs, no pride, no chance? Or has a PC cat got your tongue?

Caught You Laughing! That Danish cartoons are only funny if certain political Muslim leaders say so -- and those guys seemingly have no sense of humour or proportion -- or respect for civil rights. Just joking! (And we thought Stephen Harper was humourless.)



## The good, bad and ugly: Things I learned in 2006

That Crime Pays: Fox network and Regan-Books figured it would be a good idea to pay O.J. Simpson to tell us how he would have killed his wife, Nicole Brown-Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, if he had killed them -- like we didn't already know.

That Just When You Think It's Safe to Go Out: It's not! The Lebanese successfully chase out the Syrians, only to be held hostage by Hezbollah (backed by Syria and Iran). Allied forces capture Saddam Hussein only to be thwarted by Shia and Sunni Muslim terrorists bent on annihilation of their fellow countrymen. Iran holds a conference on whether or not the Holocaust happened, and we can't point fingers at those idiots because one of our own, Shiraz Dossa, a political science professor at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S., attended -- and spoke! (His speech is the only thing not available on line for some reason.) Iran's president supports terrorists, is working to get the bomb, and is vocal in the extreme about his desire to obliterate Israel but swaths of UN members use U.S. funding to paint America as the Evil Empire. We chase the Taliban out of Afghanistan, only to be attacked by . . . the Taliban. Has anyone read On the Beach lately?

That There's Something in the Drinking Water at Foreign Affairs: Our Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay refers to ex-girlfriend and MP Belinda Stronach as a dog, and a former ambassador to Israel, Norman Spector, calls her a bitch. Good thing they're both educated men who respect women or Canada would really be embarrassed.

That One Man's Terrorist is Another's Freedom Fighter: Hamas wins elections in Palestine. Go figure.

Sex, Lies and Politics: That self-righteousness is apparently an aphrodisiac: U.S. Congressman Mark Foley fights child pornography while sending salacious pick-up notes to young government pages, and national Evangelical Association President Ted Haggert crusades against gays, while having sex and doing drugs with male gay escorts.

That "Beatlemania" has more than one meaning: "Good Beatle" Paul McCartney is accused of bashing his wife -- and to think we were worried about the seals.

That Good Deeds Were Done by Good People for Good Reasons in 2006. Really. Wishing for more of it in 2007.

Dianne Rinehart is an Ottawa-based writer.

**Load-Date:** January 2, 2007

## *Goals pared in forum on Mideast democracy; Setbacks in region dampen outcome*

The International Herald Tribune

December 4, 2006 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 844 words

**Byline:** Helene Cooper

**Dateline:** DEAD SEA, Jordan

### **Body**

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Two years ago, when Western governments conjured a conference on democracy in the Middle East and North Africa, an air of optimism and promise held sway. The Iraqis and Afghans soon held elections. So did the Palestinians, who chose the moderate Mahmoud Abbas as their president. Change was also on its way to Egypt and Lebanon.

But with the recent setbacks to democracy throughout the region, the goals at this year's conference here over the weekend were often smaller and, presumably, a bit more attainable.

"They actually have a paragraph in there that says, 'We support increasing literacy for women,'" said Sanem Gunes, a program officer for a Turkish advocacy group, rolling her eyes and dismissing the line as "almost like a beauty pageant answer." She added, "It doesn't take scores of foreign ministers coming from all over the region to come up with 'education for women.'"

Such was the Forum for the Future's third annual meeting. When the Group of 8 summit meeting took place in 2004 in Sea Island, Georgia, the Bush administration and its European allies came up with the idea for the conference. An offspring of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, its purpose was to prod the Arab and Muslim world's autocratic governments toward democracy and stronger civil society, as sort of a bulwark against the hopelessness and disenchantment that could lead to extremism.

It was an ambitious goal, and things seemed promising at first.

Democracy protests pushed Syria out of Lebanon. In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak allowed opposition candidates on the ballot.

But that was the new Middle East, before the old one quickly reasserted itself. After the Muslim Brotherhood won many seats in Egypt's parliamentary elections last year, Mubarak's government postponed municipal elections for two years. Parliamentary elections in Qatar were also postponed.

Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon? All are struggling desperately against violence or sectarian division.

The Palestinians had another election and voted Hamas into power, prompting a Western aid boycott. Yemen's government cracked down on the news media that had criticized the government. King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia

## Goals pared in forum on Mideast democracy Setbacks in region dampen outcome

refused calls to have the country's consultative council be elected. This summer, Bahrain, host to the forum last year, unceremoniously expelled a representative of an American democracy advocacy group.

On Friday, security was ultratight, the road in front of the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center virtually empty. After making their scheduled and brief speeches in the convention hall to the 40 or so nongovernmental representatives who attended, most of the foreign dignitaries quickly retired to private salons to talk to one another.

A session on political participation, elections and the news media was under way in the main hall, while in a nearby hall, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held talks with her counterparts from Britain, Italy and the European Union on matters like Iran's nuclear ambitions.

On the other side of the convention center, in front of the darkened and empty Aqaba Hall, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov of Russia, a host of the conference, and six chatted among themselves, then sauntered to the terrace to smoke. A short distance away Mansour Ahmad Khan, representing the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, was talking up his country's democratic record to a reporter.

Khan had just gotten to the part about how much Pakistan's military dictator, General Pervez Musharraf, has been doing to encourage democracy and women's rights when his boss, Foreign Affairs Minister Khusro Bakhtyar, appeared and said, "Reform is not just an option, but a necessity in this part of the world." "Our governments are heeding the winds of change."

Rice had been diplomatic the previous night when a reporter asked her whether it was incongruous that Russia, which passed a law restricting nongovernmental organizations, was a host of a democracy conference in Jordan. "We're using this international forum to push political change," she said, delicately. "It doesn't mean everybody that's sitting around the table is a perfect example of democratic development."

As much as they criticized the lack of progress at the conference, the nongovernmental organizations were quick to say that they were glad to be there and supported its ideals, though some were unable to speak with the foreign dignitaries. "We don't get too much access to the officials, actually," said Jamil Mouawad, a youth organizer and program manager for the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. "And an action plan would be nice." The conference did not issue such a plan.

"Hey, is that Elliott Abrams?" asked Khalil Gebara, an executive director of No Corruption, a Lebanese organization pointing to Abrams, the top White House adviser for Middle East affairs, who was standing near the coffee-and-Danish table talking to two fellow U.S. officials.

"Can you introduce me to him? He's a big guy, I hear."

But the Abrams retinue quickly swept around the corner, back into the embrace of the U.S. officials.

**Load-Date:** December 4, 2006

## *Violence Against Palestinian Women Is Increasing, Study Says*

The New York Times

November 7, 2006 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

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

**Length:** 842 words

**Byline:** By STEVEN ERLANGER

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM, Nov. 6

### **Body**

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Discriminatory laws, traditional practices and a severe shortage of emergency shelters combine to perpetuate violence against women by their family members and intimate partners in the Palestinian territories, according to a report to be issued on Tuesday by Human Rights Watch, a New York-based watchdog group.

The report, "A Question of Security: Violence against Palestinian Women and Girls," is based on extensive interviews over the last year with victims, police officers, social workers and officials of the Palestinian Authority. It says that while there is "increasing recognition" by the authorities of violence against women and girls, "little action has been taken to seriously address these abuses."

In fact, the report says, "there is some evidence that the level of violence is getting worse while the remedies available to the victims are being further eroded."

The report concedes that there is a significant lack of comprehensive data on the scale of violence, but it says that studies and statistics compiled by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and women's groups, in many cases with help from abroad, "record high levels of violence perpetrated by family members and intimate partners, aggravated during times of political violence."

The offenses include domestic violence, rape, incest, child abuse and violent responses to so-called honor crimes, like adultery, that embarrass the clan, family or community.

Laws dating from Jordanian and Egyptian administration in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, respectively, do not fully protect the rights of women, the report says. It notes, for example, that the laws provide reduced penalties to men who kill or harm female relatives who are accused of adultery, allow only male relatives to file incest charges on behalf of minors and absolve from criminal prosecution rapists who agree to marry their victims and remain married for three years.

Rape laws distinguish between victims who are virgins and those who are not. Husbands may divorce wives at will with verbal notification while wives must obtain a judicial divorce, and can only initiate divorce on the basis of inflicted harm.

## Violence Against Palestinian Women Is Increasing, Study Says

The report also notes that given traditions of male authority and the enclosed nature of Palestinian communities, it is difficult for a female victim to seek redress or help with any guarantee of privacy. Those who complain to the police or the courts sometimes put themselves in more danger from an embarrassed family or clan. The system "prioritizes the reputations of their families in the community over their own well-being and lives."

Police officers, lacking a sophisticated system of legal options, and clan leaders, seeking to protect the reputation of the family, "regularly 'mediate' and 'resolve' these cases, typically by returning the abused women to the 'care and protection' of her attacker, without ever referring the case to the courts or the woman to social or other services she might need," the report says.

There are few women's shelters in the West Bank and none in Gaza; some women who need protection are put in women's prisons instead.

The report notes that the Palestinian Authority is not a sovereign state, that the West Bank is under Israeli occupation and that the current fighting with Israel, which intensified in 2000, has only weakened the sway and reduced the resources of the Palestinian administration and the police.

Still, the report urges the Palestinian Authority to change laws or enact new ones that criminalize family violence and to repeal provisions that perpetuate or condone such violence. It also urges that Palestinian officials survey the rate of violence against women, set up government-run hot lines and additional shelters, and provide guidelines and training to the police, health and social workers and the courts on how to handle crimes of abuse. The report also recommends a program of public education about the issue.

Even more important, the agency urges the Palestinian Authority to pursue crimes against women and girls with "effective investigations and prosecutions."

The report also urges Israel to ease travel restrictions for judges, emergency workers and social service providers and to help Palestinian victims of abuse use shelters in Israel, including those used by Arab citizens of Israel.

"The problem is that no one sees this abuse as a crime," Lucy Mair, a researcher in the Middle East and North Africa Division of Human Rights Watch and a co-author of the report, said in an interview. "It's seen as a family or social problem, and some behavior is not even criminalized."

Farida Deif, a researcher in the Women's Rights Division, is the other co-author.

The difficulties created by the current political situation, including travel restrictions and a cutoff of Western budget support and other funds to a Palestinian Authority led by Hamas, Ms. Mair noted, "has led to the deterioration of existing institutions, erodes available remedies and makes the situation worse."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** November 7, 2006

**Comment & Debate: We overcame our fear: The unarmed women of the Gaza Strip have taken the lead in resisting Israel's latest bloody assault**

The Guardian - Final Edition

November 9, 2006 Thursday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES ; Pg. 32

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** Jameela al-Shanti, Beit Hanoun

## **Body**

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Yesterday at dawn, the Israeli air force bombed and destroyed my home. I was the target, but instead the attack killed my sister-in-law, Nahla, a widow with eight children in her care. In the same raid Israel's artillery shelled a residential district in the town of Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip, leaving 19 dead and 40 injured, many killed in their beds. One family, the Athamnas, lost 16 members in the massacre: the oldest who died, Fatima, was 70; the youngest, Dima, was one; seven were children. The death toll in Beit Hanoun has passed 90 in one week.

This is Israel's tenth incursion into Beit Hanoun since it announced its withdrawal from Gaza. It has turned the town into a closed military zone, collectively punishing its 28,000 residents. For days, the town has been encircled by Israeli tanks and troops and shelled. All water and electricity supplies were cut off and, as the death toll continued to mount, no ambulances were allowed in. Israeli soldiers raided houses, shut up the families and positioned their snipers on roofs, shooting at everything that moved. We still do not know what has become of our sons, husbands and brothers since all males over 15 years old were taken away last Thursday. They were ordered to strip to their underwear, handcuffed and led away.

It is not easy as a mother, sister or wife to watch those you love disappear before your eyes. Perhaps that was what helped me, and 1,500 other women, to overcome our fear and defy the Israeli curfew last Friday - and set about freeing some of our young men who were besieged in a mosque while defending us and our city against the Israeli military machine.

We faced the most powerful army in our region unarmed. The soldiers were loaded up with the latest weaponry, and we had nothing, except each other and our yearning for freedom. As we broke through the first barrier, we grew more confident, more determined to break the suffocating siege. The soldiers of Israel's so-called defence force did not hesitate to open fire on unarmed women. The sight of my close friends Ibtissam Yusuf abu Nada and Rajaa Ouda taking their last breaths, bathed in blood, will live with me for ever.

Later an Israeli plane shelled a bus taking children to a kindergarten. Two children were killed, along with their teacher. In the last week 30 children have died. As I go round the crowded hospital, it is deeply poignant to see the large number of small bodies with their scars and amputated limbs. We clutch our children tightly when we go to sleep, vainly hoping that we can shield them from Israel's tanks and warplanes.

But as though this occupation and collective punishment were not enough, we Palestinians find ourselves the targets of a systematic siege imposed by the so-called free world. We are being starved and suffocated as a punishment for daring to exercise our democratic right to choose who rules and represents us. Nothing undermines

Comment & Debate: We overcame our fear: The unarmed women of the Gaza Strip have taken the lead in resisting Israel 's latest bloody assault

the west's claims to defend freedom and democracy more than what is happening in Palestine. Shortly after announcing his project to democratise the Middle East, President Bush did all he could to strangle our nascent democracy, arresting our ministers and MPs. I have yet to hear western condemnation that I, an elected MP, have had my home demolished and relatives killed by Israel's bombs. When the bodies of my friends and colleagues were torn apart there was not one word from those who claim to be defenders of women's rights on Capitol Hill and in 10 Downing Street.

Why should we Palestinians have to accept the theft of our land, the ethnic cleansing of our people, incarcerated in forsaken refugee camps, and the denial of our most basic human rights, without protesting and resisting?

The lesson the world should learn from Beit Hanoun last week is that Palestinians will never relinquish our land, towns and villages. We will not surrender our legitimate rights for a piece of bread or handful of rice. The women of Palestine will resist this monstrous occupation imposed on us at gunpoint, siege and starvation. Our rights and those of future generations are not open for negotiation.

Whoever wants peace in Palestine and the region must direct their words and sanctions to the occupier, not the occupied, the aggressor not the victim. The truth is that the solution lies with Israel, its army and allies - not with Palestine's women and children.

Jameela al-Shanti is an elected member of the Palestinian Legislative Council for Hamas. She led a women's protest against the siege of Beit Hanoun last Friday [jameela.shanti@gmail.com](mailto:jameela.shanti@gmail.com)

**Load-Date:** November 9, 2006

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## TRUTH TO EVIL

The Daily Telegraph (Australia)  
September 26, 2007 Wednesday  
State Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 35

**Length:** 885 words

**Byline:** LEE BOLLINGER

### **Body**

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Columbia University president LEE BOLLINGER (right) lands some punches on Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

IN UNIVERSITIES we have a deep and almost single-minded commitment to pursue the truth. We do not have access to the levers of power, we cannot make war or peace, we can only make minds, and to do this, we must have the most fulsome freedom of inquiry.

Let me now turn to Mr Ahmadinejad. According to Amnesty International, 210 people have been executed in Iran so far this year, 21 of them on the morning of September 5 alone. This annual total includes at least two children, further proof, as Human Rights Watch puts it, that Iran leads the world in executing minors.

There is more. Iran hanged up 30 people this past July and August during a widely reported suppression of efforts to establish a more democratic society. Many of these executions were carried out in public view.

Let's then be clear at the beginning. Mr President, you exhibit all the signs of a petty and cruel dictator. And so I ask you, why have women, members of the Baha'i faith, homosexuals and so many of our academic colleagues become targets of persecution in your country?

Why, in a letter last week to the Secretary-General of the UN, did Akbar Ganji, Iran's leading political dissident, and over 300 public intellectuals, writers and Nobel Laureates express such grave concern that your inflamed dispute with the West is distracting the world's attention from the intolerable conditions in your regime within Iran, in particular the use of the press law to ban writers for criticising the ruling system? Why are you so afraid of Iranian citizens expressing their opinions for change?

In a December 2005 state television broadcast, you described the Holocaust as "a fabricated legend".

One year later you held a two-day conference of Holocaust deniers. For the illiterate and ignorant, this is dangerous propaganda.

This makes you, quite simply, ridiculous. You are either brazenly provocative or astonishingly uneducated.



## TRUTH TO EVIL

The truth is the Holocaust is the most documented event in human history. Because of this, and for many other reasons, your absurd comments about the debate over the Holocaust both defy historical truth and make all of us who continue to fear humanity's capacity for evil shudder at this closure of memory.

Will you cease this outrage?

Twelve days ago you said that the state of Israel cannot continue its life.

This echoed a number of inflammatory statements you have delivered in the past two years, including in October 2005, when you said that Israel "should be wiped off the map".

Columbia has over 800 alumni currently living in Israel. My question then is, do you plan on wiping us off the map too?

Funding terrorism: According to reports of the Council on Foreign Relations, it's well-documented that Iran is a state sponsor of terror that funds such violent groups as Lebanese Hezbollah, which Iran helped organise in the 1980s, Palestinian Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

While your predecessor government was instrumental in providing the US with intelligence and base support in the 2001 campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan, your Government is now undermining American troops in Iraq by funding, arming and providing safe transit to insurgent leaders like Muqtada al-Sadr and his forces.

My question is this: Why do you support well-documented terrorist

organisations that continue to strike at peace and democracy in the Middle East, destroying lives and the civil society of the region?

A number of Columbia graduates and current students are among the brave members of our military who are serving or have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. They, like other Americans with sons, daughters, fathers, husbands and wives serving in combat, rightly see your Government as the enemy.

Can you tell them and us why Iran is fighting a proxy war in Iraq by arming Shi'a militia targeting and killing US troops?

Why does your country continue to refuse to adhere to international standards for nuclear weapons verification, in defiance of agreements that you have made with the UN nuclear agency? And why have you chosen to make the people of your country vulnerable to the effects of international economic sanctions, and threaten to engulf the world in

nuclear annihilation?

Mr President I doubt that you will have the intellectual courage to answer these questions. But your avoiding them will in itself be meaningful to us.

I do expect you to exhibit the fanatical mindset that characterises so much of what you say and do.

Fortunately I am told by experts on your country that this only further undermines your position in Iran, with all the many good-hearted, intelligent citizens there.

A year ago, I am reliably told, your preposterous and belligerent statements in this country, at one of the meetings at the Council on Foreign Relations, so embarrassed sensible Iranian citizens that this led to your party's defeat in the December mayoral elections.

May this do that and more.

I am only a professor, who is also a university president. And today I feel all the weight of the modern civilised world yearning to express the revulsion at what you stand for.

TRUTH TO EVIL

I only wish I could do better.

This is an edited transcript of a speech this week by Lee Bollinger during Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit to Columbia

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2007

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**Taliban stooge; Yvonne Ridley Is A Strident Apologist For Islamist Terrorists. So What Is She Doing At Canadian Islamic Congress Fundraisers?**

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

September 12, 2007 Wednesday

National Edition

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**Section:** ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A18; Barbara Kay

**Length:** 855 words

**Byline:** Barbara Kay, National Post

## **Body**

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Muslim Turkey doesn't allow it. Neither does Muslim Jordan. Nor Muslim Iran. Veils in the voting booth, that is. Moreover, no Muslim organization in Canada is asking for faceless voting, and some are downright opposed to it. There seems to be only one Muslim in Canada at the moment making an issue out of it.

Visiting globetrotter Yvonne Ridley, a British journalist who catapulted to celebrity after 11 days of captivity by the Taliban in 2001 turned her into an Islamist apologist, and who later converted to Islam, has accused Canadian politicians of Islamophobia, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper of racism for voicing opposition to face-concealed voting.

At a fundraising dinner for the Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) in Montreal I attended last Friday, keynote speaker Ridley challenged the women in the audience to "put on a niqab" (i.e., face veil) on voting day -- an exhortation that drew a round of applause.

Ridley's agenda in stirring up grievance around such a trifle is doubtless what has become her stock in trade: Nurturing Muslim revanchism and fomenting tension between Muslims and their fellow citizens.

Take a closer look at the woman the CIC saw fit to honour:

Like many other adult converts, Ridley went from Islamic zero to zealotry after she became a Muslim in 2003. She adopted colourful Middle Eastern garb and the hijab, issued savage denunciations of the United States, Israel and Tony Blair, and became a strident apologist for the worst of the worst of Islamist terrorists.

Apart from the Islamist fringe and the far left, Ridley has lost whatever personal and professional credibility she once enjoyed. She was even fired by al-Jazeera after a brief stint for her "overly-vocal and argumentative style." She joined disgraced MP George Galloway's pro-Islamist RESPECT party in Britain, and subsequently lost three elections in a row with ever-diminishing support (6.4% in the 2005 general election). She is now reduced to shilling for Iran's oppressive regime on PRESS TV, a 24-hour news channel, and peddling endless reprisals of her Taliban adventure to the curious and uncritical.

Taliban stooge; Yvonne Ridley Is A Strident Apologist For Islamist Terrorists. So What Is She Doing At Canadian Islamic Congress Fundraisers?

Controversy dogs her. In 2006 she outlined her viewpoint in a debate at Imperial College London as "pretty much in line with Hamas." She defended the utility of British Muslims watching videos of Iraqi insurgents beheading hostages as a necessary counterpoint to Western media propaganda. When Chechen terrorist leader Shamil Basayev, the mastermind of both the Moscow theatre hostage crisis and Beslan school massacre, was killed, Ridley opined that he had become a shaheed (i.e., martyr) whose place in paradise was now assured.

Most problematic for Canadians, who appreciate that our security depends on Muslim co-operation in identifying jihadist elements amongst them, Ridley is on record counselling British Muslims "to boycott the police and refuse to co-operate with them in any way, shape or form." For this pernicious advice alone, the CIC must realize that her views are more than incompatible with Canadian values: They run dangerously counter to Canadians' national security.

In addition to her obsessive Islamocentrism, Ridley's Friday night speech revealed a narcissism that has her bizarrely detached from objective reality. Particularly surreal was the sitcom-storyboard pitch of her Afghanistan adventure: Set in rubble-strewn Kabul instead of verdant Sherwood Forest, nevertheless the nostalgically backlit narrative of her sojourn with the Taliban evoked a latter day Maid Marian kidnapped by a turbaned version of Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men.

In Ridley's weirdly jolly, revisionist account, the Taliban come off as roguish and unsophisticated, but well-meaning idealists who accepted her rudeness, cursing and spitting with bemused tolerance: "The harder I pushed them, the nicer they were to me!" (By the Prophet's beard, what zany prank will this English spitfire Ridley think of next?!). Not a word about the Taliban's notoriously ruthless oppression of Afghans, especially women. On the contrary. "Thank God," Ridley twinkled mockingly, "I was captured by the (air quotes) 'most evil regime in the world' and not by the Americans." She spoke more respectfully of her Taliban warders than of the "happy clappy" Evangelical Christian prisoners with whom she was briefly incarcerated, whose daily prayer sessions "tortured me."

Ridley closed her remarks with a wistful recollection of a previous fundraiser where she had raised thousands of pounds by waving a Hezbollah flag: "I wish I had that flag tonight."

Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and officially recognized as such in Canada. And whether one approves or not, Canada is at war against the Taliban. Ridley's laundering of the latter and support for the former are, or should be, offensive to all Canadians.

The CIC erred in lending its name to the odious views of this Islamist dupe. I hope its leadership will not compound the mistake by reflexively adopting the Ridley strategy of labelling legitimate opinion as Islamophobia. From now on Yvonne Ridley should be persona non grata amongst all Canadian Muslims.

[bkay@videotron.ca](mailto:bkay@videotron.ca)

## Graphic

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Color Photo: Richard Arless Jr., CanWest News Service; Yvonne Ridley at a Canadian Islamic Congress fundraiser in Montreal last week. ;

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2007

## *Moroccan king holds strings of power in election*

Financial Times (London, England)

September 7, 2007 Friday

London Edition 2

Copyright 2007 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Pg. 11

**Length:** 866 words

**Byline:** By ANDREW ENGLAND

### **Body**

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On a sticky afternoon in Casablanca, several dozen people march through narrow, cobbled streets, chanting political slogans as they seek to lure undecided voters with the twin themes of justice and development.

Many of the group are young women with their heads covered in coloured scarves, on top of which are perched cardboard hats shaped in the form of lanterns - the emblem of the Justice and Development party (PJD).

Its supporters have been pounding the streets for days and, as Moroccans vote in parliamentary elections today, expectations are high that the moderate Islamists will make strong gains. They may even emerge as the party with the most seats for the first time, although analysts predict a tight race among four or five of the 33 parties competing.

If the predictions prove correct, the PJD gains will be significant, given the rise of political Islam throughout the Arab world, particularly as the party is one of the few Islamist groups that Washington believes it can do business with.

Yet for many Moroccans, the impact of a potential PJD victory is open to debate in a country where voter apathy is rife. Politicians enjoy little credibility and the absence of election fever is palpable.

Few doubt the popularity of the PJD, which has focused on complaints about corruption and the gulf between rich and poor, while tapping into Morocco's conservative culture as well as a belief that the traditional parties have persistently reneged on promises.

But victory at the ballot box brings no guarantee of entry into government and any party faces numerous hurdles before it can implement widespread change. Morocco's political system ensures no single party can expect a majority, forcing groups into coalitions.

The real power lies with King Mohammed VI and his coterie of advisers. The king appoints the prime minister and four key cabinet ministers, with no obligation to fill the posts from political parties. And no one is willing to bet on whether he is prepared to settle on a PJD prime minister, should the party garner most seats.

Instead, analysts and politicians hedge by highlighting various possible scenarios.

## Moroccan king holds strings of power in election

Having the PJD in government would allow the monarch to hail Morocco's democratic credentials. And with the government seen by many as little more than an instrument of the palace, it could enable the PJD to be influenced from within, analysts say.

Some suggest it would also suit a US strategy of integrating moderate Islamists and could serve Washington as a model for other Arab states.

However, the king could also appoint a PJD prime minister while having the palace press other parties not to form a coalition with the Islamists, casting them back into opposition through the guise of democracy. Or he could simply look to other parties from the outset.

PJD officials acknowledge the dilemmas they may face and the party has yet to decide whether it will join a coalition if the opportunity arises. At stake is the movement's credibility. If it joins government, it risks - like others before it - being tarnished with a failure to cultivate change.

Some in the PJD consider it "suicide" to join government without constitutional reform enhancing government powers, says Abdel-kader Amara, a PJD candidate. Although the party does not challenge the popular monarchy's legitimacy, its goals include reducing the king's political powers.

Mr Amara is on the more moderate wing of the PJD. He believes "the citizens are waiting for us" and the party should work from within. But he and others also warn of the dangers of a rise in support for more radical groups should the PJD embrace the system and then be unable to meet people's aspirations.

Since winning 42 seats in the 325-member parliament at 2002 elections, the PJD has survived attacks from secularists after the 2003 Casablanca bombings and has been on charm offensives in the US, Spain and France to reassure the west of its intentions.

Mr Amara says the party is a "little bit irritated" by the Islamist tag, arguing it considers itself a "normal party" that uses Islam as its reference.

"We are a national party. We do not have anything to do with the parties in Egypt or Palestine," he says, referring to the Muslim Brotherhood and **Hamas**.

"We say the problem is not alcohol; it's not the veil. We have a lot of other problems. We have the problem of democracy; governance. We have the problem of the poor citizens," adds the veterinary professor. "If we get into government, we will face all of these problems, but we will not act as if in a mosque."

However, members of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the largest party in parliament after the last elections, accuse the PJD of using "double-language" to mask its true intentions, and they still hope for victory themselves. They say the PJD could erode Morocco's "cultural pluralism" and may endanger its recent economic success, fuelled partly by tourism and foreign investment.

For apathetic Moroccans, however, the results will mean little.

"They are all the same. Even if you hear they are Islamists they will not change. I'm told most of the people have beards but once they are elected they will shave them," says Bachir Aydi, a customs worker.

**Load-Date:** September 6, 2007

## *Madness, despair through the eyes of the ABC*

Canberra Times (Australia)

August 11, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** A; Pg. 16

**Length:** 865 words

**Byline:** The Canberra Times

### **Body**

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MARK WILLACY spent four years in the Middle East covering the run-up to the Iraq War and its aftermath for the ABC, and is now happily resettled in Australia as a senior reporter for its Landline program. But he still finds himself "infected by the Middle East, despite its madness and despair".

What is life like in the Valley of Hell? Willacy looks at it mainly from the viewpoint of his Middle East workmates, and that is where it really earns the title.

Take, for example, Richard Zananiri, his "trusty fixer" for most of his stay there. He was a Christian Palestinian who worked at an Anglican School in east Jerusalem as well as for the ABC. Jailed by the Israelis for defending the al-Aqsa Mosque, he also earned the attention of the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council, which described him to a Senate committee hearing in Australia as working for "a church group that is strongly anti-Israel". The Israeli Government also denied him a renewal of the card it issued to cover their press conferences and events, and he was banned from travelling outside Israel for six years, despite Willacy's pledge to the ABC of his total loyalty.

Then there is the gullible collaborator. Akram Zatma, a Palestinian student, accepted an Israeli offer of \$US230 (\$A265) a month and access to two sexual partners to work with its Shin Bet organisation. The information the university student passed on to the organisation led to the deaths of 17 Palestinians, and eventually to his own. "Only Israel wins from collaborators," a Palestine detective told Willacy, "because the executed collaborator is a Palestinian, and his victims are Palestinians. It's a win-win for Israel.

They get the information, while at the same time they corrupt Palestinian society."

Willacy reports that Zatma explained how the Shin Bet agent had asked him to track down the ***Hamas*** military commander, Saleh Shehadeh, and to call him when Shehadeh's car pulled up in front of his house. About 20 minutes after that happened a missile tore it to shreds. "Akram Zatma was sentenced to die by the Palestinian Sate Security Council," says Willacy. "He was to be wrapped in a mattress, tied to a pole and machine gunned to death. But the mob got him long before that could happen."

Willacy believes the activities of the collaborators and the growing death toll indicate the extent of the disintegration of Palestinian society into what he calls "vigilantism and anarchy". He reports the Israeli human rights group, B'Tselem, recording at least 118 Palestinians accused of collaboration being lynched, beaten to death by mobs or convicted and executed by the Palestinian judicial system since the start of the al-Aqsa Intifada.

## Madness, despair through the eyes of the ABC

He also reports Israel dangling "some alluring incentives" in front of prospective collaborators: business licences, travel and work permits, building approvals, and, sometimes, like Akram Zatma, even sex. Palestinians who already had work permits or building approvals could have them confiscated if they refused to cooperate.

Willacy and his team were barred by the ABC from remaining in Iraq for the short-lived 2003 war. They spent that short time in Kuwait and Jordan, and found on their return to Baghdad that "all hell was breaking loose". Willacy describes the scene vividly.

"Long-simmering feuds between rival Baghdadi clans had erupted into gun fights. Criminals many released by Saddam in an amnesty days before the war roamed the city seeking out trouble. We watched as three men ambled out of a bank in broad daylight clutching armfuls of Iraq dinars. Small-arms fire clattered up side-streets, as women and children fled for cover. Trucks and utes flew past us loaded to the hilt with looted furniture, air conditioners, bathroom fittings and rolled-up carpets. Many buildings smouldered as ordinary Iraqis, violently suppressed for so long, expressed their pent-up rage by torching everything associated with the regime. There was not an American soldier in sight. Baghdad was an anarchist's playground.

"I didn't realise it that day as we sped through the capital, but we were living in what US battle- field medics called the 'golden hour' that fragment of time in which a wounded patient can be saved if his injuries are treated promptly and properly. But the United States failed to treat the wounds it had inflicted on Iraq. The 'golden hour' passed, and the patient was eventually gripped by an even more virulent disease the insurgency."

Willacy summarises directly and skilfully the meaning of his time in the Middle East. "It's hard to put a value on human life. For four years I witnessed how cheap this currency is in the Middle East. To Palestinian suicide bombers and the insurgents in Iraq, life is both a weapon and a target, a means and an end. To Saddam Hussein it was a cheap state resource which could be traduced and trampled, a breathing currency liberally expended to cling to corrupt power. To the Israeli military, life has a sliding scale value Jewish at the top, Arab at the bottom. To the American soldiers knee-deep in the quagmire of Iraq, life is something to be cherished and protected at all costs as long as it is your own."

John Graham is a Canberra reviewer.

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2007



## *Calm out of chaos*

The Courier Mail (Australia)

August 25, 2007 Saturday

First with the news Edition

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**Section:** ETC; Pg. M27

**Length:** 837 words

**Byline:** Emma Rodgers

### **Body**

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They have both been foreign correspondents and now Sally Sara and Mark Willacy are authors, writes Emma Rodgers

ABC-TV Landline reporter Mark Willacy reckons that his colleague, the program's presenter, Sally Sara, may want to put a restraining order out against him for stalking due to the way in which he has "followed" her around the country throughout their careers.

The pair, who are well known as former foreign correspondents for the ABC, laugh at how Willacy has taken several jobs she vacated over the years.

Sara, who more kindly describes their career trajectories as a "synergy", explains that Willacy took jobs that she left in Adelaide and Canberra before they both became foreign correspondents.

Sara spent five years traversing the African continent covering events in more than 25 countries while Willacy experienced a turbulent four years reporting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the beginnings of the Iraq War in 2003.

Continuing the synergy, the reporters have now also both released books which draw on experiences from their postings.

But there's no rivalry or tension between the two, who say working together proved to be an advantage in getting their books to the publisher as they both read parts of each other's manuscripts and discussed the difficulties of writing.

"It was constructive and we're pretty good mates so we can joke around and we do a fair bit about what we write about," Willacy says. "Sally was very helpful and constructive with mine and I thought hers was great and I just had a few ideas, very minor things, and she probably ignored them," he jokes.

Although both books are inspired from their time overseas, Willacy and Sara have taken very different approaches to their writing.

In Gogo Mama, Sara has profiled the lives of 12 African women throughout the continent, including an Egyptian belly dancer, a former slave in Ghana, a Liberian child soldier and victim of the Rwandan genocide.

## Calm out of chaos

While many of the women's stories are at times distressing, they're also powerful illustrations of how resilient and enduring human beings can be in situations many of us would find hard to comprehend.

Willacy, however, chose to write a memoir of his experiences reporting from the Middle East, which saw him entering many hair-raising situations such as interviewing Palestinian militants and covering the aftermath of suicide bombers and the fall of Saddam Hussein.

The result is *The View From the Valley of Hell*, which also chronicles many of the friendships Willacy made with locals while he was in the region, described as "fixers", who would work with him to help him get a story.

Sara and Willacy both admit that journalists would be "lost tourists" or dead without the help of fixers who are invaluable to the work of a foreign correspondent. "In the Middle East they're not just people who arrange interviews and do translations," Willacy explains. "They are your security and they are your lifeline. I found the fixers who do take a bit of prominence in my book were often a reflection or a metaphor of their society. I had an Israeli driver who had fought in Lebanon and seen some terrible things and I had a Palestinian fixer whose family home had been taken in the 1948 war and hadn't had a family home since."

While working on *Landline* might seem like a sedate change of pace from the heady pressures of covering international events from the frontline, both agree it's a great chance to take a break from reporting on disaster, death and destruction to focus on more positive subject matter.

"When I left Africa I had had enough," Sara says. "So coming to *Landline* where most of the stories are positive sort of filled the cup up again. After someone died in just about every story you did, to be doing positive stories was just what the doctor ordered."

Although Willacy admits to missing his overseas gig, he's also enjoying the change of pace since he joined the *Landline* team in September 2006.

"One week you're doing Hamas and the next month you're doing herefords. It's a nice change and you certainly get to meet some characters on this program and you get to travel and you get to take a deep breath."

Taking that deep breath has also meant the pair was able to reflect on how the experience has changed them and how lucky they were to be able to return home.

"I'm much calmer since I've been back and I don't get worried about uncertainty and chaos," Sara says. "I've seen more chaos than I could ever dream up."

Willacy reveals in his book that he originally wanted to be posted in Washington, but says the ABC did him a favour by sending him to the Middle East instead.

"It's funny, Sally and I talked about about how fate generally delivers things. I'm certainly not a religious person after living in the Middle East but I do believe in karma. I've had an experience that I could never top."

*Gogo Mama* and *The View From the Valley of Hell* are published by Macmillan.

\* Mark Willacy will be a guest at the forthcoming Brisbane Writers Festival.

**Load-Date:** August 24, 2007

## *Defending America*

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

July 7, 2007 Saturday

FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** NATION/WORLD; Pg. 15

**Length:** 865 words

### **Body**

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#### President Bush's Legacy

I am a staunch Republican who voted for George W. Bush twice. While I, like many Americans, cannot wait for his second term to end, I also want to recognize something about our president.

The world is witnessing a wave of terror propagated by Islamic terrorists. It is obvious to many Americans as the attacks on freedom of religious choice and suppression of women's rights around the world do not stop. Europe has turned a blind eye for far too long to the lack of assimilation into their societies in the interest of political correctness. There, peoples are in danger of losing their countries to a group of fundamentalists that will not be identified and singled out. I am thankful that our president has not.

The mainstream media, in trying to break down our own society, has painted President Bush as an outsider to world opinion and recently has begun questioning Bush's quest for a legacy for his administration. Bush's legacy is already set. His legacy will be brilliant in that he has the courage to face the terrorists and show them that they will not force Sharia law on the world.

MARK NEWMAN

Lutz

Oliver's Shame

Regarding "Iran's Leader Rejects Stone, 'Great Satan' " (Nation/World, July 4):

Oliver Stone's comments are abominable. He said, "I wish the Iranian people well and only hope their experience with an inept, rigid ideologue president goes better than ours."

"Goes better than ours"?

Iran is a country that denies basic human rights and equality to women, prohibits religious expression by non-Muslims, demands adherence to dress codes for women as well as separate accommodations, whose elected president denies the Holocaust and who also expressed that another country be wiped off the map.

## Defending America

Wishing this country better luck than a country whose Constitution encourages freedom and equality is shameful. Oliver Stone and the other Hollywood "Hate America First" nuts need to get a sense of perspective rooted in reality and not filtered through Tinseltown's cocktail-addled myopia.

CHARLIE REESE

Lutz

## Journalists And Terrorists

I avoid watching too many news programs because the sensationalism, quite frankly, offends me. I watch day after day and it never fails to amaze me at how stupid the media considers the American people and how much the people's "right to know" constantly jeopardizes our right to security.

Just because a journalist can write about something doesn't mean that the reporter should write about it.

On July 2, I was even more concerned than usual. The NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams ran a story about terrorism and al-Qaida. I was utterly floored that this reporter was actually interviewing terrorists not from behind bars, but in their living rooms! It seems to me that if this reporter is in fact an American, locating, interviewing, broadcasting and spending time with known terrorists who are wanted for crimes against America, it is nothing short of treasonous. Protecting sources and aiding in the propaganda of terrorism is not something that the American people should tolerate, and, moreover, we should not encourage - nor even allow - our media to build relationships with these types of contacts. The title of journalist does not, nor should it, exempt these individuals from responsibility or law.

WENDY WILLIAMS

Sarasota

## International Questions

How can infidels know if today's Muslim violence is committed by a "few" radicals who have "hijacked" Islam? Various Muslim factions are fighting each other to claim Islamic authenticity.

Did Hamas "hijack" Islam when it flew a green Islamic flag in Gaza? Are the Muslims who kill in the name of Allah and scream "God is great" while slashing throats less credible than those who claim peace and tolerance? Where do moderates really stand?

When the absurd claim is made that the West is trying to destroy Islam, do moderates defend the inclusive and generous Western societies that have welcomed millions of Muslims and have given billions in aid to Muslim countries, or do they make tepid protests about the violence and complain about bigotry?

Are American Muslims part of the "Muslim world," often portrayed as unified and anti-West, or does their American loyalty transcend the "Muslim world"?

BOB WOMACK

Crystal River

## Profiling Is Necessary

In an era of political correctness, the best option for thwarting future terrorist attacks is one that will certainly raise eyebrows. However, in the wake of the London arrests and other almost daily terror scares, the only solution for continued vigilance both domestically and abroad is profiling.

If we want to preserve and protect our way of life, then profiling is a necessary evil. Is it fair to the millions of freedom-loving, flag-waving Muslim Americans? No. But, is it warranted? Absolutely.

## Defending America

We have been lucky as of late uncovering and exposing these terrorist elements, but our luck won't last forever. Until a group of white, elderly women starts perpetrating these attacks rather than fascist Islamic extremists, we must sacrifice cultural sensitivity in exchange for cultural preservation.

HAMILTON SHELFER

Tampa

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## Notes

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LETTERS

**Load-Date:** July 11, 2007

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**Med schools provide fertile soil for Islamists; Recruiters know professionals seeking the 'good life' often become disillusioned by the western way of life, writes Michael Binyon**

Ottawa Citizen

July 4, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A1

**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** Michael Binyon, The Times, London

## **Body**

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Medicine and engineering have long been the two most prestigious professions for Muslims. Some of the Arab world's most famous writers and politicians have studied these disciplines. But so too have its most notorious extremists, including Osama bin Laden, who trained as an engineer, and Ayman al-Zawahri, his deputy, who qualified as a doctor.

In Egypt, the top echelons of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood have long been full of doctors, engineers and geologists, while Hamas is also dominated by such professionals, many of whom studied in Egypt.

Recruiting such pillars of the community -- who are often driven by strong ambition and convictions and may also be easily swayed by political extremism -- has therefore been a prime aim of al-Qaeda.

It has sought, especially, to radicalize Muslim medical and engineering students overseas, where they are often perplexed by a liberal culture, isolated from their families and more easily indoctrinated.

Many, especially those from poor families, are proud of their achievements and believe that they have a right to be heeded.

In many Middle Eastern countries, doctors, as leaders in their communities, are sucked into politics and become radicalized when they run into the inevitable corruption and frustrations. Dr. George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was a classic example and was among the most extreme of the Palestinian militants in the 1970s and 1980s.

The strategy of seeking out recruits among those who might be seen as "westernized" is the brainchild of Mr. al-Zawahri.

Several senior figures in the terrorist organization have been recruited as students, including Omar Sheik, the former London School of Economics student involved in the abduction and killing of journalist Daniel Pearl.

The involvement of at least six doctors and medical students in the London and Glasgow bomb plots has come as a double shock to most Muslims. Not only does it besmirch their religion by associating it with terrorism, but it also

Med schools provide fertile soil for Islamists; Recruiters know professionals seeking the 'good life' often become disillusioned by the western way of life, wri....

insults the pride that Muslims take in the achievements of their golden age, especially in the fields of medicine, surgery and pharmacology.

A senior al-Qaeda figure in Iraq put it poignantly in April with a horrific warning to a British cleric of plans to attack British targets, telling him "those who cure you will kill you."

Medicine owes more to Islam than to any other religion or philosophy. It was the great Muslim physicians of Spain and the Middle East who laid the foundations for today's science; it was the writings and medical observations of scholars such as Ibn Rushd (Averroes, as he was known in Europe) and Ibn Sina (Avicenna) that led directly to the medical advances of the past nine centuries.

The names of these scholars are still familiar to educated Muslims, even if their works are no longer studied.

Today, medicine remains one of the most admired professions for a young Muslim man -- and, increasingly, for women. Ambitious families encourage their children to aim for a career in medicine. The result is that all Muslim countries that have become rich have made the provision of universal health care a top priority, and in many countries there are now more medical graduates than jobs available.

This is why doctors trained in the Middle East (especially in Iraq) are among the largest group of emigrants to Europe, where they know they can find work. Some become disillusioned and radicalized by the contrast between their own privileged lifestyle and the frustrations of the poor. Others may inherit a world of learning, but focus their intellect on radicalism.

Mr. al-Zawahri, probably now the most influential figure in al-Qaeda, comes from a large family of doctors, trained as a psychologist and pharmacologist in Egypt, holds a master's degree in surgery and worked as a pediatrician in Egypt.

Even while studying, however, he was already active in the Muslim Brotherhood.

Overwhelmingly, however, Muslim physicians reject extremism. Dr. Abdullah Shehu, a member of the Muslim Doctors and Dentists Association, rejected any link with violence.

"It is completely contrary to the teachings of both medicine and Islam," he said yesterday.

As a member of the Muslim Council of Britain's medical committee, he said doctors were subject to all kinds of political pressures, but any connection with extremism was entirely an individual decision.

The pride Muslims take in their past is universal. And this may account for the strength of condemnation, by the Muslim Council of Britain as well as Muslims overseas, of terrorism perpetrated by doctors. It is a stain on the Islamic heritage.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Getty Images; OMINOUS WARNING: 'Those who cure you will kill you': Mohammed Asha, shown above in a family photo holding his son, Anas, was one of seven doctors working in the British health system who were arrested in a plot to bomb London and Glasgow. It was revealed yesterday that the doctors were on the radar of British security services, with at least one being closely monitored. ;

**Load-Date:** July 4, 2007

Med schools provide fertile soil for Islamists; Recruiters know professionals seeking the 'good life' often become disillusioned by the western way of life, wri....

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## *Creation museum beckons atheists; Anti-religion movement would have a heyday*

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

June 17, 2007 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** CULTURE; Pg. B1 ; Todd Babiak

**Length:** 829 words

**Byline:** Todd Babiak, The Edmonton Journal

### **Body**

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These are good days for theocracy.

Just this week, Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip. Iran will surely offer strategic advice on how an Islamic state should be run. Iraq and Afghanistan and an impressive chunk of Africa are in the midst of conflicts that will end similarly, despite the interventions of the west. The world's greatest enabler of theocracy in the Middle East, the United States, is led by a man who receives policy advice from God and is demonstrably against the separation of church and state. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a fellow born-again evangelical, is one of George W. Bush's keenest supporters now that Tony Blair and the United Kingdom at large have discovered it's a friendship without rewards in this life -- economic, political or moral.

Proving that Newton's Third Law of Motion applies to debate, these are also good days for atheism. A number of anti-religion books have appeared on bestseller lists lately, including *The God Delusion* by scientist Richard Dawkins, *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon* by another scientist, Daniel Dennett, *The End of Faith* by Sam Harris and, most recently, *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* by Christopher Hitchens.

I listened to a presentation by Hitchens in Toronto recently, with a few hundred squirming southern Ontario liberals. There is nothing subtle about his approach.

"Violent, irrational, intolerant, allied to racism and tribalism and bigotry, invested in ignorance and hostile to free inquiry, contemptuous toward women and coercive toward children: organized religion ought to have a great deal on its conscience," he writes in *God Is Not Great*. "There is one more charge to be added to the bill of indictment. With a necessary part of its collective mind, religion looks forward to the destruction of the world."

The most common argument for religion as a force of good, that it promotes ethical behaviour, is possibly his most forceful and resonant point. During both his speaking engagements and on-air debates with religious figures, Hitchens demands an example of how a person of faith is more likely to engage in a positive moral act than an atheist. In what society has this been true? *God Is Not Great* is a bitter 307-page essay on the ways in which it has not been true.

## Creation museum beckons atheists; Anti-religion movement would have a heyday

Hitchens dismisses the spiritual impulse as a glitch in the human machine. Evolution has been good to us, in bestowing a love for truth and beauty. In a few instances, Hitchens admits that he has enjoyed the fine works of literature, visual art, architecture and music that devotion has wrought. But because "our prefrontal lobes are too small, our adrenal glands are too big," the impulse to destroy overwhelms reason. On balance, and he repeats this a number of times, always in italics, "Religion poisons everything."

With every new atrocity, every bombed mosque, every revealed case of sexual molestation in the church, Hitchens sells another hundred copies. As much as he delights in insulting popes and preachers and gurus and terrorist-imams, his real target is the liberal impulse to understand and embrace and empower people of faith, to be multicultural and pluralistic and relative, even when the consequence of their beliefs is contrary to civilization. Hence the squirming as you read his book and attend his lectures.

The new creation museum in Big Valley, Alberta, is the sort of place that would have Hitchens licking his lips. While Dawkins and Dennett are more qualified to crush the founder's claim that he is actually engaging in science, the moral and social arguments around the Big Valley Creation Science Museum are more interesting and troublesome.

Gloriously, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms allows certain guarantees to Harry Nibourg, the museum's founder. What's problematic, for civil society, is the fact that his teddy bears and dinosaurs and interactive exhibits are designed to teach children. If Nibourg receives funds from churches, which enjoy tax exemptions and -- coming soon to Alberta -- government funds from the Community Spirit Program, the Big Valley Creation Science Museum is indirectly a public institution.

It's perfectly acceptable, even wonderful, that an oilfield service worker would devote himself to a creative hobby. Some of the world's finest works of art have emerged from religious feeling -- the hymns of Bach, the Buddhist temples of Kyoto, The Last Supper, Dome of the Rock, Marvin Gaye's What's Going On. But Nibourg isn't making art. He's entering the education business. And like violent movies and alcohol and tobacco, the Big Valley Creation Science Museum is dangerous to children, who lack the ability to discern science from nonsense.

Not even Hitchens, who always seems to go 25 per cent too far, would suggest shutting down the operation. But like a lot of religious enterprises today, around the world, the Big Valley Creation Science Museum is neither benign nor good nor great.

[tbabiak@thejournal.canwest.com](mailto:tbabiak@thejournal.canwest.com)

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: John Lucas, The Journal; Harry Nibourg founded the museum. ;

**Load-Date:** June 20, 2007

## *Dracula and Mary Poppins fight it out on screen for the last votes*

The Times (London)

May 2, 2007, Wednesday

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**Section:** OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 37

**Length:** 814 words

**Byline:** Charles Bremner in Paris

### **Body**

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About 20 million viewers will tune in to a French television duel tonight between Dracula and Mary Poppins.

The images are the caricatures of each other that Segolene Royal and Nicolas Sarkozy hope to imprint in viewers' minds as the finalists for the French presidency vie for millions of undecided votes ahead of Sunday's run-off.

Ms Royal, 53, the Socialist challenger, and Mr Sarkozy, 52, the conservative favourite, have been rehearsing with sparring partners of the opposite sex to devise the killer lines that could swing the vote.

The first French candidates' debate since 1995 is the last chance for Ms Royal to capture the centrist vote that she needs to break the momentum of the reforming conservative who is running more than four points ahead of her in polls. She aims to needle the tightly strung Mr Sarkozy into revealing the dark and "brutal" side of his nature that she and the Left have turned into their chief weapon.

Adapting his usual aggressive tactics for combat with a woman, Mr Sarkozy will seek to highlight Ms Royal's shifting opinions and shaky grasp of matters of state.

They will face each other 6ft apart at a square table while they answer questions from two interviewers.

Mr Sarkozy has been training with ***female*** sparring partners to find a tone that establishes superiority without condescension. The pugnacious Sarko insists that he will not treat a woman differently from a male opponent, but he could not resist a touch of Gallic gallantry on Sunday, saying: "You should not reduce Mme Royal to her femininity -as great as hers is. She is a politician."

To gain the upper hand, Ms Royal must exude a presidential authority that has been lacking from a shaky campaign in which even supporters have compared her nurturing, brisk, style to that of Mary Poppins. She will probe in Mr Sarkozy's steely self-assurance by needling him over the supposedly heartless reforms that he is planning for France.

The last Royal-Sarkozy debate on television has been traced to 1993. Mr Sarkozy was a junior minister after a general election in which Ms Royal lost her junior ministerial post. She accused him of bullying and called him a steamroller. "Don't speak to me like that!" she snapped. "All the viewers can see that what you are saying is off the wall."

## Dracula and Mary Poppins fight it out on screen for the last votes

With his promises of radical change, Mr Sarkozy maintains a four to six-point lead, but one in five voters is undecided. The indecision reaches 40 per cent among the 18 per cent of voters who backed Francois Bayrou in the first round.

Ms Royal has spent the past week courting these key voters by casting herself as a safe choice for peaceful change and predicting upheaval if Mr Sarkozy wins.

Ms Royal's strategy springs from figures that show that the deciding factor in the election will be the strength of feeling against Mr Sarkozy. A Sofres poll yesterday found that 56 per cent of those who intend to vote for Ms Royal will do so because they want to block Mr Sarkozy. Only 42 per cent believed in the candidate.

President Chirac's former interior minister has been campaigning in the past week to soften the harsh image that has fuelled the "anyone but Sarkozy" campaign. "I want to protect France from the outsourcing of jobs," he told France television yesterday. "I want to control immigration, I want to give them the security to which they are entitled."

Mr Sarkozy may have been helped with centrist voters when Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front, called on his supporters to abstain from voting in Sunday's election.

France has had no presidential debate since 1995 because President Chirac refused to engage with Mr Le Pen after he broke through into the run-off in 2002. Killer lines in three of the four previous debates were credited with helping to swing the vote in the final days of campaign. In 1974, in the first debate, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Finance Minister from the centre-right, scored a hit against Francois Mitterrand, the veteran Socialist opposition leader, by saying: "You do not have a monopoly over the heart, Mr Mitterrand."

### THE KILLER QUESTIONS

He should say

What is the difference between Hezbollah and Hamas?

What is the difference between an aircraft carrier and a submarine?

Which capitalists do you plan to start punishing first?

Who will defend the country if the Army is supervising juvenile delinquents?

Why do you admire Tony Blair?

She should say

Which brand of tranquiliser works for you ?

When will you publish your wealth-tax return ?

How will you protect French industry while promoting free trade?

Why has your wife Cecilia been absent for most of the campaign and what will she do if you are elected ?

Why do you admire Tony Blair?

### ON SCREEN

Debate begins at 8pm BST and can be seen on:

FRANCE 24 (Sky channel 517) and TV5MONDE (Sky channel 805 and Virgin Media channel 825) The debate will also be streamed live on France 24's website [www.france24.com](http://www.france24.com)

Dracula and Mary Poppins fight it out on screen for the last votes

**Load-Date:** May 2, 2007

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## *Playboy on trial*

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

April 4, 2007 Wednesday

National Edition

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**Section:** ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A20; Sadanand Dhume

**Length:** 825 words

**Byline:** Sadanand Dhume, National Post

**Dateline:** JAKARTA, Indonesia

### **Body**

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JAKARTA, Indonesia - The latest round of the global culture war between Islamists and the West is being played out in a small courtroom here. Erwin Arnada, the beleaguered editor of Playboy Indonesia, faces a two-year jail term for breaching the country's indecency laws.

Earlier this month, about 100 belligerent Islamists, bearded and skull-capped, packed the courtroom shouting "hang him, hang him!" as prosecutors read out the charges against Mr. Arnada. Adding to the atmosphere of intimidation: the gaunt presence of Abu Bakar Bashir, alleged spiritual head of Jemaah Islamiyah, the group associated with al-Qaeda that was behind the 2002 Bali bombings and subsequent attacks on Jakarta's J. W. Marriott hotel and the Australian embassy.

The Playboy affair captures the world's most populous Muslim country's steady slide toward intolerance. But the silence with which it has been greeted in the U.S. -- no press releases from the Committee to Protect Journalists clog my inbox -- also underscores the cringe of bien pensant America toward the export of popular culture, especially to Muslim lands. You'll be hard-pressed to find an NGO head or professional pundit eager to stand up for Playboy, or for that matter for Baywatch or Desperate Housewives. For the most part, such fare is seen as a provocation. Why give the permanently angry Muslim street another excuse to seethe?

In reality, the problem is not Playboy's predilection for the scantily clad, but Islamists' tendency to fly into a rage over a flash of thigh or a bare midriff. (There's no nudity in the Indonesian edition.) American popular culture ought to be celebrated rather than derided. In its crass commercialism and blithe disregard for Islamist sensibilities lie the greatest hopes of bringing Muslim societies to terms with modernity.

Indonesia used to be considered immune to fundamentalism; Muslims practised an easy-going folk religion inflected with the Hindu-Buddhism that held sway in the archipelago for more than a millennium before Islam took hold in the 1400s. Elites -- Indic by culture and Dutch by outlook -- were determinedly non-sectarian. But the dislocation caused by rapid economic growth, flawed government policies that encouraged religion as an antidote to communism, and the global resurgence of Islam have challenged the very nature of Indonesian society. Suicide bombings, mob violence against Christians and "heretical" Ahmadiyya Muslims, as well as attempts to ban miniskirts and kissing in public, mark a rising tide of intolerance.

## Playboy on trial

Islamists have momentum on their side, but Indonesia's traditional pluralism and kitschy openness have not quite disappeared. Last April it became only the second Muslim majority country, after Turkey, to embrace Hugh Hefner's iconic brand. Though baring less skin than other editions, it immediately became the focal point of Islamist ire. A mob attacked the magazine's Jakarta offices, forcing the editors to move base to the Hindu island of Bali. Headscarved women picketed and harassed the magazine's models. The government buckled under the pressure and took Mr. Ernada to court.

In practical terms, Islamist movements around the world--from Hamas in the Palestinian territories to the Jamaat-e-Islami in the Indian subcontinent to Indonesia's Justice and Prosperity Party -- follow a two-pronged strategy. They seek to emulate the West's science and technology while walling off their societies from the taint of Western culture. These groups see the path to an Islamist state through the creation of a fundamentalist society. This requires shutting down anything that gets in the way.

American popular culture challenges Islamism like no other force on the planet, certainly more effectively than State Department diplomats, who seem to spend all their time apologizing on al- Jazeera or trotting out banalities about the universality of motherhood. The idea of a woman dressing or undressing as she pleases, or that you may personally disapprove of the Playboy bunny but respect your neighbour's right to fantasize about her, undermines the very core of Islamist totalitarianism.

On a more flippant note, persuading young men to blow themselves up in order to claim 72 dark-eyed virgins in paradise is that much harder when the dark-eyed virgin next door can be found spread across a centrefold. It's no coincidence that 15 of the 19 9/11 hijackers came from Saudi Arabia, a country where Starbucks isn't allowed to use its mermaid logo lest it cause offence.

If we're lucky, the Indonesian court deciding on Mr. Arnada's fate will see the larger issues at stake -- the choice between an open society and a repressive one -- and vote to acquit. If we're luckier still, Indonesian Playboy will be joined one day by Baywatch Pakistan and Desperate Saudi Housewives. The Wall Street Journal - Sadanand Dhume, a Bernard Schwartz fellow at the Asia Society, has completed a book on the rise of radical Islam in Indonesia.

## Graphic

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Color Photo : Jewel Samad, AFP, Getty Images; A protester bites a pornographic video compact disc during a Feb. 3 protest in Jakarta against Playboy magazine. ;

**Load-Date:** April 4, 2007

## World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)

April 25, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. B2; World Report

**Length:** 772 words

**Byline:** Compiled from Star News Services

### **Body**

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#### LI TRAILS WANG AS MOST POPULAR CHINESE NAME

BEIJING, China - A new study has debunked the notion that Li is China's most popular surname.

A 2006 survey of 296 million people in 1,100 counties and cities by the Chinese Academy of Sciences found that Li led the ranks of family names with about 7.4 per cent of the population.

However, state media reports a recent analysis of household registration data covering nearly all of China's population revealed that Wang is, in fact, the most common name in the country.

It says data shows almost 93 million mainland Chinese are called Wang, or about 7.25 per cent of the total population. Zhang is the country's third most popular name.

#### MAN GIVEN COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR CHAIR ASSAULT

MELBOURNE - An Australian man who hurled a metal chair at another man, leaving one of its legs lodged 10 centimetres into his eye socket and neck, has been sentenced to 400 hours of community service.

Liam Peart hurled the metal chair during a nightclub brawl in Melbourne in January, hitting Shafique El-Fahkri, who was standing about three metres away.

A leg of the chair plunged into his eye socket and down into his neck.

Thinking he had killed the man, Peart panicked and ran, but surrendered to police the next day.

Peart pleaded guilty in a Melbourne court and, in addition to the community service, he will be monitored by corrections officers for two years.

The attack left El-Fahkri with a raspy voice, but 95 per cent of his vision has been restored.

#### ITALY TO RETURN ANCIENT VENUS STATUE TO LIBYA

ROME - Italy will return to Libya an ancient Roman statue taken from its former North African colony, a gesture Rome hopes will help its own campaign to retrieve allegedly looted antiquities from museums worldwide.



## World Report

The second century statue of the goddess Venus was found in 1913 by Italian troops near the ruins of the Greek and Roman settlement of Cyrene, on the Libyan coast, the Culture Ministry said Tuesday. It is now housed in Rome's National Roman Museum.

The headless marble figure of the goddess of love is a copy of a Greek statue that has never been found, said Silvana Rizzo, an archaeologist at the ministry.

## ABBAS SAYS KIDNAPPED ISRAELI SOLDIER ALIVE, WELL

ROME - Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas Tuesday said that an Israeli soldier kidnapped in June last year by Palestinian militants was in good health.

"According to our information, he is alive and in good health," the ANSA news agency quoted Abbas as saying.

Gilad Shalit was seized last June 25 after Palestinian militants, including members of the armed wing of Hamas, tunnelled out of Gaza and attacked an army border post.

## BLAIR URGES WESTERN AID FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

BERLIN - British Prime Minister Tony Blair warned here on Tuesday that wealthy Western countries would ultimately suffer if they failed to fulfil their pledges to help the development of Africa.

Blair, former UN chief Kofi Annan and German Chancellor Angela Merkel met in the German capital to discuss the work of the Africa Progress Panel. Chaired by by Annan, it was set up last June to monitor the progress of rich countries in meeting their commitments to Africa.

Leaders of the Group of Eight most industrialized nations pledged at the British-hosted Gleneagles summit two years ago to grant substantial debt relief and double aid to Africa by 2010.

While the debt relief goals have largely been met, most G8 countries are well behind on the aid targets.

Merkel has promised that Africa will be also one of the key themes at this year's G8 summit hosted by Germany.

## CORONER STEPPING DOWN IN LATEST DIANA INQUIRY

LONDON - The coroner heading the British inquest into the deaths of Princess Diana and her Egyptian boyfriend Dodi al-Fayed said Tuesday she is resigning.

Retired judge Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, 73, said she would hand over to Lord Justice Scott Baker in June, saying she did "not have the degree of experience of jury cases" for such a high-profile probe.

In March, the High Court in London overturned her decision to handle the case on her own, ruling in favour of Fayed's father Mohammed by insisting that the inquest into their deaths must be heard by a jury.

## CAR BOMB KILLS SEVEN IN GOVERNMENT HOTEL ATTACK

MOGADISHU - Seven people were killed when a car exploded outside a hotel housing government officials in the Somali capital Mogadishu, witnesses said Tuesday.

"There was a car explosion outside the hotel. I saw saw smoke from the exploded car," said Mohamed Hassan Dahir, an employee of the Ambassador Hotel.

"Seven people were killed and some of them were burnt beyond recognition," said Abdirahman Ibrahim, a driver in the area when the blast occurred.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Viktor Drachev, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images; POST-SOVIET ICON MOURNED: **Women** light candles as they pay their last respects to former Russian President Boris Yeltsin at Christ the Saviour cathedral in Moscow. Russians on Tuesday mourned their first post-Soviet leader, preparing a grandiose funeral for the flamboyant ex-president and debating the way he oversaw the painful birth of a new Russia. ;

**Load-Date:** April 25, 2007

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End of Document

## *Is there no longer room for debate?*

The Times Higher Education Supplement

March 23, 2007

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**Section:** Pg. 14; No. 1786

**Length:** 855 words

**Byline:** Matthias Kuntzel

### **Body**

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Matthias Kuntzel says Leeds University's decision to cancel his lecture on anti-Semitism in Islam has worrying implications.

At 1pm on March 14, I arrived in Leeds to be told that the university, where I was to speak just four hours later, had cancelled my lecture on "Hitler's Legacy: Anti-Semitism in the Middle East". The decision came as a shock because nothing like this had happened to me before. Furthermore, the date for my talk and seminar series had been set four months earlier, and the publicity material had been out for weeks.

The second surprise: none of those responsible were ready to apologise for the cancellation or to explain why it had occurred. It was not until late that evening that the university's press officer called to tell me that "some people found your words controversial", presumably referring to the Muslim author of an e-mail of March 13, who had defined the very title of my lecture as "an open racist attack". "How dare you speak of Islamic anti-Semitism", he wrote, before expressing his hope that the university's vice-chancellor would "apologise to the Muslim community as a whole". A self-righteous and arrogant tone indeed, but no threat of violence.

In another missive on the same day, a *female* Muslim student had stated: "I find this title profoundly offensive. I feel that this title threatens my security and wellbeing on campus." Again, not the slightest threat of violence. Nonetheless, the press officer informed me that "people might be injured" if my talk took place. As the university could provide only four stewards, the event had to be cancelled.

The thing is, though, "some people" have "found my words controversial" at every university where I have spoken. Only in Leeds, however, were they able to prevent a discussion of the matters they found distasteful even without threatening violence. The university administration evidently sets greater store by the fact that some students disliked my talk's title than by the defence of freedom of speech. But even if there had been a security threat, responsibility would have lain with the enemies of academic freedom, and cancelling my talk would have been tantamount to inviting them to do it again. Whether or not the threat was real, Leeds has set a dangerous precedent by suppressing critical discussion of one of Islam's less appealing aspects.

These aspects, which are the topic of my research, are of scientific and political relevance. If you refuse to discuss Islamic anti-Semitism, it becomes impossible fully to comprehend crucial aspects of the situation in the Middle East, such as suicide bombing and Holocaust denial.

The facts on which my talks are based are not controversial. Nobody denies that between 1939 and 1945 Nazi Germany broadcast Goebbelsian anti-Semitism nightly to the Middle East on its Arabic short-wave radio service.

## Is there no longer room for debate?

It is well known that the first leader of the Muslim Palestinians, Amin el-Husseini, lived in Berlin between 1941 and 1945 from where he disseminated a version of this anti-Semitism on the same short-wave radio.

It is also true that the same kind of Jew-hatred reappears in, for example, the **Hamas** Charter, which treats the anti-Semitic forgery The Protocols of the Elders of Zion as an authentic source and claims that the Jews were responsible for both world wars. "Whenever there is war in the world," we read there, "it is they (the Jews) who are pulling the strings behind the scenes."

There is an argument to be had about the significance of these facts. But the facts themselves are not in dispute. You can have your own opinion. But you cannot have your own facts.

Although some Muslims support the global struggle against anti-Semitism, others wish to prevent the mere mention of Islamic anti-Semitism in Britain. Leeds University is playing into the hands of this second group.

In his press statement, Roger Gair, the university secretary, asserts that:

"The decision to cancel a public lecture by Dr Kuntzel has nothing to do with academic freedom, freedom of speech."

I have more than one reason to doubt this. "Should you invite him (Matthias Kuntzel) in the future," says a letter from the head of the university's German department to those who invited me, "the university would look closely at the proposed content of the talk. I do not see this as censorship. The university has clear legal requirements to do this, designed to guarantee free speech but also to promote respect and tolerance."

I have always regarded Britain as a wonderful country, the only one in Europe that successfully resisted the Nazi onslaught and the birthplace of freedom of speech. After my experience at Leeds, I may have to revise my views. Or will there be a "post-Leeds-approach"? Today Alex Just, president of the Oxford Union, invited me to speak. "This invitation," he writes, "will not be retracted! It is in light of this example of what some might see as academic censorship that we are particularly keen to host you as a speaker."

Matthias Kuntzel is a research associate at the Vidal Sassoon International Centre for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2007

**Secular Muslims in minority; The West should pay more attention to the quiet majority searching for a middle ground that fuses modernity with Islamic tradition**

thespec.com

March 22, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. A15

**Length:** 855 words

**Byline:** Geneive Abdo, The Hamilton Spectator

**Dateline:** FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

## **Body**

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A small group of self-proclaimed secular Muslims from North America and elsewhere gathered in St. Petersburg, Fla., recently for what they billed as a new global movement to correct the assumed wrongs of Islam and call for an Islamic Reformation.

Across the state in Fort Lauderdale, Muslim leaders from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the advocacy group whose members the "secular" Muslims claim are radicals, denounced any notion of a Reformation as another attempt by the West to impose its history and philosophy on the Islamic world.

The self-proclaimed secularists represent only a small minority of Muslims.

The views among religious Muslims from CAIR more closely reflect the views of the majority, not only in the United States but worldwide. Yet Western media, governments and neoconservative pundits pay more attention to the secular minority.

The St. Petersburg convention is but one example. Some of the organizers and speakers at the convention are well known thanks to the media spotlight: Irshad Manji, author of *The Trouble With Islam Today*, and Ayaan Hirsi Ali, the former Dutch parliamentarian and author of *Infidel*, were but a few there claiming to have suffered personally at the hands of "radical" Islam.

One participant, Wafa Sultan, declared on CNN that she doesn't "see any difference between radical Islam and regular Islam."

The secular Muslim agenda is promoted because these ideas reflect a western vision for the future of Islam. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, everyone from high-ranking officials in the Bush administration to the author Salman Rushdie has prescribed a preferred remedy for Islam: reform the faith so it is imbued with western values -- the privatization of religion, the flourishing of western-style democracy -- and rulers who are secular, not religious, Muslims.

Secular Muslims in minority; The West should pay more attention to the quiet majority searching for a middle ground that fuses modernity with Islamic tradition

The problem with this prescription is that it is divorced from reality. It is built upon the principle that if Muslims are fed a steady diet of western influence, they, too, will embrace modernity, secularism and everything else the West has to offer.

Consider the facts: Islamic revivalism has spread across the globe in the past 30 years from the Middle East to parts of Africa.

In Egypt, it is hard to find a woman on the street who does not wear a head scarf.

Islamic political groups and movements are on the rise -- from Hezbollah in Lebanon, to Hamas in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

Even in the United States, more and more American Muslims, particularly the young, are embracing Islam and religious symbolism in ways their more secular, immigrant parents did not.

I travelled to Florida to serve as the keynote speaker at an annual convention hosted by CAIR. On my way to the event, I spoke with Imam Siraj Wahaj, a charismatic intellectual from the Masjid Al-Taqla in Brooklyn who has thousands of followers here and abroad.

His words summarized the aspirations of mainstream Muslims in the United States and around the globe: "What we need to do is borrow those attributes from the West that we admire and reject those that we don't. That is the wave of the future."

Already, signs support Imam Wahaj's words. Muslims living in the West and those in the Islamic world are searching for this middle ground -- one that fuses aspects of globalization with the Islamic tradition.

For example, Muslim women have far greater access to higher education today than ever before. In Iran, there are more women than men in universities, a first in the country's history.

But as increasing numbers of Muslim women become more educated, majorities are becoming more religious while also taking part in what are called Islamic feminist movements, which stretch from Egypt to Turkey and Morocco.

These women, who often wear head scarves to express their religiosity, have found this grey area between modernity and traditionalism. They are fighting for more rights to participate in politics and greater equality in "personal status" laws -- the right to gain custody of children or to initiate divorce -- but also view Islam as their moral compass.

Similarly, the political future of the Arab world is likely to consist of Islamic parties that are far less tolerant of what has historically been the U.S. foreign policy agenda in the region and that domestically are far more committed to implementing Shariah law in varying degrees.

In Europe and the United States, where Muslims have maximum exposure to western culture, they are increasingly embracing Islamic values.

In Britain, a growing number of Muslims advocate creating a court system based upon Islamic principles.

What all this means is that western hopes for full integration by Muslims in the West are unlikely to be realized and that the future of the Islamic world will be much more Islamic than western.

Instead of championing the loud voices of the secular minority who are capturing media attention with their conferences, manifestos and memoirs, the West would be wise instead to pay more attention to the far less loquacious majority.

Geneive Abdo is the author of Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America After 9/11.

Secular Muslims in minority; The West should pay more attention to the quiet majority searching for a middle ground that fuses modernity with Islamic tradition

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

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## *Top Israeli Police Official Resigns Amid Charges of Dereliction*

The New York Times  
February 19, 2007 Monday  
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

**Length:** 858 words

**Byline:** By STEVEN ERLANGER

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM, Feb. 18

### **Body**

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Israel's police commissioner resigned Sunday evening after an investigative committee severely criticized his actions in a 1999 case involving an Israeli crime family.

The commissioner, Moshe Karadi, whose term would have expired in August, said he was resigning immediately to "set a personal example" and spare the police the harm of a scandal. He insisted that the accusations against him were untrue.

Avi Dichter, the minister for public security, said he was accepting the resignation and would appoint Yaakov Ganot, the current director of the Prison Service, as the new commissioner.

Mr. Dichter said he would also remove the deputy police commissioner, Benny Kaniak, even though he was not mentioned in the report, and offer him the prison job. "The police must and can become better," Mr. Dichter said.

Though the case is an old one, the resignation of Mr. Karadi is the latest scandal in an Israel reeling from accusations of illegal behavior among those in high office. The cases range from a possible rape charge against President Moshe Katsav to various accusations of corruption against Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and his suspended office director, Shula Zaken, who is under house arrest as part of an expanding investigation into the Tax Authority.

On Sunday night, the director of the Tax Authority, Jackie Matza, announced his resignation, although he said he was sure he would clear his name. The finance minister, Abraham Hirshson, is being investigated in another case involving embezzlement at a nonprofit organization.

Mr. Olmert's predecessor, Ariel Sharon, was widely suspected of political corruption, and Mr. Sharon's son, Omri, has been sentenced to jail. Omri Sharon is still allowed to be free because his father is in a coma.

Last month, a court found a former justice minister, Haim Ramon, guilty by a court of indecent behavior for kissing a **female** soldier against her will, and there have been accusations of illegal behavior made against top religious figures as well.



## Top Israeli Police Official Resigns Amid Charges of Dereliction

The spate of investigations is seen by many here as an effort to change a tradition of political corruption, especially in political fund-raising. But the gloomy introspection that has accompanied the effort has been worsened by the army's performance during the war against Hezbollah last summer.

The Israeli military's chief of staff resigned last month to take personal responsibility for failures during the war, and two Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah, and another captured by Palestinian militants, including Hamas, remain in captivity.

In 1999, Mr. Karadi was the chief of Israel's southern police district, and a three-member investigating panel found in a report released Sunday that he failed to pursue an investigation into close ties between policemen and a crime family in the south.

A reputed crime boss, Pinchas Buhbut, was killed that year while in a hospital by a uniformed policeman working for a rival crime family, the Perinians. Mr. Buhbut was recovering from an assassination attempt and was supposed to be under police guard.

A year later, Tzachi Ben-Or, who is thought to have been the killer, and who had left the police force three months earlier, was arrested in connection with a robbery. He offered to testify, but his offer was declined, and a judge, not informed of Mr. Ben-Or's possible involvement in the Buhbut killing, allowed him to be under house arrest. Mr. Ben-Or later fled the country and was killed himself, in Mexico in 2004.

Mr. Karadi was accused by the investigators of promoting a police commander in the southern district who was suspected of hushing up the case for the Perinian family.

The investigation was confidential and became public only in August 2005.

Only one of the three committee members demanded that Mr. Karadi resign; the two others concluded that because his record as police commissioner was clean, he could finish his term.

But Mr. Karadi's term has been marked by some embarrassments, including charges of police brutality during the pullout of Israeli settlers from Gaza in 2005, failures to solve some killings and the escape of a convicted serial rapist, Benny Sela, from police custody. While finally recaptured, Mr. Sela's days on the run became a hot topic on Israeli news programs and talk shows, which made fun of the police.

The report issued Sunday also criticized numerous other top police officials, recommending, for example, that the Jerusalem police chief, Ilan Franco, not be promoted to commissioner.

Vardi Zeiler, a retired judge, led the inquiry. He said that firing Mr. Karadi would "highlight a clear norm for generations to come" and added that if the panel was correct, the case signaled "the beginning of a very corrupt police force, and the infiltration of underworld figures to the police, which corrupts the police and the regime."

Mr. Dichter's appointments were already being seen as possible problems. Mr. Ganot, the prison official, was tried for bribery and cleared on a split vote, and the man whom Mr. Dichter said he would appoint as the new deputy commissioner, Mickey Levy, is known to be close to Mr. Olmert.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: Moshe Karadi resigned yesterday but denied allegations that he failed to investigate ties between the police and organized crime in 1999. (Photo by Sebastian Scheiner/Associated Press)

## Top Israeli Police Official Resigns Amid Charges of Dereliction

**Load-Date:** February 19, 2007

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## **Middle East consul talks about Iranian issues at Ball State U.**

University Wire

February 16, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 Daily News via U-Wire

**Length:** 799 words

**Byline:** By Andrea Zeek, Daily News; **SOURCE:** Ball State U.

**Dateline:** MUNCIE, Ind.

### **Body**

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Ball State University freshman Katrina McKinley said she wanted to become informed about issues in the Middle East after attending a speech given at the University by Consulate General of Israel Barukh Binah on Thursday.

"It's very easy (for students) to get wrapped up in doing all your class work and not stressing yourself out," she said.

Binah spoke about the situation in the Middle East to a room of about 25 students, faculty and Muncie residents Thursday in the Ball State University Fine Arts Building. His speech, "The Middle East at the Crossroads," focused on how problems with Iran are the biggest issues facing the Middle East.

"Iran is posing a threat not just to Israel, but to the Gulf States, the Arab states and to the peace of the world in general," Binah said.

The Middle East is in need of peace and stability, and countries like Israel that promote such progress need to be supported, he said. It is important for Americans to know the Middle East is not only a source of oil, Binah said, but, also a source of terrorism that has made relations with the region some of the most urgent issues on the international agenda.

Iran is a very important, large and rich country, he said, and the Jews have lived in harmony with Iranians for years. However, in light of the Iranian government's nuclear program and support of terrorist groups such as **Hamas**, Israel is taking Iran's threats against its security seriously, Binah said.

One audience member said she thought the conflict between Israelis and the Palestinians sprang from the problems of social injustice that come up whenever people try to coexist. She said she felt the speech was one-sided and asked what he thought about compensation for Palestinian refugees displaced by the creation of Israel.

Binah said refugee issues are important, but there are refugees on both sides. Jewish refugees who left Arabian countries did not suffer as much as Arab refugees who left Israel because Israel willingly absorbed them, he said. Palestine internalized its refugee problem and used it as a political weapon against Israel, Binah said. The audience member also said Israel was created as an apology to Jews for the Holocaust.

Binah said Israel was created despite the Holocaust and not because of it. Jews have been in Israel for approximately 3,000 years and were the ethnic majority in Jerusalem by the 1950s, he said.

The Middle East needs to put problems in the past and focus on peace in the future, Binah said. Israel does not threaten the existence of countries in the region, but some countries threaten the existence of Israel, he said.

Middle East consul talks about Iranian issues at Ball State U.

Binah said he understands Arabs' emotional response to Israel. He understands some will never be able to like Israelis, but he cannot tolerate terrorism, he said.

It is important Israel survives as a state for historical and emotional reasons, Binah said.

"The fact that there is a Jewish state allows any Jew to feel at least a cultural pride, and those who need a safe haven from persecution have a place to go," he said. "They don't need to wait for quotas, they don't need to wait for visas."

Binah, who is the first Israeli diplomat to shake hands with a Palestinian diplomat in front of the media, said the conflict between Jews and Palestinians in the Middle East is not unsolvable, despite what some people may think.

"It can be brought into a peaceful, stable situation if the world community stands together showing to the terrorists that there's only that much that they can do, containing them (and) pushing them back," he said.

In the future, Binah said he hoped the countries of the Middle East would be able to live next to each other in harmony.

"Israel's desires and Israel's ambitions are not to have more territory, to make any military advances, but to make peace," he said.

Binah said he saw hope in how some large Arab groups opposed extremist actions by the Iranian government. In a United Nations report on the Arab condition, Arab intellectuals identified the inferior status of women and lack of freedom of speech as some of their society's most pressing problems, he said.

McKinley said speeches like Binah's are a great opportunity for students, and they should go to many kinds of cultural speeches because the speeches give students a chance to learn about the world outside Muncie.

Despite the conflict Americans hear about in the Middle East, Israel is not always at war, Binah said. It is a fun country with a booming tourism industry, great beaches and hip-hop music, he said.

Binah's speech was sponsored by the Provost Office and the Zeigler Advisory Committee as a part of their Jewish studies program, said Francine Friedman, political science professor. This was Binah's second visit to Ball State, as he came to speak last year.

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

**Which country is America's natural ally?: One is progressive, democratic and tolerant; the other is not**

The Gazette (Montreal)

February 3, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. B7; THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

**Length:** 768 words

**Byline:** THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN, New York Times

## **Body**

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Here's a little foreign policy test. I am going to describe two countries - "Country A" and "Country B" - and you tell me which one is America's ally and which one is not.

Let's start: Country A actively helped the United States defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan and replace it with a pro-U.S. elected alliance of moderate Muslims. Country A regularly holds sort-of-free elections. Country A's women vote, hold office, are the majority of its university students and are fully integrated into the workforce.

On 9/11, residents of Country A were among the very few in the Muslim world to hold spontaneous pro-U.S. demonstrations. Country A's radical president recently held a conference about why the Holocaust never happened - to try to gain popularity. A month later, Country A held nationwide elections for local councils, and that same president saw his candidates get wiped out by voters who preferred more moderate conservatives. Country A has a strategic interest in the success of the pro-U.S., Shiite-led, elected Iraqi government. Although it's a Muslim country right next to Iraq, Country A has never sent any suicide bombers to Iraq, and has long protected its Christians and Jews. Country A has more bloggers per capita than any country in the Muslim Middle East.

The brand of Islam practised by Country A respects women, is open to reinterpretation in light of modernity and rejects Al-Qa'ida's nihilism.

Now Country B: Country B gave us 14 of the 19 hijackers on 9/11. Country B does not allow its women to drive, vote or run for office. It is illegal in Country B to build a church, synagogue or Hindu temple. Country B helped finance the Taliban.

Country B's private charities help sustain Al-Qa'ida. Young men from Country B's mosques have been regularly recruited to carry out suicide bombings in Iraq. Mosques and charities in Country B raise funds to support the insurgency in Iraq. Country B does not want the elected, Shiite-led government in Iraq to succeed. While Country B's leaders are pro-United States, polls show many of its people are hostile to America - some of them celebrated on 9/11. The brand of Islam supported by Country B and exported by it to mosques around the world is the most hostile to modernity and other faiths.

Question: Which country is America's natural ally: A or B?

Country A is, of course. Country A is Iran. Country B is Saudi Arabia.

Which country is America 's natural ally?: One is progressive, democratic and tolerant; the other is not

Don't worry. I know Iran has also engaged in terrorism against the United States and that the Saudis have supported America at key times in some areas. The point I'm trying to make, though, is that the hostility between Iran and the United States since the overthrow of the shah in 1979 is not organic. By dint of culture, history and geography, the U.S. actually has a lot of interests in common with Iran's people. And I am not the only one to notice that.

Because the United States has destroyed Iran's two biggest enemies - the Taliban and Saddam - "there is now a debate in Iran as to whether we should continue to act so harshly against the Americans," Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Iran's former ambassador to London, told me in Davos. "There is now more readiness for dialogue with the United States."

More important, when people say, "The most important thing America could do today to stabilize the Middle East is solve the Israel-Palestine conflict," they are wrong. It's second. The most important thing would be to resolve the Iran-U.S. conflict.

That would change the whole Middle East and open up the way to solving the Israel-Palestine conflict, because Iran is the key backer of **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and Syria. Iran's active help could also be critical for stabilizing Iraq.

This is why I oppose war with Iran. I favour negotiations. Isolating Iran like Castro's Cuba has produced only the same result as in Cuba: strengthening Iran's Castros. But for talks with Iran to bear fruit, the U.S. has to negotiate with Iran with leverage.

How do we get leverage? Make it clear that Iran can't push the United States out of the gulf militarily; bring down the price of oil, which is key to the cockiness of Iran's hardline leadership; squeeze the hard-liners financially. But all this has to be accompanied with a clear declaration the United States is not seeking regime change in Iran, but a change of behaviour, that the United States wants to restore its embassy in Tehran immediately and that the first thing it will do is grant 50,000 student visas for young Iranians to study at U.S. universities.

Just do that - and then sit back and watch the most amazing debate explode inside Iran. You can bet the farm on it.

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2007

## **Hanson: Given enough small taps, Iran regime will crack**

The Salt Lake Tribune  
February 15, 2007 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Columnists

**Length:** 840 words

**Byline:** Victor Davis Hanson

### **Body**

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We all know the Iranian M.O. - nuclear proliferation, Holocaust denial, threats to wipe out Israel, vicious anti-Western rhetoric, lavish sponsorship of terrorists at work attacking Israel and destabilizing Lebanon.

If that were not enough, we now learn that Iran has been sending agents into Iraq to destroy the fledgling democracy and supplying sophisticated roadside bombs to blow up Americans.

Lunatic state-run media keep boasting that Iran will kidnap American soldiers, shut down the Straits of Hormuz, send out global jihadists and raise the price of oil.

Most international observers agree on two things about this loony theocracy that promises to take the world down with it: We should not yet bomb Iran, and it should not get the bomb. Yet the former forbearance could well ensure the latter reality.

What, then, should the United States do other than keep offering meaningless platitudes about "dialogue" and "talking"?

Imagine that Iran is a hardboiled egg with a thin shell. We should tap it lightly wherever we can - until tiny fissures join and shatter the shell.

We can begin to do this by pushing international accords and doggedly ratcheting up the weak United Nations sanctions. Even if they don't do much to Iran in any significant way, the resolutions seem to enrage Ahmadinejad. And when he rages at the United Nations, he only loses further support, especially in the Third World.

We should start another fissure by prodding the European Union, presently Iran's chief trading partner, to be more vocal and resolute in pressuring Iran. The so-called EU3 - Britain, France and Germany - failed completely to stop Iran's nuclear proliferation. But out of that setback came a growing realization among Europeans that a nuclear-tipped missile from theocratic Iran could soon hit Europe just as easily as it could Israel. Now Europeans should adopt a complete trade embargo to prevent Iranian access to precision machinery and high technology otherwise unobtainable from mischievous Russia and China.

Americans should continue to support Iranian dissidents. We need not encourage dissidents to go into the street, where they could be shot. Instead we can offer them media help and access to the West. Americans can highlight the plight of women, minorities and liberals in Iran - just the groups that so appeal to the elite Western left.

## Hanson: Given enough small taps, Iran regime will crack

And we should announce in advance that we don't want any bases in Iran, that we don't want its oil, and that we won't send American infantry there. That would preempt the tired charges of imperialism and colonialism.

The United States also must stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan. The last thing Iran wants is a democratic and prosperous Middle East surrounding its borders. The televised sight of Afghans, Iraqis, Kurds, Lebanese and Turks voting and speaking freely could galvanize Iranian popular opinion that in time might overwhelm the mullahs.

At the same time, we need to remind the Gulf monarchies that a nuclear Shiite theocracy is far more dangerous to them than either the United States or Israel - and that America's efforts to contain Iran depend on their own to rein in Wahhabis in Iraq.

We should say nothing much about the presence of two or three U.S. carrier groups in the Persian Gulf and Mediterranean. Iran will soon grasp on its own that the build-up of such forces might presage air strikes that the United States excels in - and not more ground fighting that the American public apparently won't any longer stomach.

We must continue to make clear that Israel is a sovereign nation with a perfect right to protect itself. Sixty years after the Holocaust, no Israeli prime minister will sit still idly while seventh-century theocrats grandstand about wiping out Israel.

Let's also keep our distance and moderate our rhetoric. There's no reason to frighten average Iranians - who may share our antipathy to their country's regime - or to make therapeutic pleas to talk with those leaders in bunkers whom we know are our enemies.

Finally, and most importantly, Americans must conserve energy, gasify coal, diversify fuels, drill more petroleum and invent new energy sources. Only that can collapse the world price of petroleum.

When oil is priced at \$60 a barrel, Ahmadinejad is a charismatic Third World benefactor who throws cash to every thug who wants a roadside bomb or shouldered-fired missile - and has plenty of money to buy Pakistani, North Korean or Russian nuclear components. But when oil is \$30 a barrel, Ahmadinejad will be despised by his own masses, who will become enraged as state-subsidized food and gas skyrocket, and scarce Iranian petrodollars are wasted on Hezbollah and **Hamas**.

None of these taps alone will fracture Iran and stop it from going nuclear. But all of them together might well crack Ahmadinejad's thin shell before he gets the bomb.

So let's start tapping.

U.S. should tap Ahmadinejad's egg

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\* VICTOR DAVIS HANSON is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. You can reach him by e-mailing [author@victorhanson.com](mailto:author@victorhanson.com).

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



## *Not-so-strange bedfellow*

The International Herald Tribune

February 1, 2007 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 7

**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** DAVOS, Switzerland

### **Body**

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Here's a little foreign policy test. I am going to describe two countries "Country A" and "Country B" and you tell me which one is America's ally and which one is not.

Let's start: Country A actively helped the United States defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan and replace it with a pro-U.S. elected alliance of moderate Muslims. Country A regularly holds sort-of-free elections.

Country A's women vote, hold office, are the majority of its university students and are fully integrated into the work force.

On 9/11, residents of Country A were among the very few in the Muslim world to hold spontaneous pro-U.S. demonstrations. Country A's radical president recently held a conference about why the Holocaust never happened to try to gain popularity. A month later, Country A held nationwide elections for local councils, and that same president saw his candidates get wiped out by voters who preferred more moderate conservatives. Country A has a strategic interest in the success of the pro-U.S., Shiite-led, elected Iraqi government. Although it's a Muslim country right next to Iraq, Country A has never sent any suicide bombers to Iraq, and has long protected its Christians and Jews. Country A has more bloggers per capita than any country in the Muslim Middle East.

The brand of Islam practiced by Country A respects women, is open to reinterpretation in light of modernity and rejects Al Qaeda's nihilism.

Now Country B: Country B gave America 14 of the 19 hijackers on 9/11. Country B does not allow its women to drive, vote or run for office. It is illegal in Country B to build a church, synagogue or Hindu temple. Country B helped finance the Taliban.

Country B's private charities help sustain Al Qaeda. Young men from Country B's mosques have been regularly recruited to carry out suicide bombings in Iraq. Mosques and charities in Country B raise funds to support the insurgency in Iraq. Country B does not want the elected, Shiite-led government in Iraq to succeed. While Country B's leaders are pro-United States, polls show many of its people are hostile to America some of them celebrated on 9/11. The brand of Islam supported by Country B and exported by it to mosques around the world is the most hostile to modernity and other faiths.

Question: Which country is America's natural ally: A or B?

## Not-so-strange bedfellow

Country A is, of course. Country A is Iran. Country B is Saudi Arabia.

Don't worry. I know that Iran has also engaged in terrorism against the United States and that the Saudis have supported America at key times in some areas. The point I'm trying to make, though, is that the hostility between Iran and the United States since the overthrow of the shah in 1979 is not organic. By dint of culture, history and geography, Americans actually have a lot of interests in common with Iran's people. And I am not the only one to notice that.

Because the United States has destroyed Iran's two biggest enemies the Taliban and Saddam "there is now a debate in Iran as to whether we should continue to act so harshly against the Americans," Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Iran's former ambassador to London, told me at Davos. "There is now more readiness for dialogue with the United States."

More important, when people say, "The most important thing America could do today to stabilize the Middle East is solve the Israel-Palestine conflict," they are wrong. It's second. The most important thing would be to resolve the Iran-U.S. conflict.

That would change the whole Middle East and open up the way to solving the Israel-Palestine conflict, because Iran is the key backer of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and Syria. Iran's active help could also be critical for stabilizing Iraq.

This is why I oppose war with Iran. I favor negotiations. Isolating Iran like Castro's Cuba has produced only the same result as in Cuba: strengthening Iran's Castros. But for talks with Iran to bear fruit, America has to negotiate with Iran with leverage.

How does the United States get leverage? Make it clear that Iran can't push America out of the gulf militarily; bring down the price of oil, which is key to the cockiness of Iran's hardline leadership; squeeze the hard-liners financially. But all this has to be accompanied with a clear declaration that the United States is not seeking regime change in Iran, but a change of behavior, that the United States wants to immediately restore its embassy in Tehran and that the first thing it will do is grant 50,000 student visas for young Iranians to study at U.S. universities.

Just do that and then sit back and watch the most amazing debate explode inside Iran. You can bet the farm on it.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2007

## Letters & emails

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

July 23, 2007 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Letters; Pg. 10

**Length:** 1959 words

### **Body**

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Werribee DVD

Disturbing case demands much better response

I HAVE unwittingly viewed footage of a video produced "live" by a number of boys as they tortured, tormented and assaulted a girl in Werribee last year. The girl has an intellectual difference.

It was televised as a news update by a national television station in the context of a possible sentence of "home detention" for four of the seven boys involved.

I am deeply disturbed by what I've seen. It raises a number of questions I find difficult to answer.

In what sort of environment have these boys been raised as to develop such an acute disdain and ignorance of difference? What types of influences have caused these boys to grow into such violent, out-of-control and bored youths?

The girl? How will she ever recover her faith and trust in people? How will she ever regain her confidence in her own unique self? Is this ever possible? How will she find the courage to face the world again?

What sort of experiences do these boys need to live in order to reverse the damage from their existing home environments and the broader social context? Is this at all possible?

The girl's parents face a challenge every day raising a child who has different abilities and additional needs. How will they learn to let her go again and control the fear they must have that she will be harmed?

How does it come to be that a television station can obtain and broadcast such footage, without warning at 8.30pm?

And what type of punishment is suitable for these boys when a sentence of, say, "home detention" would be sending them back to the same environment that created them?

I am deeply saddened by the many factors surrounding this whole case. It sickens me and disturbs me. There must be a more appropriate response to this from our society.

Name and address supplied

Where is the outrage?

## Letters &amp; emails

GLENN Wheatley gets 15 months in jail for tax evasion. Serves him right. And then a group of 16 to 18-year-old boys from Werribee plead guilty to the most disgusting, inhumane treatment of a fragile member of our society - committing acts so foul and despicable it is almost beyond belief - and they don't get a custodial sentence.

Where is the community outrage? Where is the cry for justice? Who the hell is protecting our children?

There is no excuse for these boys' behaviour. They must be made to take responsibility for their actions, and they must be truly punished.

Robert Franzos, South Melbourne

Light sentences

an injustice

I CAN barely express my horror and anger after reading "Werribee DVD youths plead guilty, avoid jail" (The Age, 21/7).

For years the media have reported, to no avail, on the disproportionately light and unjust sentences handed out to criminals who have committed hideous crimes.

A drunken man who walked through an unlocked door and raped a woman was let off without jail time. During the Commonwealth Games a foreign team staff member assaulted a cleaner but was allowed to leave the country.

The sexual assault and degradation of a 17-year-old girl and subsequent DVD episode has definitely put Werribee on the map: it certainly has an "open range zoo".

The Government is spending large amounts of tax dollars to educate the community with advertisements proclaiming: "To violence against women Australia says 'No'." Unfortunately, the message our courts is sending is "Violence against women - Free to Go".

Paul Earle, Vermont South

A hitch in the figures

AS A civil marriage celebrant, I must admit to bias in responding to "The latest endangered species . . ." (The Age, 21/7), which suggested that marriage is far from the minds of most unmarried couples. If that were at all true, the fabric of our society would be in jeopardy.

My many colleagues and I tend to be busy with weddings of young couples, middle-aged couples and older couples. I have even married people in their 80s. We marry divorcees, widowed persons, and we do all of this regardless of faith, belief or culture, and we can do so using different languages.

But your sad articles suggest that couples no longer wish to marry. Do your figures include those who marry overseas because they do not have to wait one month plus one day as they do in Australia? Or those who marry overseas because the GST component alone here can pay for a whole holiday in most Pacific island nations?

Do they account for those who wish to marry but who must wait until a divorce is granted; or those who have divorced but who still seek the approval of their church?

Relying on a census is not always accurate because there are those who feel that even in a secret document they do not wish to identify themselves, just as some people refuse to answer the door when the census people come around.

I love marrying couples. The money is not great, but it is one of the most satisfying jobs in the world.

Ange Kenos, Niddrie

## Letters &amp; emails

## Credibility blasted

SO MOHAMED Haneef was planning to blow up a landmark building? I nearly choked on my Weeties when I heard this guff. Trouble with lies is if you start out with them you have to keep going, bigger and bigger, until it all explodes in your face.

That'll be the only explosion involved in this affair, and I can't wait. AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty has no credibility. After he opened his mouth briefly at the time of the Tampa lies, he was told in no uncertain terms he could keep either his integrity or his job. He chose his job. He's been de-knackered and will say anything to support his masters.

John Laurie, Newport

## Counter-charge

IT HAS been reported that many in the Government are so embarrassed by the inept handling of the Haneef case that they want Attorney-General Philip Ruddock to revoke the justice certificate so the doctor can be deported.

But if Ruddock revokes the certificate and thus facilitates a person on terrorist charges from evading trial, shouldn't he (Ruddock) be charged with "recklessly aiding a terrorist organisation"?

Guy Coape-Smith, Tamil Nadu

## Wronging rights

IT'S really cute, Paul Kehoe's naive little comment ("We can't afford to take terror risks", The Age, 21/7) about Julian Burnside and those others of us trying to protect Kehoe and every other Australian from being deprived of our basic civic freedoms and rights to privacy that we had once enjoyed.

Death is a part of life, and the types of risks that arise in the world evolve with history. Yes, fight terrorism, but let's not lose the integrity of our hard-earned liberal-democratic freedoms in the process.

Sean Fremder, Caulfield

## Less comment, more constructiveness

IT IS self-evident that Waleed Aly's analysis of the war on terror ("Knee-jerk responses . . .", The Age, 21/7) is accurate and insightful. Aly puts forward the obvious - that operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have done little to stem the will of the jihadists.

However, Aly, like other commentators on this topic, provides no real alternatives to how governments should deal with rising Islamic fundamentalism and its twin: terrorism.

It would be helpful to hear Mr Aly's thoughts on how we should protect ourselves from these violent jihadists.

We have heard enough sermonising on how such people "do not represent true Islam". Granted. But what options does he suggest we enact against religious ideologues (some highly educated, as recent events have shown) willing to sacrifice themselves in order to kill Westerners?

We need less repetitive comment on how and why the war on terror has not seen the jihadists weakened, and more constructive comment on how we can defend our way of life from this zealous war terrorists have waged against us.

Nicholas Tuohy, Montrose

## A development for planning

## Letters &amp; emails

IT IS mischievous to suggest the Development Assessment Forum (DAF) leading practice model that Minister Justin Madden is considering would strip councils of their power (The Age, 18/7).

In high-performing councils, more than 95 per cent of applications are already determined by professionally qualified experts under council delegation. This requires sound policy making by council, supported by clear, transparent development assessment.

DAF is a national body that represents all three spheres of government, the development industry and professionals in the built environment.

The DAF model calls for objective tests, clear tracks for different development types, delegated, professional decision making and minimising appeals to maximise certainty.

DAF also supports delegation of complex proposals to an independent expert panel (as is the case in South Australia) which may include councillors.

Minister Madden may decide that certain complex applications can still be "called in" by councils for decision or may reserve ministerial powers to make decisions on matters of "state significance".

Everybody wants clear, fast, simple, predictable development assessment. Ultimately, this model empowers councils to focus on policy, strategy and setting a clear framework, leaving day-to-day decisions to appointed experts.

Sue Holliday, chairwoman, Development Assessment Forum; president, Planning Institute of Australia

Coast is not clear on desalination plant

The Age (21/7) reported that two members of the Bass Coast Shire council would meet John Thwaites today to urge him to move the proposed site for the desalination plant inland, as this would "remove the major landscape issue that is probably the community's largest concern".

I do not feel this statement is representative of the concerns of this community.

At the recent public meeting attended by hundreds, the concerns raised included the vast amounts of energy used by the plant, the potential for pollution of the ocean and concerns about the drawing into the plant of marine life, which could affect the local ecosystem.

The general feeling of the meeting was that Victoria's water problems be tackled by other, less environmentally destructive means such as stormwater harvesting, domestic water tanks, sewage recycling and tighter water restrictions for all Victorians. (We have had stage 4 restrictions down here for months.)

Tonya Hackett, Wonthaggi

Two stories in two-state solution

I WISH Ed O'Loughlin would get the whole story and not just part of it ("Israel selects friends and foes", The Age, 21/7).

What has been omitted is that **Hamas** makes it clear that its goal is to annihilate the state of Israel and to replace it with an Islamist state, with the financial and military support of Iran and Syria. Secular Fatah, on the other hand, is showing willingness to compromise in order to achieve a more equitable two-state solution.

To advocate the support for Islamist **Hamas** just because it was democratically elected and to downplay the threat it poses to both secular Palestinians and Israelis is not going to help the forces of peace. Rather it prolongs the suffering and the bloodshed.

## Letters &amp; emails

While the hardship that a blockade can cause to its population is of concern, how is it possible for Gaza to be completely isolated yet able to import plenty of arms but not food?

Rachel Merhav, Bentlyigh

Divide and conquer

THE Age and Ed O'Loughlin are to be congratulated for reporting the appalling machinations of the US and Israel in contriving to once more force the hand of the Palestinians in their long struggle for justice and an end to their occupation and dispossession.

This is a pure divide-and-conquer strategy that has totally undermined democratic principles and rewarded the corrupt and lawless elements the Palestinians were trying to rid themselves of.

The attempt to install a quisling leadership through bribes and punitive measures will fail, with disastrous consequences for all.

Pushing the Palestinians to fight each other may help Israel to complete its land theft and help it justify its apartheid system, but what is being put in place now will come back to haunt them.

Dora McPhee, Melbourne

## Graphic

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CARTOON BY PETTY

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2007

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## **International Briefs**

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

December 15, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. a11

**Length:** 885 words

**Byline:** ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **Body**

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Victim in killings spoke to reporters

IPSWICH, England - Five slain prostitutes were mourned Thursday at a memorial service, and police identified one victim as a woman who told reporters days before her death that she was afraid of a suspected serial killer but needed money to support her heroin habit.

The naked body of Paula Clennel, 24, was found on the side of the road this week. Police said she died from "compression to the neck" but refused to elaborate. She was interviewed on television last week and said she was determined to get back on the street because she needed money for heroin. Days later, she vanished.

The killings have reminded Britons of the so-called Yorkshire Ripper who killed 13 women over five years in the 1970s. This time, police have found the naked bodies of five prostitutes in just 10 days.

The identity of one victim still is pending, but she is thought to be Annette Nicholls, 29, a prostitute who recently was reported missing, according to Detective Chief Superintendent Stewart Gull.

All five were found within a few miles of each other in and around Ipswich, a city of 120,000 people about 70 miles northeast of London.

British army refutes Kenyan rape charges

LONDON - A British army investigation into more than 200 alleged rapes of Kenyan women by British soldiers has found no evidence that could lead to prosecution, a spokeswoman said Thursday.

The two-year Royal Military Police investigation into allegations that Maasai and Samburu tribeswomen were raped in a remote area where the British army conducts training found Kenyan police records were forged and DNA tests proved negative, The Times newspaper reported.

"The British army has taken this extremely seriously, and the allegations were investigated extensively," a Defense Ministry spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity in line with ministry policy.

"In terms of a criminal investigation, no corroborative evidence was found that would lead to the prosecution of a named individual," the spokeswoman said.



## International Briefs

Investigators looked into 2,187 reported rapes - some dating back to before Kenya's independence from Britain in 1963 - and found 281 cases worthy of closer examination, the newspaper said. However, no evidence was found that could stand up in a British court.

## Egyptian police cuff Muslim Brotherhood

CAIRO, Egypt - Police arrested the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood's chief strategist along with at least 140 others Thursday after a protest by uniformed students raised fears the Islamist political group is creating a military wing.

Mohammed Khayrat el-Shater, the group's main financier and third-highest ranking member, was taken from his home, security officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak to the media.

They said 140 others were arrested on suspicion of belonging to the Brotherhood, participation in a plot to infiltrate student and worker organizations, and engaging in "unprecedented actions" - including participation in a militia-style demonstration a few days ago at Al-Azhar University outside Cairo.

In that protest, demonstrators wore masks resembling those of the military wing of the Palestinian **Hamas** organization.

## Arab League chief cites progress in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon - The government and opposition have agreed on a national unity Cabinet in which major decisions could be made only by consensus, the head of the Arab League said Thursday in a major step toward ending Lebanon's political crisis.

A new Cabinet is the key demand of the Hezbollah-led opposition, whose thousands of supporters have staged mass protests and daily sit-ins since Dec. 1, forcing Prime Minister Fuad Saniora to live in his office complex in central Beirut, surrounded by security forces and barbed wire.

Arab League chief Amr Moussa told reporters that more talks are required to conclude the deal, and he might return to Lebanon in the coming days.

## Dutch parliament defuses political crisis

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - Parliament defused a 24-hour constitutional crisis Thursday by halting the deportation of rejected asylum-seekers and stripping the hard-line immigration minister of responsibility for most immigration policy.

Dutch politics had faced chaos Wednesday after the newly elected parliament censured Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk - nicknamed "Iron Rita" for her tough anti-immigration measures - after she refused to halt the expulsion of asylum-seekers under a policy the government calls "Project Return Home."

## Rights group criticizes Bangladesh for killings

DHAKA, Bangladesh - An elite security force in Bangladesh has become little more than a government death squad, employing torture and murdering more than 350 suspects in custody, according to a Human Rights Watch report released Thursday.

The force, known as the Rapid Action Battalion, or RAB, carried out widespread torture, including boring holes in suspects with electric drills, according to a 79-page report released by the group.

"Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion has become a government death squad," said Brad Adams, Asia Director at Human Rights Watch.

"Its methods are illegal and especially shameful to a nation whose citizen just won the Nobel Prize for peace," he said, referring to Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank, who accepted the prize earlier this week.

International Briefs

**Load-Date:** December 15, 2006

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## Letters & emails

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

June 21, 2007 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Letters; Pg. 16

**Length:** 1938 words

### **Body**

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WATER

Now what about some alternatives

A DESALINATION plant in Gippsland is welcome but will we be in real trouble before it is built in five years? Diversity in all our utilities is critical not only to ensure supply but to ensure that if one fails, the others will continue.

Water storage should include catchment run-off, desalination, redirecting stormwater and re-use of sewerage water. Power production should embrace solar, wind farms, nuclear (like it or not), hydro and coal. Natural gas should have more than one production plant. Has a second one been built as promised after we had no gas for 10 days in 1997? When natural gas runs out, will we have to go back to coal-produced town gas?

Adrian Jackson, Middle Park

Where's our money?

DOES anyone else feel ripped off by Mr Bracks' announcement that our water bills will double to pay for the desalination plant?

For years we have been paying through our existing water rates for future infrastructure spending and governments have been gratefully accepting that money for the water authorities. My question to the Government is: what have you been doing with our money? Wasting it?

Now a desalination plant! Did I miss something? Did Ted Baillieu win the last election?

Pauline Ashton, Maribyrnong

Selfish Melbourne

THE Kilcunda wind turbines provide Melbourne, not us, with limited power. Now we're to provide Melbourne with water! A desalination plant to keep Melbourne in the lifestyle it has become accustomed to. All we need now is John Howard's proposed nuclear power plant and we've got it all.

Jill McCulloch, Inverloch

Store the storm

## Letters &amp; emails

IT IS good to see the Victorian Government recognising the need for action on Melbourne's water. The disappointment is that the options chosen are so highly energy intensive.

The use of water tanks is encouraged with rebates, but this is an expensive and inefficient means of storing large amounts of water. The bulk of stormwater ends up in the Yarra or Maribyrnong rivers. This water could be cleaned and re-used in Melbourne's water supply. It would take much less energy than a desalination plant. Stormwater is the most suitable source of fresh water after the pristine supply. And the catchment increases as the city and demand grow.

David Ebbs, Buninyong

## Politicians' performance pay

AFTER spruiking performance pay for teachers for the past six months, how can federal Education Minister Julie Bishop justify her anticipated 6.5 per cent pay rise? What performance criteria did she meet to qualify for this rise?

Will Ms Bishop now support a rise of at least 6.5 per cent for Victorian teachers in the August round of the state school teachers' enterprise bargaining agreement? This is considerably more than the 3.25 per cent being offered to Victorian state school teachers by the Bracks Government.

David E. Spratt, Burwood

They deserve it

FEDERAL politicians will receive an increase in remuneration. (The Age, 20/6). I imagine most people will be opposed to this, however politicians make decisions concerning our daily lives and are responsible for the wellbeing of our nation.

The Prime Minister will now receive about \$330,000 a year, which, compared with high-ranking public servants, is low.

It is unfortunate that this increase arrives at a time when about 30 per cent of the workforce can find only part-time or casual work. However, from where I see things, MPs are not overpaid - many are underpaid. Imagine the Telstra CEO working for \$330,000 for running one company instead of his \$10 million.

Shaun Newman, Thuringowa, Qld

## Monkey business

PEOPLE make the usual justifications: that if you compare the salaries of corporation leaders with the PM's pay, then the PM is underpaid, and that "if you pay peanuts you get monkeys". These comments imply that the heads of corporations must be brilliant (yet they somehow make mistakes, make financial losses and have to retrench workers) because they get paid so much, and that politicians are duds because their pay is not comparable.

Where do teachers fit into this concept? Everybody recognises the important role that teachers play in society, yet they are paid peanuts because the government purse and school corporations say they cannot afford to pay such a large group a level of pay commensurate with their qualifications and societal role.

Why can't we expect the same dedication and hard work of our politicians, who in the end get much better superannuation and payouts than other workers?

R. Westwood, Heidelberg Heights

## Gun laws not so tough for some

PRIME Minister John Howard is already in on the act, willing to consider tougher gun laws but reminding us just how reactive he has been in the past with gun legislation after Port Arthur.

## Letters &amp; emails

So it is harder to get a gun? That is odd, as I am sure the brave Brendan Keilar and other victims, if they were able, would patiently explain to our favourite action pollicie. Odd, because it does not appear to be at all difficult for drug dealers, bikies and other noxious life forms to obtain guns. Yet if I want to buy a small air rifle to say, pop off a varmint or two, I have to jump through hoops.

Richard Middleton, Canterbury

No provocation

SURELY from the "Party girls' world collided with violence" report (The Age, 20/6), we are meant to believe that young women enjoying themselves is an act of unspeakable provocation. Autumn Daly-Holt and Kara Douglas were assaulted by a man, and the same man shot three people. Didn't we in Victoria just deal with all that stuff about the social and legal unacceptability of men being "provoked" to violence? I could be wrong but I reckon that these two women being "party girls" is not relevant to the responsibility of this man for his actions and it is disingenuous for The Age to portray it that way.

Liz Olle, St Andrews

Punishment

A WOMAN severely bashed, two people wounded and a Good Samaritan murdered. Given the miserably inadequate sentences imposed by our courts, this crime should net a couple of years' home detention, with optional wearing of electronic bracelets.

Barbara McNeill, Williamstown

Catholic compassion

LAST week the Catholic Church advised members not to donate to Amnesty International, based on Amnesty's announced position in relation to sexual violence. Amnesty International has stated that women who are pregnant as a consequence of rape have a right to access abortion. The church has a right to take a position based on its doctrine as it provides moral leadership to its congregation. However, arguably, with rights come responsibilities.

At the least, the challenge for the Catholic Church is to re-direct such donations the congregation normally makes to Amnesty International to the women who are not mentioned by them in this debate. Women who bear children as a consequence of rape are often socially isolated.

Kerry Burns, Wangaratta

Satanic knighthood

THE Muslim world's response to Salman Rushdie's knighthood (The Age, 20/6) gives a clear indication of several things about Islam. One is that members never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity to show that they are a moderate religion. Second, they have very little faith in their beliefs if they have to cry wolf every time someone does something that they don't like. Third, they still have to grow up and act like adults rather than a kid who throws a tantrum.

Roger Marks, Drouin

Gaza prison

THE violence between Palestinian rivals in Gaza was inevitable once Israel and the West refused to recognise the democratically elected Hamas Government in January last year.

Israel's siege of the Palestinians and the West's economic boycott were designed to set Palestinian against Palestinian, in a classic example of divide and rule. Recently, the US even trained and supplied arms to Fatah fighters, whom Israel then allowed into Gaza to confront Hamas.

## Letters &amp; emails

With support from the West, Israel has illegally set itself up as governor of the world's largest open-air prisons. Unlike most prisoners, the Palestinians are being held at the governor's pleasure. They have no release date and no hope. Should we be surprised when anarchy prevails?

Shane McCartin, North Fitzroy

## Communications

I CANNOT even get a decent mobile phone signal at home without standing on my bedside table facing north with an easterly wind during a full moon.

Super-fast wireless broadband to 99 per cent of Australia sounds like a never-ever, non-core promise to me. Fibre-optic cable is a more sound idea because at least I can make a call with the landline phone at home.

Neale Stratford, Churchill

## Foolishness

THE Federal Government seems to be backing Optus' plan to supply fast broadband services to Australia. To do so is to financially support the Singapore Government, which owns Singapore Telecom, which owns Optus.

To hand over control of our high-speed communication system to another country is just plain foolishness. Note that the Singapore Government hasn't sold off control of Singapore's communication system.

Telstra wants to invest its own funds into supplying a broadband system superior to the system proposed by Optus, right across our country, at equitable prices to the consumer. Telstra's plan has the best interests of Australians at heart and will quickly deliver benefits the equal of anywhere in the world.

Peter Robinson, Wagga Wagga, NSW

## Dying with dignity

RONALD Dworkin (The Age, 20/6) states there is a two-tier system for dying with dignity - which sounds much like the old abortion laws, where the few wealthy women with sympathetic doctors had privileges denied to the majority of women, who suffered horrific backyard operations. Surely it's time the same rights to die with dignity were granted to all citizens, not just a random selection with compassionate doctors?

Janine Truter, The Basin

## Lion-hearted

NOEL Pearson is a lionheart. His passion and determination to see appropriate nurturing, care and protection for Aboriginal children put in place in their communities is admirable. By staunching the "rivers of grog" flowing through some remote communities and demanding a sense of responsibility and social obligation from the adults, tied to a sensitively administered program of "welfare money", he has outlined a plan with great potential. Good luck to Noel and everyone working to lift these Aboriginal communities.

Carolyn Ilse, Brunswick East

## No God

THE almost simultaneous publication of several recent books is producing an interesting phenomenon in our community: the emergence of assertive atheism. It would be nice to be able to call this a resurgence, but it seems that this is without precedent.

## Letters &amp; emails

Atheists, at least in this country, have been tiptoeing around religious people forever. Instead of proclaiming their atheism, many fudge the issue with words such as "I am not religious", or even claim, falsely, to be agnostic. Now, finally, at least a few are standing up to be counted.

Most religious people, bizarrely, seem much more comfortable with someone who believes in a god with three heads than with an atheist. A widespread disbelief in God, they say, will lead to uncontrollable antisocial behaviour on a massive scale. Really? In the West the Scandinavian countries have the highest incidence of atheism while the US has the lowest. I wonder where these countries line up in terms of antisocial behaviour.

Geoff Hjorth, Albert Park

No atheists

About 20 per cent of Australians have no religious belief. However, with very few exceptions, funeral notices in The Age invite people to some form of religious service. Possible reasons for this inconsistency are: atheists do not read The Age, atheists are not dying, or families are ignoring the wishes of the deceased.

Roy Arnott, Reservoir

## Graphic

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ILLUSTRATION BY A WELDON

**Load-Date:** July 19, 2007

## *Fanatical diatribe sets West grave challenge*

The West Australian (Perth)  
September 27, 2007 Thursday  
METRO

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 20

**Length:** 882 words

**Byline:** PAUL MURRAY

### **Body**

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What should the Free World make of the posturings of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad now seen in their full unhinged ugliness on his visit to New York?

Its hard not to agree with the head of Columbia University, Lee Bollinger, that Mr Ahmadinejad appears ridiculous for some of his views.

But it would be a mistake to dismiss his provocative statements as those of a buffoon, given that he now looms as the No. 1 target of the White House which is toying with the idea of a conflict with Iran.

Central to US concerns are Irans support for the insurgency in Iraq, its financial aid to terrorists and Mr Ahmadinejads threat to wipe Israel off the map.

Having invited the Iranian President to use Columbia University as a forum for his views, Mr Bollinger controversially threw in his face a much wider list of complaints, prefacing it with the comment that he had all the signs of a petty and cruel dictator.

"Why have women, members of the Bahai faith, homosexuals and so many of our academic colleagues become targets of persecution in your country?" Mr Bollinger asked.

"Why, in a letter last week to the Secretary-General of the UN, did Akbar Ganji, Irans leading political dissident, and over 300 public intellectuals, writers and Nobel Laureates express such grave concern that your inflamed dispute with the West is distracting the worlds attention from the intolerable conditions in your regime within Iran, in particular the use of the press law to ban writers for criticising the ruling system?

"Why are you so afraid of Iranian citizens expressing their opinions for change?"

Mr Bollinger then put the President on the spot over the Holocaust, the existence of Israel -"Twelve days ago you said that the state of Israel cannot continue its life"- support for terrorism, principally Hezbollah, Hamas and Palestines Islamic jihad and Irans refusal to adhere to international standards for nuclear weapons verification.

"I doubt that you will have the intellectual courage to answer these questions," Mr Bollinger said. "But your avoiding them will in itself be meaningful to us.

"I do expect you to exhibit the fanatical mindset that characterises so much of what you say and do.



## Fanatical diatribe sets West grave challenge

"Fortunately I am told by experts on your country that this only further undermines your position in Iran, with all the many good-hearted, intelligent citizens there."

Well, Mr Ahmadinejad did not let his host down. He failed to directly answer most of the challenges and his address lapsed from time to time into the sort of fanatical diatribes for which he is notorious.

The first five minutes was a rambling discourse on religion, science and knowledge that appeared close to being demented.

Overlooked in the media reports was that his first words were invoking the return of Imam al-Mahdi, the so-called Hidden Imam, who believers like Mr Ahmadinejad say will preside over Islams eventual triumph over the world.

He then made an attempt to justify his position on the Holocaust, turning it on to the Palestinian question. "Given this historical event, if it is a reality, we need to still question whether the Palestinian people should be paying for it or not," he said.

"After all, it happened in Europe. The Palestinian people had no role to play in it. So why is it that the Palestinian people are paying the price of an event they had nothing to do with?

"The Palestinian people didnt commit any crime. They had no role to play in World War II. They were living with the Jewish communities and the Christian communities in peace at the time.

"But why is it that the Palestinians should pay a price, innocent Palestinians? For five million people to remain displaced or refugees of war for 60 years are - is this not a crime? Is asking about these crimes a crime by itself?

"Why should an academic, myself, face insults when asking questions like this? Is this what you call freedom and upholding the freedom of thought?"

Lee Bollinger has been roundly criticised in both liberal and conservative quarters in America for so directly challenging Mr Ahmadinejad, claiming this would just build his support within Iran.

This was also one of the complaints of the diplomatic editor of Londons Independent newspaper, Anne Penketh.

"There are several problems with Americas demonisation of Mr Ahmadinejad," Ms Penketh wrote. "Firstly, it confers on him a prominence in the Iranian power structure that he does not have in reality.

"It is not the Iranian President who wields the most power in Tehran: the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, calls the shots and decides nuclear policy.

"Secondly, scaremongering has proved counter-productive by enabling him to portray nuclear power as a priority and a matter of national pride."

I dont think thats a distinction worth drawing. Irans nuclear ambitions are widely supported within the country and seriously risk further destabilising the Middle East.

They are far more dangerous than Saddam Husseins imaginary weapons of mass destruction.

Mr Ahmadinejads New York visit has been valuable in allowing a heightened focus in the West on Iran and the threat it poses.

The Free World now faces the challenge of restricting Iran without embarking on another debilitating war.

But that may be Mission Impossible.

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## Graphic

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Provocative: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad can?t be dismissed as a buffoon.

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

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End of Document

## *How many dollars would buy off Osama?*

The Times (London)

September 12, 2007, Wednesday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 17

**Length:** 928 words

**Byline:** Daniel Finkelstein , [daniel.finkelstein@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:daniel.finkelstein@thetimes.co.uk)

### **Body**

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On September 11, 2001, Mohammed Atta boarded American Airlines Flight 11 at Logan Airport in Boston and sat down in seat 8D. Not long afterwards, the plane took off on the fateful journey that left thousands of Americans dead and changed the world.

How much do you think it would have cost to persuade Atta to change his plans, get off the jet and go and enjoy a hearty breakfast instead of martyrdom? What would he have taken as a bribe? A tenner? A thousand dollars? A million?

The question seems ridiculous, even offensive. But it is simply a very crude version of a remarkably common theory -the idea that we can defeat terrorism with money. And among those with some sympathy for this notion is our Prime Minister.

Gordon Brown likes his big ideas, bless him, and to use them to batter his audiences into submission with his Shock and Bore speaking style. So naturally he has a big idea for the War on Terror. It's economic development through international action. This is not his only policy, of course, but it is, if you like, chef Gordon's signature dish. A Brown address on Iraq, the Middle East or domestic security is not complete without some mention of economic policy.

The notion is that by reducing poverty, by increasing the economic stake that citizens have in the success of their society, by combating illiteracy, you help to stop terrorism before it gets started. It is also a classic new Labour idea. It provides a third way between neocon aggression and liberal complacency. Tough on terrorism, tough on the causes of terrorism, that's Gordon Brown.

Which leaves this question -is the Prime Minister right? Is he right that economic development would combat terrorism and improve security? And we can ask the question sharply because it is possible to answer it sharply.

And the answer is no. No, he isn't right.

One way of responding to the Prime Minister is as I did in the beginning of this article. Simply by asking whether financial wellbeing was on the minds of the terrorists as they committed suicide, it is possible to cast doubt on the idea that you could have bought them off by making their living conditions somewhat better.

## How many dollars would buy off Osama?

Fortunately, we can do far better than this. For the Prime Minister's idea is that rare thing in politics -a testable hypothesis. Poverty, the financial stake that individuals have in society and rates of literacy are all measurable. So are the extent, the individual circumstances and country of origin of terrorist activity.

If the Brown big idea is correct, then the relationships between these variables are predictable.

The tendency to be a terrorist should go up as personal wealth goes down; terrorists will tend to come from poorer places rather than wealthier ones; and societies with low literacy rates will tend to produce more terrorists than those with higher literacy.

So, when you look at the data, what do you find? This week sees the publication of an invaluable little book by Alan Krueger, a professor of economics at Princeton.

What Makes a Terrorist uses standard tools of economics and statistical analysis to get at the truth about terrorism.

Krueger started by studying hate crimes in Germany. He regards hate crimes as a close cousin of terrorist activity, but likely to be more spontaneous and less well organised. He thought, therefore, that they were a good way of looking at individual behaviour before organisations became involved.

He studied different regions of the country and found that within them there was an inverse relationship between unemployment and ethnic violence -where there was less unemployment there was more hate crime. It seemed also that hate crime was less likely where standards of law enforcement were tougher.

He then created a tight definition of terrorism -"premeditated, politically motivated violence...perpetrated by substate organisations and individuals with the intent of influencing an audience beyond the immediate victims" -and began to look at different terrorist groups. Suicide bombers from Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad were less than half as likely to come from families below the poverty line as an average Palestinian. Less than 15 per cent of Palestinians have more than a high-school degree, while almost 60 per cent of the suicide bombers did.

Krueger also studied Hezbollah. He found that "members of Hezbollah were better educated than the relevant segment of the Lebanese population, less likely to come from impoverished families". He also provides a survey of public opinion that shows that support for terrorism is associated with better education, literacy and personal circumstances.

That's all very well, but perhaps the terrorists are just a vanguard, a politicised elite reflecting the dire economies in which they live. The computer says no.

A study of the country of origin of terrorists reveals that lower-income countries are no more likely to produce terrorists and, crucially for the Brown hypothesis, "we find no significant impact of GDP growth on the frequency of international terrorism". Furthermore "neither the overall literacy rate nor the female literacy rate appeared to have any effect".

None of this means that you shouldn't try to improve living conditions in other countries. If it works, it's moral, it's right. But it is not, as the Prime Minister argues, a counter-terrorism strategy.

What would be? Krueger finds one familiar fact in all his numbers. Countries with fewer civil liberties tend to produce more terrorists. But that's the neocon contention. And we don't want to start up with them again, now do we?

**Load-Date:** September 12, 2007

**International: As Israelis pull out, town seeks space to bury its dead: Legacy of bitterness after six-day operation in Gaza Soldiers say they targeted rocket-launching cells**

The Guardian - Final Edition

November 8, 2006 Wednesday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 21

**Length:** 781 words

**Byline:** Rory McCarthy, Beit Hanoun

## **Body**

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Hours after the Israeli military pulled out of the town of Beit Hanoun yesterday morning, Talal Nasr was at the cemetery to search for a spot to bury the body of his 13-year-old daughter.

It was the first time for six days that any of the town's residents had been allowed out of their homes, the duration of Israel's biggest military operation in the Gaza Strip for months. The streets quickly filled and many headed out to mourn and bury their dead.

The cemetery at Beit Hanoun is small and overcrowded, and it took Mr Nasr three hours to find a space for his daughter Wala'a, the victim of an Israeli sniper's bullet to the forehead. In the end he found a spot almost on top of a grave dug 30 years before, and he and his family filled the new hole, setting up six folded palm fronds to shade it.

Wala'a died last week in the middle of the military incursion. It was dusk and Mr Nasr, 52, was at home with his four young daughters and his sister-in-law. Through loudspeakers the Israeli military had called all men in the town between 16 and 45 to appear for questioning. Mr Nasr's son and brother, who lived in an apartment next door, went for interrogation.

Israeli troops appeared outside the family's house and began shouting. "They were screaming but we couldn't understand what they were saying," Mr Nasr said. "I asked my sister-in-law to open the window a little." There was no electricity so the family lit a candle. "She shouted out of the window to the soldiers: 'What do you want? Do you need anything from us?' Suddenly the firing started."

His sister-in-law was hit in the shoulder. Then a bullet came through the window, across the living room and into the corridor where Wala'a was standing. A pool of dark blood still lay yesterday on the spot where she died.

"We couldn't move, we were so scared," Mr Nasr said. "I started screaming: 'My daughter is dead'." They took the candle and hurried downstairs and out on to the street. There a unit of Israeli soldiers told them they believed there were militants in the building. Once the soldiers had taken Mr Nasr with them to search the house and found nothing, ambulance workers removed Wala'a's body. Yesterday the family returned to the house for the first time.

"It was just an act of aggression," Mr Nasr said. "They said this operation was to stop the rockets. But if I was convinced of the need for a peace process before, now I am not. And my daughters - when their sister was killed before their eyes how can you convince them of the peace process?"

International: As Israelis pull out, town seeks space to bury its dead: Legacy of bitterness after six-day operation in Gaza Soldiers say they targeted rocket-l....

Later, Wala'a's uncle Nidal stood over her grave in the cemetery and said: "You know, the more pressure they put on the militants, the more the people stand with them."

At least 50 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier were killed in the operation. Among the dead were civilians and militants. Fierce gun battles left large parts of the town centre in ruins, including the al-Nasr mosque, where a group of fighters were holed up last week and which had been reduced to rubble except for the minaret with its turquoise roof.

The front walls of many houses and shops had been punched through, so that living rooms and kitchens were exposed to the street. Rubble was strewn across the streets, sewage flowed thick and gardens had been ripped up by tanks.

The Israeli military said the goal of Operation Autumn Clouds had been to attack militants launching rockets into Israel. It said dozens of armed gunmen had been killed and large amounts of weaponry discovered, including rocket launchers, grenades and rifles. It said "nine rocket launching cells" were hit. "The IDF operation targets terrorist organisations and terrorist infrastructure only, while making every effort to avoid harming civilians," it said. "The IDF continues to warn civilians to stay away from combat areas."

Israeli troops were still operating in other parts of Gaza last night and militants continued to fire rockets into Israel.

Cost of incursion

- \* At least 50 Palestinians, including civilians, killed in six days of fighting.
- \* Among dead were two women marchers attempting to help free gunmen holed up in mosque on Friday.
- \* One Israeli soldier killed and another seriously injured.
- \* Forty homes destroyed and 400 damaged, according to Hamas mayor. Al-Nasr mosque, scene of heaviest fighting, flattened.
- \* Thousands of men questioned. Dozens held for interrogation.
- \* Large amounts of weaponry uncovered, dozens of gunmen killed and nine "rocket-launching cells" hit, according to Israeli military.
- \* One female suicide bomber blew herself up, injuring an Israeli soldier.
- \* More rockets fired into Israel yesterday and at least seven Palestinians killed in Gaza by Israeli forces.

[guardian.co.uk/israel](http://guardian.co.uk/israel) >

**Load-Date:** November 8, 2006

## News Summary

The New York Times  
September 19, 2007 Wednesday  
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

**Length:** 941 words

### **Body**

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#### INTERNATIONALA3-12

##### Internal Migration in Iraq Making Partition Unlikely

A vast internal migration is radically reshaping Iraq's ethnic and sectarian landscape, according to new data collected by relief workers, but the displacement in the most populous and mixed areas is complex, suggesting that partitioning the country into Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish enclaves would be difficult. A1

An Iraqi report on a shooting involving an American diplomatic motorcade said Blackwater security guards were not ambushed as the company reported, but fired at a car when it did not heed a policeman's call to stop, killing a couple and their infant. A12

A top House Democrat began an inquiry into accusations that the State Department inspector general interfered with investigations into fraud and abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan. A10

The top American military and diplomatic officials in Iraq sought to play down differences over Iraq policy as they met with British officials. A12

A Republican influential on military policy told colleagues he was reconsidering his support for legislation that Senate Democrats view as their best hope for challenging the Iraq war. A12

An enlisted man who accused two Special Forces soldiers of illegally killing an Afghan man testified in a military court that he would not have agreed to do so had he known a military investigation concluded that the killing was justified. A6

##### Isolation Chokes Gaza Trade

A deep economic depression in Gaza, where normal trade with the world has almost entirely ceased since Hamas took over, has a stranglehold on both a clothing trader and an illegal smuggling business. A1

##### Musharraf Would Shed Post

The Pakistani president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, plans to run for another term while still serving as army chief, but will resign his military post if he is re-elected, an aide said. A3

## News Summary

## NATIONALA14-21

## No Warrant, No Wiretap, Intelligence Chief Reports

The National Security Agency has not conducted wiretapping without warrants on telephones since at least February, the nation's top intelligence officer told Congress. A14

## A Murder Charge Years Later

Years after a shooting left a Philadelphia police officer partly paralyzed in 1966 and the gunman served 20 years in prison, the district attorney has filed new charges of murder after the officer, Walter T. Barclay Jr., died of an infection that she says stems from the shooting. A16

## Racial Tensions at School

A nationwide campaign will reach a peak when thousands demonstrate in Jena, La., against what local civil rights groups say is the unfair treatment of six black students who were charged with attempted murder of a white student. A14

## Immigrants Protest Backlogs

About 1,000 highly skilled legal immigrants, carrying placards and cellphones and wearing T-shirts emblazoned with American flags, rallied at the Capitol to protest long delays and vast bureaucratic backlogs in the immigration system. A17

## Obama Proposes Tax Cuts

Senator Barack Obama proposed a plan to provide at least \$80 billion a year in tax cuts to middle-class workers, homeowners and the elderly, saying if he was elected president he would "end the preferential treatment that's built into our tax code." A22

## Senator Returns After Arrest

Senator Larry E. Craig returned to Congress for the first time since the disclosure of his arrest in a sex sting at a Minnesota airport, voting and having lunch with fellow Republicans in an atmosphere described as chilly and awkward. A20

## NEW YORK/REGIONB1-8

## Witness Intimidation Haunts a Gang Trial

The 2004 murder of Jerri Lynn Dotson, a member of the Latin Kings in Trenton, set off a round of witness intimidation and presented a stark challenge for the authorities: how to make a case against the fellow gang members suspected of killing her. Now, prosecutors are determined to prevent threats from derailing their case against one Latin King as it goes to trial. B1

## 9/11 Families Settle Suits

Families of 14 of the people killed in the planes hijacked on 9/11 have settled their lawsuits against United Airlines and two airport security companies, but relatives of other victims said they would continue fighting in court to determine accountability. B1

## BUSINESS DAYC1-10

## Fed Cuts Rate a Half-Point



## News Summary

The Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate by one-half percent, if was the first cut that deep in nearly five years, to quell turmoil in the financial markets. A1

## A Bold Move With Risks

There was something for just about everyone in the Federal Reserve's decision to cut its benchmark interest rate by half a point. But while the news was welcomed by many, the reaction was not universally upbeat. C1

## Modesty in Mansions

A cautiousness has begun to creep into the highest-end real estate market, brought on by recent turmoil in the markets and calls from Capitol Hill to increase taxes on hedge funds and private equity billionaires. C1

## A Wal-Mart Health Plan

Wal-Mart started a new health care plan aimed at cutting employee costs while expanding coverage and offering cheap generic prescription drugs. C1

## Business DigestC2

## ARTSE1-10

## A Different Side of Auschwitz

Photos taken at Auschwitz were recently donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Rather than images of atrocities, the photos depicted, among other things, SS officers singing and lighting Christmas trees and a cadre of young SS women frolicking.E1

## EDITORIALA24-25

Editorials: The high costs of ethanol; no way out; Serge Schmemmann on his visit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Columns: Thomas L. Friedman, Maureen Dowd and David Brooks.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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PHOTO

**Load-Date:** September 19, 2007

**Religious bigots hound presidential candidate; Mitt Romney's opponents  
make his Mormon faith an issue**

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

July 14, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** INSIGHT; Pg. A17

**Length:** 892 words

**Byline:** ANDREW HUNT

## **Body**

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Religious intolerance is once again rearing its ugly head. In the United States, Republican Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts, is running for president. Regrettably, he has been the victim of some of the worst bigotry imaginable.

On the surface, Romney appears to be the ideal presidential candidate. He is charismatic, telegenic and eloquent. As Massachusetts governor from 2003 to 2007, he positioned himself as a moderate to win support in the predominantly Democratic state. He supported gay rights and refrained from crusading against abortion, despite his pro-life beliefs. When he left office earlier this year, Massachusetts had a hefty surplus of around a billion dollars and its lowest unemployment rate in years.

Romney also happens to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, also known as the LDS Church or the Mormons, for short. And he has been attacked relentlessly for his affiliation.

The anti-Mormon uproar surrounding Romney's campaign has been appalling. While some liberals have joined in on the orgy of Mormon bashing, the shrillest and most hateful attacks have come, ironically, from conservative Christians. In recent weeks, the slurs have been particularly ugly.

"If you vote for Romney, you vote for Satan!" thundered televangelist Bill Keller in an e-mail to his 2.4 million e-mail list subscribers.

In Iowa, the Warren County chairman of Senator John McCain's presidential campaign insisted (wrongly) that the Mormon Church is funding Hamas and likened conditions for Mormon women to the treatment of women under the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a campaign staffer working for Republican presidential contender Sen. Sam Brownback recently sent out an e-mail savagely attacking Romney's Mormonism. "Theologically," she wrote, "the only thing Christianity and the LDS church have in common is the name of Jesus Christ, and the LDS Jesus is not the same Jesus of the Christian faith."

Attacks have also come from more liberal Christians. During a debate in May, Rev. Al Sharpton proclaimed, "As for the one Mormon running for office, those that really believe in God will defeat him anyway, so don't worry about that."

Religious bigots hound presidential candidate; Mitt Romney's opponents make his Mormon faith an issue

The most rabid Mormon bashers, without question, hail from the ranks of Evangelical Christian religions. For years, these hateful zealots have spread misinformation as part of a campaign to convince the American public that Mormons are not true Christians. "Mormonism is either totally true or totally false," remarked Utah-based Southern Baptist John L. Smith. "If it's true, every other religion in America is false."

Three years ago, Evangelical Christians excluded Mormons from the National Day of Prayer, insisting the Latter-day Saints were not "true Christians." The Southern Baptists have produced a kit, including a video and literature describing Mormons as a non-Christian "cult," and one of their speakers at an educational summit on Mormonism described Utah, with its large Mormon population, as a "stronghold of Satan."

If these fanatics would bother to take a rational look at the LDS Church, they'd find Mormons to be natural allies on a host of key issues. Mormons, after all, tend to be conservative politically. As a general rule, most Mormons champion "family values," oppose homosexuality, and tend overwhelmingly to vote Republican. Utah is one of the few states where President George W. Bush maintains a decent approval rating in the polls.

Yet fanaticism breeds blind hatred, not thoughtful reflection. The LDS Church has grown rapidly over the last half century and shows no sign of slowing down, which scares the Mormon bashers.

In addition, some people who don't understand the Mormons find their religion exotic. As Washington Monthly editor Ann Sullivan notes, Mormons "acknowledge extra-biblical works of scripture (such as the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants), follow a series of prophets who claim to have received divine revelations, and teach that God inhabits an actual physical body."

Mormon bashing has actually been around in one form or another since the 1800s, when dime novels and newspaper stories dehumanized Mormons, portraying them as devils on the frontier.

In the mid-19th century, thousands of Mormon families settled in the far west, in the wilderness of Utah, to escape persecution and violence by federal authorities and other Christians. Back in those days, the press focused heavily on plural marriage, the practice of one man marrying numerous wives, a custom renounced by the Mormons in 1890.

Since those days, the situation has improved greatly, but intolerance is still widespread. Most public opinion polls, for example, still show some reluctance by American voters to support a Mormon presidential candidate.

So Mitt Romney faces a number of challenges. The field of candidates is already crowded. He is looking at more than a year of fundraising, extensive travelling, speaking engagements and addressing such vexing issues such as the Iraq War and the ailing economy.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy shattered the age-old conventional wisdom that a Roman Catholic could not be elected president of the United States. Will Mitt Romney help democratize the American political landscape by accomplishing the same feat for Mormons in 2008?

Andrew Hunt is chair of the department of history at the University of Waterloo.

## Graphic

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Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS , Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts and a Republican candidate for the U.S. presidency, is under attack because of his Mormon faith.; Photo: ANDREW HUNT

**Load-Date:** July 14, 2007

Religious bigots hound presidential candidate; Mitt Romney's opponents make his Mormon faith an issue

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## Crime

Cape Argus (South Africa)

July 10, 2007 Tuesday

e1 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 10

**Length:** 862 words

### **Body**

---

I I have been watching the minister on Interface. Why was the case in which I was shot twice closed after six weeks? Why was a case against corrupt cops not followed up, I went up to director level?

I The government should enter into an agreement with its Russian counterpart, whereby all violent SA criminals could be sent to Siberia for life.

I This country spends 3% of its budget on police, courts and prisons. This is three times what other countries spend. Our problem is with organisation, management and morale.

I I hate to pop Thobeka Stacy Mabhija's bubble. Even though you may be carrying Zuma's 18th baby, sleeping with him does not guarantee you First Lady status.

I Should government be surprised when the workers go on strike? When the city pushes up taxes on property and services by 15%, credibility is destroyed.

I Two words made America great and they weren't toyi toyi. The ANC should try them on incompetent officials in government, they work: "You're fired."

I How can Fatah's Salam Fayad be the Palestinian prime minister when the Palestinian people voted for Hamas's Ismail Haneyah? Where's the democracy in that?

I I pay in excess of R50 000 in taxes every year. In return, I have no passport. I applied over 12 weeks ago. Also no valid driver's licence (applied over eight weeks ago. After asking the council for two weeks to unblock its sewerage drain, I did it myself. As soon as I get my passport I am off.

I Please stop being so critical and intolerant toward taxi drivers and think what it must be like in their shoes. I always let taxis in in traffic as they benefit everyone in the greater scheme of things.

I I am an Indian mother with a daughter of 13. I recently found out that she has a boyfriend and went totally mad, but she still schemed to meet him and then I realised that I taught her to be a good child and I trust her. If we love our children we must trust them. I let them meet but I go with or I send my sister.

I McKenzie has blood on his hands. He should make a personal apology to the family of Ashley Kriel and the people of Bonteheuwel. You are not welcome among the oppressed.

## Crime

I Shame on Geraldine. Those pathetic increases will ignite more anger and disillusion.

I I am still waiting on Telkom to come and fix my phone after 10 calls and eight days.

I If I did not have to pay for security I could afford to employ a gardener once a week.

I How about these new laws: no camera cellphones for under-16s; small (1100cc) engined cars only until age 25; heavy fines for under-18 pregnancy.

I The construction industry is booming but there is a lack of skilled workers. There must be so many professional, skilled people who have been retrenched or forced to retire who could lecture and train workers. Why does local government not establish practical training facilities and use these people?

I The answer to the riddle of informal settlements developing rapidly in the Cape is twofold. First, our borders are not properly manned resulting in millions of illegals streaming across. Second, the Eastern Cape is not being developed, a possible reason being that the ANC would like more voters in the Cape.

I Point of correction. The rand is not the strongest or most stable currency in Africa. Please gather your facts.

I Gay marriages in prisons? Democracy in the new SA is a joke. Criminals - gay or straight - should lose their rights as they violated others' rights.

I So the police have finally found out the communities are tik'd off with them.

I Do people still visit the Zimbabwe ruins? No, not that one, the other one.

I To the enlightened member of the public who thinks the building industry works from 8am till 3. I am a part of this industry, arrive at work at 6.30am and seldom leave before 7pm, as do many of my colleagues.

I South Africa urgently needs a spiritual and moral revival to root out the evils of crime, gangsterism, drugs, rape and corruption.

I The money that should have been used to turn Gallows Hill into a world- class complex was re-routed to build the R90m security wall.

I The government wants to name and shame companies that don't toe its racist line. It would be a good idea to do the same back to politicians if they weren't so thick-skinned and arrogant. "Beetroot" and "I won't quit" ring a bell, anyone?

I Why am I not surprised to see our new breed of diplomats upholding our national tradition of crime?

I The only way I and many others can express our anger and frustration at this incompetent ANC government is in print. We are not racists, but realists.

I Didn't the recent ANC policy conference amaze us, as the bras wine and dine and slapped each other on the back, while all around them SA is burning.

I Who believes the CPI figures anyway?

I Because, compared to a private, the officer gets a "dashing" good salary.

I To the person driving like a maniac through the traffic in a silver Z4 Cabrio up Wynberg Hill just after 11pm on Saturday, and then slamming on brakes right in front of me: you are lucky I had my family in the car. Next time you may not be so fortunate.

I 18 children from nine different women. Now that sounds like a good 'testes'-monial for a future president of our beloved country.

Crime

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2007

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## *Deal with U.S. would boost Iran's status*

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

June 2, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** INSIGHT; Pg. A15

**Length:** 882 words

**Byline:** ASHOK KAPUR, FOR THE RECORD

### **Body**

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The United States and Iran are on the verge of consolidating a significant deal that will affect the future of Iraq as well as their bilateral relationship. If consummated, it will be a victory for American and Iranian diplomacy, a path paved by costly military interventions by both sides. It will also be an important step to change the mental and the diplomatic map of a new Middle East.

It's important for us now to separate the media accounts of daily killings in Iraq from the quiet backdoor contacts that reveal common ground between the U.S. and Iran.

Until recently, George W. Bush wanted a military victory in Iraq and Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wanted to keep the Middle East pot boiling. Now the signals show a desire to find a negotiated settlement where both sides can claim a victory of sorts by giving Iraq some normalcy, by making Iran a stakeholder in Middle East peacemaking, and by recognizing Iran as a regional power with rights and responsibilities. This approach has the fingerprints of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the moderates in Tehran, which include the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini. Ahmadinejad is still making the speeches, but the moderates are calling the shots because they find confrontation with America counter-productive.

In modern conflict, unless one side wins militarily, an area of negotiation usually emerges over time as practitioners despair of killings that are not based on an realistic endgame. After 27 years of animosity and a diplomatic row over Iran's nuclear program, on May 28 both sides met face to face in a meeting chaired by the Iraqi president to settle Iraq's future. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the meeting and agreed to meet again.

Behind the positive optics lies a story of a major bargain in the making -- which will produce a deal, as well as winners and losers.

The present deal comes four years after Washington double-crossed Tehran. Then -- despite the Iranian slogan "down with U.S. imperialism" -- there was an understanding between the two to form a Shia oriented, pro-Iran regime in Iraq in return for Iranian co-operation to bring down Saddam Hussein. This was the intended followup to the politically inconclusive Persian Gulf war that began in 1991, when the senior George Bush defeated Saddam, freed Kuwait, and deliberately left Saddam weak but in power -- presumably as an asset with future use if necessary.

When Washington moved against the Taliban in Afghanistan after 2001, and then against Saddam in 2003, Iran knew it had to act alone to manage the expansion of U.S. influence around Iran - in Iraq on its west, in Afghanistan



### Deal with U.S. would boost Iran 's status

on its east, in Central Asia on its north and in the Persian Gulf in its south. Tehran acted by unleashing the Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Palestine and Shia militias in Iraq.

But Iran was also thinking of a diplomatic opening with the United States, and made a proposal for a deal to U.S. ambassador Ryan Crocker at the brief meeting at Sharm-el-Sheikh early in May. It wanted an orderly U.S. military withdrawal and relocation of its forces in bases in Iraq, rejection of Iraq's partition, a split of political power in Iraq on the basis of the 60 per cent Shia and 40 per cent Sunni population, and a smaller voice for the Kurds. Tehran would rein in the Shia militias, Sunni participation would be increased and the Sunnis would also gain more oil revenues -- while the Kurds would lose oil revenue as well as political power.

Iran would also assume responsibility in relation to Lebanon, Syria and Palestine.

The big local losers in this proposed arrangement would be the Kurds, who are trapped within the politics of Iran, Turkey and Iraq. They are political orphans in the Middle East, along with Palestinians, as no one of consequence in the world community listens to their demand for independence. The Washington-Tehran deal implies a double cross of the Kurds and an affirmation of a traditional diplomatic principle that expediency trumps justice in world politics, a principle which advocates of universal values and peace research have not been able to change.

Another big loser is Russia. The U.S.-Iran confrontation gave it leverage in the region and it has been used by Russian President Vladimir Putin to advance Moscow's image as a friend of Iran and a builder of its nuclear program, a challenger of American expansionism, and a defender of Russia's strategic interests and prestige in its southern periphery.

By accepting that Washington will not pressure Iran on the nuclear issue in exchange for its co-operation in Iraq and the region, Tehran will find it useful to rely more on Washington and less on Moscow and Beijing on the nuclear question.

By negotiating directly, both Washington and Tehran have come up with a new rule set that is meant to marginalize the spoilers in the Middle East and bring to prominence those who can actually deliver results on the ground. The power to hurt is the power to bargain and the practitioners have recognized that they have reached the limits of their ability to hurt and being hurt and the time is now to effect a negotiated settlement.

Dr. Ashok Kapur is distinguished professor emeritus, of the University of Waterloo and a specialist in Middle Eastern and Asian strategic affairs.

## Graphic

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Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS , Iranian women demonstrate against the United States in Tehran's Azadi Square on the 28th anniversary of the country's Islamic Revolution in February.

**Load-Date:** June 2, 2007

## News Summary

The New York Times

May 26, 2007 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

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

**Length:** 973 words

## **Body**

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INTERNATIONAL A2-8 U.S. Said to Be Developing Plan for Troop Reduction The Bush administration is developing what are described as concepts for reducing American combat forces in Iraq by as much as half next year, according to officials familiar with the debate. It is the first indication that political pressure is forcing the White House to turn its attention to what happens after the current troop increase runs its course. A1 Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee accused the Bush administration of ignoring pre-invasion warnings from the nation's spy agencies that a war in Iraq could be followed by violence and division and that it could strengthen the hand of Al Qaeda and Iran. A8 The populist Shiite cleric Moktada al-Sadr appeared in public for the first time in months after what American officials have described as a lengthy period of refuge in Iran.

A6 Quiet Gains for Algerian Women In Algeria, a tradition-bound nation scarred by a brutal Islamist-led civil war that killed more than 100,000, a quiet revolution is under way: women are emerging as an economic and political force unheard of in the rest of the Arab world. A1 Battle Over Troops in Ukraine President Viktor A. Yushchenko of Ukraine issued a decree putting Interior Ministry troops under his command, but the ministry, joined by Prime Minister Viktor F. Yanukovich, declared the move unconstitutional and defied it. A5 Turkish Election Bill is Vetoed President Ahmet Necdet Sezer vetoed a bill that would allow the Turkish president to be elected in a national ballot instead of by Parliament, as is currently the case. A2 Israeli Strikes Continue in Gaza The Israeli Army continued its airstrikes against the Hamas infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, hitting at least eight different locations, including a guard post close to the home of the Palestinian prime minister, according to Palestinian officials. A4 NATIONAL A9-A11; 14 Suit Details Relationship Of Clintons and Benefactor A shareholder lawsuit against InfoUSA, one of the nation's largest brokers of information on consumers, reveals significant new details about President Bill Clinton and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's relationship with an unusually generous benefactor whose business practices have lately come under scrutiny. A1 Florida Investors Try to Flee As hundreds of condominium towers conceived during Florida's real estate boom near completion, investors who snatched up units in the preconstruction phase in hopes of turning a quick profit are increasingly trying to break contracts. A9 Gulf Coast Rebuilding Costs Local and state governments in Gulf Coast areas that were hit by the 2005 hurricanes will no longer have to pay 10 percent of the cost of repairing their roads, schools and other public works under a provision of the emergency war spending bill. A9 Missile Defense Test Aborted A test of a new Pentagon system to defend against long-range ballistic missiles was halted because the target rocket fell far short of the designated interceptor range in the Pacific, officials announced. A10 Libby Sentence Recommended The prosecutor who won the conviction of I. Lewis Libby Jr. on four felony counts asked a federal judge to sentence him to 30 to 37 months in jail. A11 Democrats Take Stock Congressional Democratic leaders say their principal accomplishment, so far, is the transformation of the policy debate and the reassertion of Congressional power, especially on the Iraq war. A11 Candidates Debate War Votes The two leading Democratic presidential candidates who voted against a bill to fund the war in

## News Summary

Iraq because it did not set a timetable to withdraw the troops quickly found their votes attacked by Republicans.

A14 NEW YORK/REGION B1-6 Questions Surround Future Of Rochester's Waterfront Rochester, N.Y., paid \$32 million for a high-speed ferry as a way to revive its economy and its waterfront by shuttling thousands of passengers a day to and from Canada. But the costly and controversial venture failed -- leaving the city shouldering millions of dollars in debt.

B1 Religion Journal B6 SPORTSSATURDAY D1-6 Top Cyclist Admits Drug Use Bjarne Riis, a Danish cyclist who won the 1996 Tour de France, admitted that he used several banned drugs while competing in the 1990s, becoming the first champion of the sport's most prestigious competition to confess to doping.

A1 Yankees Boss Criticizes Team George Steinbrenner, the owner of the Yankees, has created anxiety around his underperforming team with comments that put pressure on general manager Brian Cashman and bluntly criticized slugger Jason Giambi.

D1 OBITUARIES C10 Harold E. Froehlich A resourceful engineer who helped design the Alvin, the deep-diving exploratory submarine used to recover a misplaced hydrogen bomb in the 1960s and to explore the Titanic wreck, he was 84.

C10 ARTS B7-15 O'Donnell Departs Early Rosie O'Donnell, who was scheduled to leave the cast of "The View" on June 20, will not return to the talk show after the Memorial Day weekend, ABC announced.

B7 BUSINESS DAY C1-9 Second Cars Are Small Cars With gas prices well over \$3 a gallon, drivers are lining up to buying small cars. But they are parking them in their driveways alongside S.U.V.s or pickups, approaching conservation as addition, not subtraction.

A1 Diabetes Drug Study at Risk GlaxoSmithKline's clinical study to analyze the cardiovascular safety of Avandia, its popular diabetes drug, may be in jeopardy as a result of this week's disclosures that the drug poses serious cardiac risks.

C1 Business Digest C2 EDITORIAL A12-13 Editorials: Ensuring progress at ground zero; budget battle lines; a say on executive pay; 'I should be dead.' Columns: Bob Herbert and Atul Gawande.

Bridge A14 Crossword B10 TV Listings B15 Weather B16

<http://www.nytimes.com>

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

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End of Document

## *Fighting jihad in cyberspace*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

December 2, 2006 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 27

**Length:** 2080 words

**Byline:** Tom Allard

### **Body**

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Terrorists are using the internet for everything from propaganda to planning attacks, writes Tom Allard.

The setting is familiar to anyone who watches the evening news. A large, executive-style desk, a laptop perched on top, a logo in the background and a screen showing shifting images to reinforce the newsreader's message. The only difference is the presenter, who is swathed in an Arab headdress and masked to hide his identity, and the subject of the broadcast, a call for an Islamic state for Iraq and a vow to use Iraq as a launching pad to crush the "Zionists" in Israel.

Welcome to the "Voice of the Caliphate", the latest offering from the Global Islamic Media Front, widely regarded as the mouthpiece of al-Qaeda and the worldwide jihadist movement.

Distributed over the internet, the mock news format is just one of many employed by al-Qaeda's highly sophisticated propaganda arm.

Previous instalments, many subtitled in English, have included detailed instructions on how to "gear up" for jihad and long theological justifications for Muslims to target innocent civilians to attack the interests of the US and its allies.

Almost invariably, the webcasts contain up-to-the-minute denunciations and rebuttals of recent statements by Western leaders. The rapid reaction is another feature of the way Islamic extremists spin their story for maximum effect.

If, as we are increasingly being told, the war on terrorism is a battle of ideas, to be won ultimately by force of argument rather than armed forces, then the overwhelming presence of jihadists on the web must be countered. The question is: how?

Professor Bruce Hoffman, a Georgetown University academic and one of the world's foremost terrorism analysts, says the use of the internet by jihadists has fundamentally changed the ground rules of terrorism. For the first time, the monopoly of commercial and state-owned media over the mass communication of a terrorist group's message has been usurped.

## Fighting jihad in cyberspace

The implications, Hoffman says, are "enormous", not least because terrorism, at its core, has ultimately been about generating publicity, communicating a message through a violent - and preferably spectacular - act to achieve a political outcome.

"The art of terrorist communication has evolved to a point where the terrorists themselves can now control the entire production process," he says.

The target audience ranges from potential recruits, financial contributors and passive supporters to Western governments and their voting public. Young or old, male or female - Islamic extremists will have a tailored message only a mouse click away.

Blogs, chat rooms, and video and audio files - there is little from the online world that jihadists have not employed to spread their message.

In September the Global Islamic Media Front released a video game, The Night of Bush Capturing, which can be downloaded off the web. As songs of praise to jihad play in the background, players work their way through six stages, including "Americans' Hell" and "Bush Hunted Like a Rat". The final mission is to slay George Bush, in one-on-one combat.

Adam Raisman, an analyst who monitors extremist Islamic websites for the SITE Institute in Washington, says the internet is the most potent tool terrorists have.

Given the antecedents of the web in US military research during the Cold War, there is a bitter irony in the development for the West's military and intelligence establishment. The Cold War may have passed but the technology has been dramatically turned against its creator.

And it is not just the propaganda war, or using the internet to entice new recruits. The internet has also been a crucial planning tool and conduit for command and control for jihadists planning their attacks. The attacks of September 11, 2001, the Iraqi insurgency, the London bombings and the alleged terrorist plot in Sydney and Melbourne uncovered last year all used the internet to plan and execute operations.

There is also the use of the web to raise money, everything from T-shirt sales to advice on how to undertake credit card fraud and the details of bank accounts where funds can be sent.

More often than not, terrorists can spread their propaganda, plan their attacks and gather funds without being detected. It's a critical development because intelligence agencies have had considerable success penetrating radical mosques where much of the organising previously took place.

"Unfortunately, it's incredibly difficult for governments to track them down," Raisman says. "They set up proxy addresses, virtual servers and use password-protected sites."

Some of the techniques of evasion are disarmingly simple. Rather than send emails, some jihadists simply write and save draft emails, storing them in an account with a password that's known to other members of the cell. Because they are never actually sent, they can't be detected by intelligence agencies.

Raisman points to a recent publication by the al-Fajr group, another communications arm of al-Qaeda and its fellow travellers. He said it contained a very sophisticated manual on internet security, how to avoid hackers, secure personal files and ensure any computer that is captured is of little value to Western authorities.

Then there are offensive cyber operations, the possibility of terrorists bringing down critical electronic systems that underpin key sectors such as energy and banking.

Warnings on Thursday from the US Department of Homeland Security that al-Qaeda was planning an attack to disable online financial institutions and disrupt trading on Wall Street showed this threat in stark relief.

## Fighting jihad in cyberspace

Interestingly, many experts on terrorism and the internet have downplayed this danger in recent times. But the fact such threats from al-Qaeda can spook US authorities, despite no other evidence of an impending cyber attack, shows that terrorist groups' mastery of the web has, at the very least, an extraordinary power to intimidate.

When it comes to jihadist propaganda on the internet, the fundamental message is the same: the West - the "Jews and Crusaders" - hates Islam. It seeks to occupy Muslim lands and it only understands violence. Jihad, therefore, is the only option and, moreover, is sanctioned by God.

Jihadist claims that they are winning the war are often accompanied by graphic images of terrorist blasts and the agonising deaths of hostages and soldiers.

"Unfortunately, Western governments have been slow on the uptake about the potency of this story-line," says Dr Kumar Ramakrishna, the head of the Centre for National Security Excellence at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies in Singapore.

"In the Middle East in particular, the balance of influence is skewed much more to the radicals, mostly because of the Iraq war."

In testimony to the US Congress earlier this year, Hoffman warned the US was "dangerously behind the curve" in dealing with the terrorist presence on the web.

The message should resonate in Australia, where the internet has wide penetration and is proving pivotal in inspiring militant Islamists.

Indeed, when police and ASIO agents swooped on the homes of 19 alleged terrorists in Sydney and Melbourne last year, they found an astounding array of violent material on their computers. Their electronic library was as voluminous as it was disturbing, including recipes for homemade explosives, poems in praise of jihad and grisly video and audio files of beheadings and terrorist attacks.

If shutting down the jihadists on the internet is impossible, Ramakrishna says, the West needs a multifaceted and integrated approach to sell its "counter-story".

"To discredit the story, you need to undercut it by showing their mistakes ... and a positive message about the West."

It's a theme that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, has addressed in two speeches over the past month.

First, the West needs to highlight "the bleak results of this extremist ideology in practice", he said this week. That is, an authoritarian, Taliban-style regime where entertainment and sport are banned and girls are not allowed to go to school.

The trump card for the West, Downer says, is democracy, "the extremists' Achilles heel".

Of course, the US and its allies have promoted the democracy agenda ever since they discovered that the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein did not have any weapons of mass destruction. But the democracy project has proved to be an absolute disaster. Afghanistan, the first experiment with democracy, has produced an ineffectual government unable to control large tracts of the country or provide basic services.

Elections in Iraq have produced a Shiite-led administration that's similarly lame when it comes to enforcing security and is widely regarded in the Middle East as a Western stooge.

The Iraq invasion, of course, reinforced the central tenet of the radical Islamic view that the West wants to subjugate Islam and will use its overwhelming military power on the flimsiest of pretexts.

The one great hope, Lebanon, has proved to be short-lived, despite the ousting of its Syrian-backed regime.

## Fighting jihad in cyberspace

The war with Israel greatly emboldened Hezbollah and its terrorist wing. While the Lebanese state was in disarray, Hezbollah's well co-ordinated welfare arm gave relief, including large cash handouts, to those who had lost homes and family members. It's a similar story in the Palestinian territories, where **Hamas** also has a finely honed humanitarian operation. As such, **Hamas** and Hezbollah have made great strides in winning the "hearts and minds" of Muslims in the region and around the world.

Downer also noted, correctly, that the "battle of ideas" will be largely won by a debate between Muslims, with moderates reinforcing that the Islam forbids the killing of innocents and that Muslims are often the victims of terrorist acts.

What he didn't say was this has to be the case because, five years into the war on terrorism, the West is seriously on the nose in the Islamic world.

It's a reality that has been acknowledged by one of the most celebrated institutions of the US armed forces, its venerable military academy, West Point. "Since Western governments lack credibility in the Muslim world, they should pursue these [information] efforts indirectly," its Combating Terrorism Centre said.

The centre also made a telling observation about who the primary target of the campaign should be, and what exactly should be considered "moderate" Islam. In its Militant Ideology Atlas, it says that the target should be the Salafis - many of whom hold views abhorrent to many Westerners regarding **women** and secularism but who do not support violence.

"While it may be distasteful to work with non-violent Salafi leaders, they are best positioned to delegitimise jihadi violence and monitor the more militant efforts of their movement," it says.

In an Australian context, that means working closely with Muslim clerics such as Sheik Taj el-Din al Hilaly.

It is known that Australian counter-terrorism authorities were in despair about the rabid pursuit in the media of Hilaly after his comments likening rape victims to uncovered meat. His demonisation, however justified to many Australians, was viewed as vastly disproportionate by many Muslims and is seen by counter-terrorism officials as creating another grievance to be exploited by violent radicals.

Ramakrishna says it is vital the West recognises that the international jihadist movement "is not monolithic". He is calling for more efforts to address local grievances, the targeting of education and welfare, and co-ordinating activities with non-government Muslim groups.

Such policies will have to be integrated with more broad-brush diplomacy and strategic initiatives undertaken by Western governments.

Foremost among them is the urgent need to bolster the failing states that are its newly created democracies.

### TERRORISM'S SERVER: JIHADISTS ON THE WEB

\*There are over 5000 militant Islamic websites, up from less than a dozen in 1998.

\*They are an extremely effective way for terrorist groups to plan operations, recruit followers, raise funds and distribute propaganda.

\*Their mastery of the web could extend to cyber-terrorism, such as disabling the communication systems that underpin key sectors such as banking and energy.

\*Western agencies are almost powerless to stop the jihadists' internet activities.

\*Western governments have been very slow to respond and are only now turning their attention to combating the potent "story" promulgated over the internet.

## Graphic

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PHOTO:

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

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## *The Messenger: The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad*

South China Morning Post

February 25, 2007 Sunday

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**Section:** FEATURES; review of the week; Pg. 5

**Length:** 898 words

**Byline:** Tim Cribb

### **Body**

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The Messenger: The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad

by Tariq Ramadan

Allen Lane, \$400

As far as the US State Department and the Department of Homeland Security are concerned, Islamic scholar and academic Tariq Ramadan helps terrorists - he gave Euro900 (\$9HK,000) to two groups with links to Hamas - and is deemed "a national security threat", although they won't say why. That cost the occasional guest of former president Bill Clinton a tenured position in 2004 at the University of Notre Dame.

Ramadan, who now teaches at Oxford University, is a controversial figure. In Europe, one critic studied his writings and determined him to be "a war leader" echoing the views of his grandfather, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood. Others say he's a fascist and an anti-Semite.

Swiss-born Ramadan, 44, who many consider to be an influential and moderate voice in Islam with particular appeal to young Muslims in Europe, has written a new book that will probably upset a lot of people.

The Messenger: The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad is a concise overview of the life of the Prophet, his role as Messenger of God in receiving the Koran, and the example he set for a Muslim community that expanded from a handful of followers in 622 to encompass the entire Arabian peninsula within eight years. Centuries after the Prophet's death in 632, Islam had made itself felt worldwide and today is experiencing a reawakening.

Ramadan is a devout Muslim, but there's no proselytising here, nor does he challenge the various interpretations of the Koran that divide Sunni and Shiite.

The Messenger offers examples of what God told the Prophet and how he tried, not always successfully, to make his life an example of God's teachings. "I am but a man like yourselves; the inspiration has come to me that your God is one God," the Prophet replied when asked for miracles to prove that he was the Messenger.

Born in 570 into a noble Mecca family, the Prophet but was an orphan by the age of six and raised by an uncle, who sent him to live among the Bedouins for several years, as was customary. He spoke from experience in one of his hadith: "Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a wayfarer."

## The Messenger: The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad

As he meditated on the nature of things in a small cave, he was visited one night in 610 by the Angel Gabriel. He was initially frightened to discover that he was the Messenger of God and the last prophet in a line extending back through Jesus and Moses to Abraham, recognised today as the patriarchs of the three great monotheistic religions.

The Messenger is filled with ideas that Jews and Christians will find familiar. The Koran acknowledges the Torah given to Moses and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Indeed, the Prophet confirmed God had spoken to the Jews through Moses and the Christians through Jesus and the apostles. But Judaism had corrupted the Scriptures, and Christians worshipped Jesus as the son of God, despite being told to worship none other than God.

It was the Prophet's task to restore the right path. Islam is about the absolute acceptance of God's will.

Ramadan draws on the many biographers of the Prophet to outline significant points in his life, and claims no new scholarship. His approach is to look at how the Prophet communicated the Revelations and conveyed what was essentially a revolutionary code of behaviour based on justice, kindness, forgiveness and charity, but mostly respect for others and for nature, "the primary guide and the intimate companion of faith".

"Cut off from nature in our towns and cities, we nowadays seem to have forgotten the meaning of this message to such an extent that we dangerously invert the order of requirements and believe that learning about the techniques and forms of religion (prayers, pilgrimages, etc) is sufficient to grasp and understand their meaning and objectives," Ramadan writes.

"This delusion has serious consequences since it leads to draining religious teaching of its spiritual substance, which actually ought to be its heart."

The Prophet received and recorded God's message during a period of 23 years until the Koran was complete. It is considered the earliest and finest work of classical Arabic prose.

Ramadan says the meaning of the Prophet's life involves "turning away from the idols of one's time (power, money, the cult of appearances, etc); emigrating from lies and unethical ways of life; liberating oneself, through the experience of breaking away, from all the appearances of freedom paradoxically reinforced by our habits".

In his wide-ranging review of Islam's origins, Ramadan pauses to discuss issues of contemporary interest, such as the nature of jihad, which is about personal struggle but was extended as events required by the Prophet to include al-qital - "necessary armed resistance in the face of armed aggression".

Of women, Ramadan says the Prophet "guided them to assert themselves, be present, express themselves, and claim the real freedom of heart and conscience", but they had to "choose for themselves and trace it out for themselves".

Perhaps it is not Ramadan's alleged "terrorist" associations that worry the Americans, but the growing appreciation of Islam that has been emerging since the attacks of September 11, 2001. Then again, perhaps he is a terrorist - one armed with ideas, not explosives.

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

## Letters & emails

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

July 24, 2007 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Letters; Pg. 10

**Length:** 2111 words

### **Body**

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#### LEADERS

Howard's legacy: lies and betrayal for political gain

EVIL is done by what we fail to do as much as by what we do. Like most Australians, I should have known about the Stolen Generation; after all, it was still happening at the time my own children were being born in the 1970s.

If I did know about it, then I probably spoke out about it only to my own circle of friends. I didn't stop to think it was happening to fellow citizens. I didn't stop to think it was being done by my government.

Now, no one should be unaware of what has happened: children overboard; demonising of refugees as "illegals"; the AWB bribes cover-up; wilful blindness on climate change; wilful obstruction of the renewable energy industry; refusing to act on David Hicks, to name just some of the most egregious on the list.

And finally we have the threatened deportation of Mohamed Haneef, which amounts to tearing up the legal standards on which our society is based. That each of these was done by my Government is nothing short of scandalous. They have traduced this country's reputation, and for what? For nothing more than political expediency. Our society and the values we hold dear - values that are the very bedrock of a liberal, secular and just society - must be rescued from this evil crew. They must not be allowed to betray us any longer.

Lee Treanor, Mornington

Opposition in name only

SO WHERE'S Kevin Rudd while truth and the rule of law are being traduced and our democratic institutions undermined?

Oh, that's right, he's "in step" with John Howard - as he often is, since he got Kim Beazley's "me too" man as chief adviser. Hard to know if it's craven cowardice, misplaced expediency or basic stupidity, but he's now got no room to move and he's looking more and more like a tricky Howard clone. The role of the Opposition is as the name suggests, and for Rudd to declare he's "in step" with Howard, at any time, is a betrayal of his office.

John Laurie, Newport

What goes around . . .

## Letters &amp; emails

JOHN Howard says he is "not ashamed to say I inherited my mum's values: the Protestant work ethic, that if you work hard and if you're honest in your dealings with people, you will get your rewards" (Good Weekend, 21/7).

His wife, Janette, has said that her husband "wasn't into making firm commitments". A significant proportion of the Australian public have also been aware of this for years.

I can only hope that Howard does, in fact, get his just rewards.

Terry Reilly, Mount Waverley

Thanks for the out, Janette

I WAS texting while driving when a policeman pulled me over. I shoved the phone under the seat and when he asked me, I told him I wasn't texting and I would never text while driving.

After he pulled away my daughter in the back asked why I was texting after I told the policeman I wouldn't. I told her, "You talk about a whole lot of things when you're trying to convince people to do things but you don't go back and honour every single one of those unless you have made a firm commitment about it and John wasn't into making firm commitments."

Thank you, Mrs Howard, for the weasel words that get me an "out". Be proud.

Jason Helton, New Lambton, NSW

Run-down schools cause for despair

BUILD the school and they will come (Age, 23/7). If only we could! Over the past six years I've been a parent representative on my children's school council, one at an inner-city school and now a semi-rural school.

Both schools have excellent teachers, good programs and lovely kids. School council meetings are divided into two categories. The first is discussing how the school will take on board yet another State or Federal Government initiative. The initiatives are almost all very worthy and it's hard to say no and we rarely do.

The second is how to stop the school from falling down around our ears. At a recent parent-teacher interview, while parents were outlining the new reports and showcasing the children's extensive portfolios, the school flooded, lights went off and the heating failed. Amazingly, the teachers kept going, turning up the next day to teach in classes with sodden carpet, cold but not dispirited. The dilemma for us supporters of public school education - and remember, we are the majority - is that we don't like to complain too loudly as we don't want to contribute to the growing belief that state schools are somehow inferior.

But I am tired. Tired of teachers having to put a case to the council for funding for a heater in their room, irritated that every classroom in my children's school is a portable, embarrassed that experienced, dedicated and talented teachers' workplace is so poor.

But most of all I'm angry. Angry that governments have allowed state schools to fall into such serious states of disrepair that the current attempt to improve the fabric of our schools is too little too late.

To gauge politicians' commitment to public education is to ask them, where do they send their children?

Beth Parker, Riddells Creek

Straining relations

IS ISLAM now regarded as a virus? When trying to ascertain whether Dr Mohamed Haneef was Sunni or Shiite the investigating officer asked which strain he subscribed to (The Age, 23/7).

## Letters &amp; emails

A quick search through this newspaper found that in the sense of variety or type, the word "strain" has been used exclusively for viruses and cane toads.

One wonders about the reaction from Tony Abbott if anybody asked him what strain of Christianity he subscribed to, or what strain of Judaism does one associate with Joe Gutnick?

Sol Salbe, Maidstone

Palestine support?

AS A member of Australians For Palestine, it is really not surprising that Dora McPhee places her support of Hamas ahead of Fatah (Letters, 23/7).

She provides intellectual support for Palestinian terrorists and continues to lie about Israel's "apartheid" and "land theft".

In case Ms McPhee didn't notice, Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, so there is little "land theft" there. Ms McPhee's dream of a democratically run Hamastan is incredible: Hamas dreams of ridding Palestine of secular Palestinians and annihilating Israel.

If this is what it means to be an Australian For Palestine, then it is profoundly worrying.

Philip Ioannou, Paddington, NSW

Holidays should be child's play

WHAT has happened to the world that Catherine Deveny can say, "Trust me, kids are always bored at home" (Opinion, 18/7)?

Until recently, children longed for school holidays and for every minute of the freedom they had. To roam the streets, take up all sorts of hobbies, do just what they liked until tea time. Now newspapers publish holiday entertainments for parents to take their children to, and there are organised games and other forms of "school by other means".

Children's freedom is the time when they can develop the enterprise and initiative that Australia will need when they are adults. If society now has so much stranger danger and lack of places to play freely, and children lack construction toys and space for the hobbies of yesteryear, this is a high price to pay for overcrowding Melbourne. In the past children did not become bored - or they had to help with housework.

It could be worth balancing the media stable of young mums who imagine their complaints are universal and unsolved, with some more senior journalists who have known an earlier world as well.

Valerie Yule, Mount Waverley

Visionary Huxley

I HAVE just read a piece by Patrick White, in which he quoted Aldous Huxley from 1937. White noted it applied in 1983, and it would seem just as pertinent as we approach the 2007 federal election.

White quoted Huxley thus: "Closely associated with the regression in charity is the decline in men's regard for truth. At no period in the world's history has organised lying been practised so shamelessly, or, thanks to modern technology, so efficiently or so vast a scale as by the political and economic dictators in the present century. Most of this organised lying takes the form of propaganda, inculcating hatred and vanity, and preparing men's minds for war.

## Letters &amp; emails

"The principal aim of the liars is the eradication of charitable feelings and behaviour in the sphere of international politics. Technological advance is rapid, but without progress in charity, and awareness of the spirit undertones and needs of everyday life, it is useless."

Says White: "What was true in 1937 is even more pertinent in 1983.

"Ironical that the age which invented the lie detector should now be using the sincerity machine. If he were alive today Huxley might be greatly amused at the predictability of human nature."

Amen, Patrick.

Robert Vickers, Nyora

So much for the freedom to know

SINCE groups of lawyers seem to be setting themselves up as the apostles of freedom, it might be worth remembering the part the law has played in doing exactly the opposite.

The chief restrictions on free speech do not come from the government but from the laws of libel.

Investigative journalism is a risky business and many a book has been pulped because of a single error floating in an ocean of truth.

Court suppression orders may ensure that the public cannot discuss issues at the time when they are most significant.

In spite of the hysteria, as far as I know, no one has been charged with sedition.

If your children's playground is ridiculously unadventurous or your local community refuses to hold a fete, it is in part because of the fear of litigation.

The discovery of human rights is as likely to restrict what you can do as to enhance it.

The privacy laws bring endless annoyance and time-wasting without the advantages being in the least bit obvious.

It is cheats (often aided by accountants and lawyers) and not governments who force us into endless regulation.

The discovery of a loophole is not a triumph of freedom, but a reason why the rest of us will have to spend more time filling out tedious compliance forms.

Freedom is not indivisible as some people claim.

It is highly divisible, and we often bargain some away for the general good of society.

Aidan Sudbury, Mount Waverley

Migration, not asylum

I BELIEVE most people have no objection to giving haven to asylum seekers and refugees escaping from persecution, but not as an alternative means to seeking immigration.

If the danger of persecution no longer exists it is logical that they shall return home, relinquishing Australian citizenship.

Once home, if they prefer the Australian lifestyle they are free to apply for immigration like any other fellow countryman in that country. If not, they should agree to never set foot in their home country again, for they imply that the danger still exists. Legislation should include, as a condition of granting asylum or refugee status, that the applicant agrees to either repatriate when conditions return to normal or never to enter the country of origin again.

## Letters &amp; emails

This should apply even after naturalisation. That might be more effective than stopping them on the high seas.

Philip Wong, Mount Waverley

Some posers for Kevin Rudd

SOME questions, Mr Rudd. If only 15 per cent of "working families" belong to a union, why are 70 per cent of your shadow ministers former trade union bosses?

And really, how could an Australian government with this unbalanced representation ever act in the best interests of our entire community? When you talk about solving problems for working families, do you mean union-member working families or all working families? And what about non-working families?

How about a couple of statements from you on how you will solve the problems of non-union, non-working families?

Stephen Hartney, Highett

Power and justice

THE simple answer to your question, Robert Franzos ("Where is the outrage?", Letters, 23/7), is that we live in an abuser's paradise. Our civilisation works by being lenient or indifferent to those who abuse downwards on the hierarchical ladder. If we abuse upwards the case is different. (Isn't it, Glenn Wheatley?)

How much power we have over others determines our level of justice. If a police officer is killed there is an outcry, whereas when a young women is tortured and assaulted the abusers merely get home detention as their punishment.

Patrick Jones, Daylesford

Not detained

IN RESPONSE to the article "The trials of a good Indian son" by David Marr (Insight, 21/7), it is important to correct the record.

The story refers to a 29-year-old doctor, Mohamed Asif Ali, who was allegedly detained and vilified, and who could face five years in prison if he reveals what happened to him while in custody. He was not detained as alleged. He volunteered and was interviewed by the AFP and was free to leave at any time while assisting the police.

This man would face no penalty for speaking about his experience.

Commissioner Mick Keelty, Australian Federal Police

## Graphic

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CARTOON BY TANDBERG

**Load-Date:** July 24, 2007

## DEFINING TURKEY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 1, 2007 Sunday

FIVE STAR EDITION

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; THE NEXT PAGE; Pg. H-6

**Length:** 2189 words

**Byline:** Ronald H. Linden

### **Body**

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"From a very young age, I suspected there was more to my world than I could see . . ."

-- from the memoir "Istanbul" by Orhan Pamuk, 2006 Nobel Prize winner

The call of the muezzin at 4:30a.m. tells you that you are in a Muslim country. Beyond that, you are on your own, because Turkey defies categorization; it is, in fact, in a category of its own. It borders the European Union, the Caucasus and the Middle East. It has had full and even cooperative relations with Israel for many years but has recently hosted visits by the leaders of Syria and Hamas. Turkey has been a NATO member for more than 50 years but is not part of the European Union and has occupied a portion of a neighboring country since 1974.

Americans may know less about Turkey than about any other major ally. Even policy makers may not be sure what to make of a non-Arab Middle Eastern country that is both secular and Muslim, and that is 95 percent in Asia but has wanted for generations to become a part of Europe.

This month, historic elections in Turkey may reveal the extent to which Turkey still sees itself as secular and Western-oriented. Europeans will ponder once again where Europe ends. And Americans may have to reconsider how deep their commitment to democracy runs in a region where elections can produce regimes not to their liking.

#### **A DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS**

While most Baby Boom Americans learned about Turkey as the "sick man of Europe" in high school history, few of us knew how profoundly the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, had remodeled his nation. Among his most powerful bequests -- in addition to changing the alphabet, laws, customs and even forms of address -- was the separation of the government from Islam. This commitment to secularism has endured since the Turkish Republic was established in 1923, and the Turkish military has been its guarantor, intervening forcefully no less than four times since 1960 to prevent attempts at making the state more Islamic.

In 2002, with the policies of the center-left and center-right exhausted, an Islamic party, the Justice and Development Party (known by its Turkish initials, AKP) came to power. The prime minister, Recep Tayip Erdogan, had spent time in jail for Islamist activism, and some feared that he harbored a hidden Islamic agenda. The prime minister's attempt in 2004 to add adultery to the criminal code seemed to confirm this suspicion.



## DEFINING TURKEY

On the other hand, neither as mayor of Istanbul during the mid-1990s, nor as prime minister, has Mr. Erdogan pushed for Islamic rule. He has consistently voiced his commitment to secular governance and has presided over a period of vigorous economic growth, investor confidence and widespread (though unfinished) reforms designed to bring Turkish law and government in line with European norms.

This spring, with a comfortable majority in the Turkish parliament, the AKP also seemed set to name a new president, who in Turkey is elected by lawmakers. This did not happen, in part because the prime minister bungled by publicly floating himself as a candidate before settling on the current foreign minister, Abdullah Gul, and in part because of Mr. Gul. The foreign minister is well known in Europe, where he presents the AKP as a Muslim version of Germany's Christian Democrats, but he does not have the confidence of the military.

As in the United States, symbols are important in Turkish politics. Mr. Gul's wife, like the wife of the prime minister, wears a head scarf, signifying Islamic piety. To Pittsburghers with roots in East Europe, this adornment evokes images of kindly "babas" sneaking treats to their grandchildren. But in much of Europe and in parts of the Middle East, the wearing of head scarves signifies an assertive Islam that threatens both secular rule and the rights of women.

In Turkey, as in France, women are banned from wearing them in public schools -- a ban which was upheld by the European Court of Human Rights. Many Turks, including many in the military, worry that the AKP's real goal is revealed by those head scarves. "Remember Hitler was elected democratically," one Turk told me angrily while I was visiting Turkey last month.

To prevent the election of Mr. Gul as president, opposition members of parliament boycotted the vote, rendering it invalid in the judgment of the Constitutional Court. But the court itself was pressured by the military.

Near midnight on April 27, just before the court ruled, the military declared itself "a party to the debate" and warned that it would "carry out [its] duties stemming from laws to protect the unchangeable characteristics of the Republic of Turkey." But instead of sending tanks into the streets, the military made this not-very-subtle threat of a coup with a posting on its Web site.

Virtual though it may have been, the threat was taken seriously by the AKP. The prime minister called for new parliamentary elections but also moved to change the constitution so that the people could elect the president directly. This action was vetoed by the current president, Ahmet Sezer.

All this means that this month's elections will take place at an extremely tense time in Turkish politics. They likely will determine the composition of the parliament, the government and the presidency. And while they will express society's current view of Islam, they also will reflect the impact of changing demographics.

Recent economic changes have brought to prominence socially conservative middle-class entrepreneurs -- Turkish writer Soli Ozel calls them "market fundamentalists." These newly empowered regional elites are challenging Turkey's established powers in Istanbul and Ankara, whose influence has diminished because they were seen as corrupt, unresponsive and ineffective.

This leaves Turks on the horns of a dilemma. Supporting democracy means acknowledging the AKP's right to offer its choice as president and the subordination of the military to civilian rule, a bedrock democratic principle. But in the minds of many, the military is the only thing that keeps Turkey from becoming Iran. Recent huge demonstrations in the country featured the slogan, "Neither the Sharia [Islamic law] nor military coup." Many wonder how this can be achieved.

## WASHINGTON'S VIEW: WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?

During the Cold War, Turkey, which shared a long border with the Soviet Union, provided military bases and political support for most U.S. policy initiatives. After the collapse of the USSR, Turkey supported U.S.-led efforts against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1991 and against the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001.

## DEFINING TURKEY

But when the United States moved to invade Iraq and overthrow Saddam Hussein in 2003, Ankara refused to allow U.S. troops to use its territory to attack from the north. Turkey was worried then, as it is now, about the emergence of an autonomous Kurdish state in northern Iraq because it would exert a powerful pull on Turkey's 15 million Kurds, who have been pushing for full civil rights and greater economic investment.

Turkey's historical nightmare -- the carving up of the Turkish state -- may seem far-fetched. But a poll in 2005 found that two-thirds of Turks believe the Western powers would like to repeat their post-World War I attempt to divide the country into spheres of influence.

Even more troubling for the United States is another consequence of its "war on terror." When we were attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, and lost nearly 3,000 people, we sent armed forces halfway around the globe to destroy those who attacked us. In Turkey, more than 10 times that number of people have died in the fight against the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), many of whose members now operate out of northern Iraq -- from bases in the virtually independent U.S.-supported region right on Turkey's southern border.

The United States and the European Union have designated the PKK as a terrorist organization. But when Ankara threatens to attack PKK bases in Iraq, the United States argues against it because Turkish incursions might destabilize the one relatively peaceful part of the country.

Is there "An American Double Standard?" asks The Turkish Weekly. If the situation were reversed -- if terrorists were attacking us from Mexico and Spain asked us not to intervene -- would we listen?

The Turks have. So far.

Washington's view of Turkey's future also is heavily blinkered by its somewhat unrewarding experience with democracy in the Middle East -- in the Palestinian territories, for example, where elections allowed Hamas to come to power. When the EU clearly warned the Turkish military against involvement in the crisis over presidential succession, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice agreed. But almost immediately, elaborations by U.S. officials suggested that America was at least as concerned about preserving secularism in Turkey as it was about preserving democracy.

"What matters," said Matthew Bryza, deputy assistant secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, "is the organic life of democracy in Turkey, however it plays itself out, as long as it plays itself out in accordance with secularism and constitutionality."

## THE STAKES

What happens in Turkey in the next few months matters a great deal to its own people and to the United States and Europe.

Turkey is a country where the people are Muslim and the political system is democratic and tolerant. There is in Turkey a 25,000-member Jewish community, for instance. Turkey is a NATO ally and a potential member of the EU.

Turkey also sits astride one of the most strategic bodies of water on Earth, connecting the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean. Through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, more than 5,000 oil tankers move every year, bringing vital energy to Western markets. Nearly one-third of Russian oil exports, destined for Europe and the United States, travel this route. In addition, Turkey is traversed by what so far is the only non-Russian-owned pipeline that carries natural gas from the Caspian Sea to world markets. Turkey has no energy resources of its own to speak of. But, as real estate agents always say, what matters is "location, location, location."

By virtue of its complex geography, mixed identity, compelling past and uncertain future, this will be a momentous year for Turkey and for its relationship with the West. As Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk said of Istanbul, in Turkey there is more yet to be seen.

\* \* \*

## DEFINING TURKEY

## IS TURKEY IN EUROPE? OR WHAT?

Turkey's fate has always been closely intertwined with that of Europe. The Ottoman Empire once extended as far west as Budapest, and Ataturk's republican revolution was as much about keeping Turkey in Europe as it was about establishing a state free of religious control. When the European Economic Community, as it was then called, was coming together, Turkey applied to join -- that was in 1959. Over time, it achieved "associate" status, a free trade relationship and finally, in 2005, "candidate" status to join what is now the much larger European Union. But it still is not a member.

After the revolutions in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s, eight former communist countries joined the EU ahead of Turkey -- including two with weaker economies. The Erdogan government has adopted extensive reforms -- abolishing the death penalty, for example -- in an attempt to satisfy the Europeans, but the response has been delay after delay.

Recent polls in Turkey show support for the EU at roughly half of what it had been. Many Turks fear that whatever else the EU might say, the real reason Turkey remains a non-member was revealed by former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who famously dismissed Turkey as "not a European country." This provoked derision from Turks who noted that Cyprus -- a full EU member -- lies 400 miles east of Istanbul. Proposals by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for a "privileged partnership" are received by Turks the way Western Pennsylvanians viewed US Airways' designation of Pittsburgh as a "focus city" instead of a hub. They don't buy it.

Europe's response is undoubtedly complicated by its tense and sometimes violent relationship with its rapidly growing Muslim minorities. The prospect of Turkish membership forces Europeans to consider whether the EU should remain a club of predominantly Christian nations.

Cyprus also remains a major obstacle. A former British colony, Cyprus was the target of an attempted coup in 1974, sponsored by the military government then ruling Greece. Turkey landed some 40,000 troops in the Turkish northern part of the island and created a separate state, recognized by no one else. The state, and the troops, remain, with Greek Cypriots governing the rest of the island.

When Cyprus applied to join the EU in 2004, the Europeans supported a U.N. unification plan which Ankara and the Turkish community on Cyprus supported but the Greek community rejected. The EU admitted Cyprus anyway, promising not to leave the roughly 100,000 Turks on the island isolated. But little has been done and Turkish refusal to deal with the Greek Cypriot government means that Turkey's movement on the road to EU membership remains at a standstill.

## Notes

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Ronald H. Linden is a professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh ([linden@pitt.edu](mailto:linden@pitt.edu)). He recently visited Turkey on a research trip supported by the university's European Union Center of Excellence.

## Graphic

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: Stacy Innerst/Post-Gazette:

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## DEFINING TURKEY

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**Comment & Debate: These moderates are in fact fanatics, torturers and killers: The longer the US and Britain back dictatorial regimes in the Middle East the more explosive the region will become**

The Guardian - Final Edition

February 6, 2007 Tuesday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES ; Pg. 28

**Length:** 908 words

**Byline:** Mai Yamani

## **Body**

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Politicians, especially in times of geopolitical deadlock, adopt a word or a concept to sell to the public. In 1973, at the peak of cold-war tensions, the US secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, coined the term "detente". Such words gain a currency and become useful political tools to escape policy quagmires. As the Middle East lurches from crisis to crisis, Tony Blair, George Bush and Condoleezza Rice compulsively repeat the word "moderates" to describe their allies in the region. But the concept of moderate is merely the latest attempt to market a failed policy, while offering a facile hedge against accusations of Islamophobia and anti-Islamic policies.

Western leaders have simply chosen a few Arab rulers they believe are still saleable to western audiences. And, as the word moderate has been repeated by western leaders and echoed in the international media, these rulers have begun to believe their own billing. But who are they, and are they moderate? Their selection has been fluid at the periphery but solid at the core. Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt clearly qualify, whereas Syria, an ally during the 1990-91 Gulf war, was once at the periphery but fell out of step with US interests after 9/11. Likewise, after the death of Arafat and the victory of **Hamas**, Fatah became moderate, while Iran, moderate under the shah, became "radical" after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

This minuet of political marketing may play well in the west, but not in the Arab world, where the double standards and manipulation are all too plain to see. The Saudi Wahhabis are, after all, fanatics; Egypt's Hosni Mubarak is intolerant of dissent; and Jordan, the state closest to the western ideal, is a marginal player. These countries' appalling human rights records, lack of transparency and repression rank them among the world's least moderate. Is there such a thing as a "moderate public beheading"? For the US and UK governments there clearly is, because all departures from the ideals of liberal democracy and social justice are rooted in "tradition". Hence bribes, beheadings and the oppression of **women** and minorities are traditional, and because whatever is traditional is not radical, it must be moderate.

Nothing, it seems, is more moderate than inertia. So inertia pays. Egypt has received an average of \$1.3bn a year in military aid from the US since 1979, and \$815m a year in economic assistance. Saudi Arabia relies on oil revenues and the international legitimacy provided by membership of such moderate bulwarks as the WTO and the IMF.

But at home, all other hallmarks of moderation are missing. Amnesty International describes Saudi Arabia as a country where "there are no political parties, no elections, no independent legislature, no trade unions . . . no

Comment & Debate: These moderates are in fact fanatics, torturers and killers: The longer the US and Britain back dictatorial regimes in the Middle East the mor....

independent judiciary, no independent human rights organisations. The government allows no international human rights organisations to carry out research in the country . . . there is strict censorship of media within the country, and strict control of access to the internet, satellite television and other forms of communication with the outside world."

Likewise, Human Rights Watch's report on Egypt describes Mubarak's government as using a "heavy hand against political dissent in 2006. In April 2006, the government renewed emergency rule for an additional two years, providing a continued basis for arbitrary detention and trials before military and state security courts. Torture at the hands of security forces remains a serious problem." Amnesty's report on Egypt concurred: "Torture continued to be used systematically in detention centres . . . Several people died in custody in circumstances suggesting that torture or ill-treatment may have caused or contributed to their deaths."

The use of moderate to describe such leaders is necessary to mask the death of Bush's "freedom agenda" in the Middle East, with its lofty goal of regionwide democratisation. Indeed, Rice's visit to Egypt in January emphasised the word moderate and completely ignored the word democracy.

The moderates are not democrats, but they are politically useful because of what else they are not: they are not Persian and not Shia, not defiant and not able to act independently of the US. They are moderate only because they do not need to be more radical to achieve absolute power. Mubarak already exercises it, and the al-Sauds are satisfied with the current level of fanaticism in the kingdom. Some are armchair jihadis, but their Islamism serves only to prop up their domestic legitimacy.

What the moderates do need is continued western military and financial cover. So they remain ideological stalwarts. If communism was the enemy of the US, then it was their enemy. If Shia Iran is America's enemy today, it is also the enemy of America's moderate allies.

The relationship with the west is a two-way street. The Saudis invest billions in the US, buy weapons they don't need or cannot use, and provide a thriving market for western goods. But, like Mubarak, the Saudi rulers are old and on the defensive against their own people. The more the US shelters them, the more their legitimacy erodes. And the longer Washington and London prolong the state of denial with the help of pithy and amorphous buzzwords, the more explosive the Middle East will become.

Mai Yamani is author of *Cradle of Islam*, and *Changed Identities: The Challenge of the New Generation in Saudi Arabia* [myamani@btinternet.com](mailto:myamani@btinternet.com)

**Load-Date:** February 6, 2007

## 'Independent' readers give more than £300,000; CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2006

The Independent (London)

February 12, 2007 Monday

Fourth Edition

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# The INDEPENDENT

**Section:** HOME; Pg. 6

**Length:** 944 words

**Byline:** Paul Vallely

## Body

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People can cry, said the writer James Baldwin, much easier than they can change. But in recent weeks, readers of this newspaper have done a little of both.

Yesterday we got the total of this year's Independent Christmas Appeal. Our readers raised £329,812 for three charities working among the forgotten people of Gaza and in situations of human crisis across the globe. It was the highest amount the appeal has raised in any year, bar one.

It was a response of significant generosity. Two readers sent in gifts of £5,000, and as many as 25 sent in £1,000 a head. Some 200 people sent in between £200 and £500 each. This was all in addition to the £114,000 raised by our auction of services by Independent writers. The average donation was an extraordinary £80, which our three charities - Merlin, the Welfare Association and Anti-Slavery International - say is far above the usual levels of generosity of the British public.

We also know from the letters and phone calls which accompanied the donations how touched you were by the appeal's reports on projects to assist children psychologically damaged by living in the Gaza conflict zone, to help women in the worst place in the world to have a baby, Afghanistan, or to extract impoverished Indian workers from the bonded labour traps in which they have been caught by the latter-day equivalent of the slave-masters of old.

"We have been overwhelmed with some of the wonderful responses we have received from people by telephone, post and email - genuinely warm and concerned," says Caroline Qutteneh, the director of the Welfare Association, which works with disadvantaged Palestinians.

But your responses were also clear in their understanding that real change comes about only when individuals decide they will not put up with an iniquitous status quo.

The appeal raised, on a number of occasions, the problems of those trapped by contemporary people-traffickers. We highlighted the campaign by Anti-Slavery International to get Britain to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, which ensures minimum standards of protection and support for

## 'Independent' readers give more than £300,000 CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2006

people trafficked into forced labour - and which New Labour was resisting signing for fear of antagonising the Daily Mail anti-immigrant lobby.

Since our campaign, Downing Street has announced that Britain will finally join 30 other countries in signing it. "The Independent can take a good deal of the credit for that," says Aidan McQuade, director of Anti-Slavery International. "And we have taken lots of calls from citizens advice bureaux, policemen, trade unions and other key actors who come into contact with the trafficked people, all quoting the Independent appeal, and drawing our attention to some cases that they find particularly found worrying."

The appeal has borne other fruit. In two weeks work will start on a new sewerage system in Gaza in an area, highlighted by our reports, where the underground aquifers are depleted by excessive extraction by Israeli settlers and which have become contaminated by seeping human excrement - and where the US government has cancelled a major sanitation project in protest at the Palestinians election of a ***Hamas*** government.

The project will be administered by the Welfare Association and funded by a Euro 250,000 grant from the European Commission.

There are hopes that the appeal will impact on the outcome of a meeting of Western government donor nations in Liberia this week. The gathering will be addressed by Merlin, which will outline its experience - reported in the appeal - of rebuilding health centres in four Liberian counties.

"It is imperative the donors understand that now is the time to increase aid, not reduce it," said Carolyn Miller, director of Merlin. "Otherwise much of our good work will be undone. As the President of Liberia, Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, said in her interview with The Independent, this is crunch time for the country."

There is another poignant quotation about how the world can be made a better place. It comes from Mahatma Gandhi. "You must be the change you wish to see in the world," he said.

Over the past few weeks this newspaper and its readers have taken some small action to making that wish a reality.

### Our chosen charities

MERLIN, the medical aid charity, was set up in an office in the spare bedroom of a London house, from which it organised its first mission: a convoy bound for war-torn Bosnia carrying food and medicines. Since then it has grown and its work has expanded to cover all aspects of medical aid. It has worked in 37 countries including Liberia, where it has rebuilt clinics and hospitals; Kenya where it is treating malnourished children and on the front line in Darfur. [www.merlin.org.uk](http://www.merlin.org.uk)

THE WELFARE ASSOCIATION is a small British charity which supports projects in the West Bank, Gaza and in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Its work includes emergency medical care, disability rehabilitation, IT training, pre-school education, art workshops and a children's club. It replants orchards and olive groves and supports farmers who have lost land. It also rebuilt electricity supplies in Gaza's overcrowded Jabalia refugee camp. [welfareassociation.org.uk](http://welfareassociation.org.uk)

ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL, founded in 1839, is the world's oldest international human rights organisation and the only charity in the UK to work exclusively against slavery and related abuses. It works at local, national and international levels by lobbying governments and working with local organisations to raise public awareness of slavery. Among its concerns are child domestic labour, forced labour and the trafficking of people. [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org)

**Load-Date:** February 12, 2007



## *U. Nebraska prof analyzes effects of children's deaths on Israeli families*

University Wire

January 17, 2007 Wednesday

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**Dateline:** LINCOLN, Neb.

### **Body**

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Because the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians continues to be a divisive issue in the Middle East, University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor Doug Abbott recently traveled to Israel to study the effects of violent deaths of children on both Israeli and Palestinian families.

Abbott, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of family and consumer sciences, lived in the Israeli city of Haifa on a Fulbright Foundation Scholarship during the fall semester of 2006. It was not his first time in the region, as he had previously spent a year in the United Arab Emirates at Zayed University teaching Muslim students. He has also lived in Pakistan and India.

Abbott's project consisted of interviews with 10 Israeli families and 25 Palestinian families, studying the impact of political and religious violence on the families. While Abbott was unable to interview the Palestinian families because of safety reasons, a Palestinian social worker conducted the interviews in the West Bank.

Julie Johnson, the chairwoman of the family and consumer sciences department, said the department wants to assist families through research.

"One goal of the university is to create new knowledge about families across the world," she said. "Our world gets smaller as we learn about other people."

Johnson said the exchange and discussion Abbott offers in his diverse families class is important for UNL students to better understand the world.

Abbott gave several examples from his study of children who had been killed.

He told the story of Abigail Litle, a Jewish girl who was riding the bus home from school when a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated a bomb on the bus, killing 17 children, including Abigail.

He also told the story of Yusef, a 14-year-old Palestinian boy who was sitting on the roof of his house when Israeli soldiers walked past. The boy threw a rock at them in protest. He didn't hurt anyone, but a few hours later, one of the Israeli soldiers came back, waited for Yusef to come out again and shot him through the eye with a rubber-tipped bullet and killed him.

"The Palestinians think the Israelis are terrorists, but the Israelis ... think the Palestinians are the terrorists," Abbott said. "The cycle of violence just continues. When the Palestinians kill an Israeli, the Israelis retaliate in some way by

## U. Nebraska prof analyzes effects of children's deaths on Israeli families

making life more difficult in the West Bank or by actually targeting Palestinian militants. But when they do these things, most of the time civilians are killed.

"It depends on how you view it. The Israelis see it as self-defense, but the Arabs view it as aggression and war against them."

The violence continues for many reasons -- external and internal, Abbott said.

Internally, they include corrupt Arab political and religious leadership in the form of Hamas, Muslim hatred of the Jews and jihadist ideology based on the Islamic religious texts of the Quran and the Hadith. They also include the Muslim revisionist history of Palestine in which Muslim children are taught that Israel doesn't exist as well as the poverty that persists in parts of the Arab world.

Abbott said he believes the internal problems are correctable but ignored by the Palestinians, who instead blame Israel and the U.S. for their problems.

Also, Israeli Jews persist in building settlements in the West Bank, sometimes legally, but often by stealing the land, which perpetuates the hatred of the Palestinians toward the Jews. The "fence," a concrete wall roughly 25 feet high that the Israelis are building, is being placed mostly on Palestinian land, fueling the hatred.

There are also external reasons for conflict, such as the U.S. meddling in Middle Eastern societies, wars on the Islamic countries of Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan and U.S. economic and military support of Israel, Abbott said.

Abbott compiled the reactions of the families he interviewed in a report he calls "Fractured Families."

In the study, Abbott looked at each family's response after the deaths of their children. For example, Abbott found that the initial emotional reaction of an Israeli family includes shock, disbelief and sadness. Israeli men bury themselves in work while the women mourn quietly and seek support from friends.

Palestinians also express shock, sadness and disbelief, but anger at Israel as well; yet some view the death of their child with pride because they believe their child has been martyred, he said.

Many times, the Israeli parents expressed regret that they would never be able to see their child or children again. Many Israelis are secular and do not believe in an afterlife.

Abbott said most Palestinians, on the other hand, were sure they would see their children again in heaven. Abbott told of one Palestinian woman who involved her children in radical groups that trained them to become martyrs. Many Palestinians believe martyred family members can intervene and secure a higher level in heaven for family.

The deaths of the children by crossfire, suicide bomb, gunshots from soldiers, fatal kidnapping or stabbing often either broke families apart or knit them more closely together in their grief. Both Palestinian and Israeli parents felt changes in their relationships with their spouses and in their parenting styles. The siblings of the dead children also changed.

Abbott concluded that the families on both sides have been profoundly affected by the deaths of their children. Many seek to help prevent the same from happening to others in their communities, but many do not.

Abbott said that, in his opinion, there is little chance for peace in Israel given the actions of both sides of the conflict.

"It's a real mess, and I don't see any hope for the resolution of this process."

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

## U. Nebraska prof analyzes effects of children's deaths on Israeli families

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**Islamic imperialism goes mainstream; Tariq Ramadan is often presented as the voice of moderate Islam. Behind his modern-sounding academic jargon, Christopher Hitchens sees something more sinister**

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**Section:** ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A16; Christopher Hitchens

**Length:** 894 words

**Byline:** Christopher Hitchens, Slate.com

**Dateline:** MANTUA, Italy

## **Body**

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MANTUA, Italy -Aliterary festival in the ancient capital city of Lombardy is as good a place as any other to survey the question of whether there is such a thing as "Western civilization" and whether it is worth defending. Here the poet Virgil was born, and here you can see the frescoes of Andrea Mantegna, painted for his feudal patrons the Gonzagas. But the great sacking of the city, which left Mantegna's work as almost the only surviving treasure, was undertaken by a Christian emperor. And it was here, in 1459, that Pope Pius II held a "diet" to proclaim yet another crusade -- this time against the Turks.

I had come here to defend atheism and secularism in general but also to have a debate with Tariq Ramadan, an Islamist academic domiciled in Geneva, who has emerged as the most sinuous and dexterous of the "interpreters" of Muslim fundamentalism to the West. He eventually declined our original debate, but there was nothing to stop me from attending his event and trying to restage our cancelled confrontation from the floor.

French author Caroline Four-est has made an intensive study of Ramadan's discrepant appearances in Europe and in the Muslim world, and has concluded that he speaks with a forked tongue and deliberately gives different impressions to different audiences. Having listened to him, I would say that the problem is not quite that. He possesses a command of postmodern and sociological jargon (of the sort that you may easily recognize by its repetitive use of the terms "space" and "discourse" to delineate the arena of thinkable debate), and he has a smooth way with euphemism.

Thus, he tells Egyptian television that the destruction of the Israeli state is for the moment "impossible" and in Mantua described the idea of stoning adulterous women as "unimplementable." This is something less than a full condemnation, but he is quick to say that simple condemnation of such things would reduce his own "credibility" in the eyes of a Muslim audience that, or so he claims, he wants to modernize by stealth.

His day-to-day politics have the same surreptitious air to them. The donations he made to Hamas were small gifts directed to the group's "humanitarian" and "relief" wing. He did not actually say that there was no proof of Osama bin Laden's involvement in the atrocities of Sept. 11, 2001; he only warned against a rush to judgment.

Islamic imperialism goes mainstream; Tariq Ramadan is often presented as the voice of moderate Islam.  
Behind his modern-sounding academic jargon, Christopher Hi....

In Mantua, he was trying to deal with the question of dual loyalty, as between allegiance to Islam and allegiance to the democratic secular European governments under which Muslim immigrants now choose to live. He redirected the question to South Africa, where, he said, under the apartheid system there was a moral duty not to obey the law. After sitting through this and much else, I rose to ask him a few questions. Wasn't it true that the Muslim leadership in South Africa had actually endorsed the apartheid regime? Wasn't it evasive of him to discuss the headscarf in France rather than the more pressing question of the veil or niqab in Britain? Wasn't it true that imams in Denmark had solicited the intervention of foreign embassies to call for censorship of cartoons in Copenhagen?

He gave quite a good reply on the Danish point, saying that the imams in question had been a minority and should not have received support from foreign governments. He completely dodged the question of the veil in Britain, ignored my request that he give any reason to believe that women were wearing it voluntarily, and he admitted that the Deobandi Muslim leadership in South Africa had indeed been a pillar of the old regime.

On the other hand, he added, some Muslims had been anti-apartheid, and these were the "real" ones. Indeed, on everything from stoning to suicide-murder to anti-Semitism, he argues that the problem is not with the "text" itself, or with Islam, but with misinterpretation of it. How convenient. Ramadan often relies on the ignorance of his Western audiences. He maintained that there was no textual authority for the killing of those who abandon their fealty to Islam, whereas the Muslim hadith, which have canonical authority, prescribe death as the punishment for apostasy in so many words.

When I went to Ramadan's event in the Palazzo d'Arco, I had just finished reading Osama bin Laden's latest anniversary prose-poem. Here, too, are signs of an act being cleaned up. He brags of the murders of Sept. 11, of course (thus inconveniencing all those who attribute them to Mossad or some mysterious other agency), but he does not forget to cite Noam Chomsky, CIA maverick Michael Scheuer and the Oliver Stone theory of the JFK assassination. Everything he says about the war in Iraq, right up to the affected concern for the civilian and military casualties, is presented as if he had hired one of Michael Moore's screenwriters as a consultant.

Most unctuous of all, he reminds his audience that the Koran has a whole section in praise of the Virgin Mary, an ecumenical point that I had noticed before. (It is typical of monotheisms to plagiarize each other's worst features, from Abraham onward.) I think that this pitch is probably too crude to work, but it's exactly the crudeness of bin Laden that require the emergence of more "credible" middlemen to allay anxiety and offer reassurance. Only six years on, and already the soft mainstreaming of Islamic imperialism is under way.

## Graphic

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Color Photo: Martin Bureau, AFP, Getty Images; Tariq Ramadan has emerged as the most sinuous and dexterous of the "interpreters" of Muslim fundamentalism to the West, writes Christopher Hitchens. ;

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2007

**Israeli settlement colonies on Palestinian lands, continue to expand;**  
**MIDEAST: Settlers Anchoring In**

IPS (Latin America)

August 20, 2007 Monday

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**Length:** 937 words

**Byline:** Nora Barrows-Friedman

## **Body**

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Near the convent, the Israeli settlement colonies of Gilo and Har Gilo, behind the wall on Palestinian lands, continue to expand over the rocky hillsides.

When this section of the wall is completed, several villages will be separated from each other and the greater Bethlehem area. But this is not an isolated incident these days in the West Bank.

A few kilometres east of the Cremisan convent and Bethlehem city, the small Palestinian village of Wadi Rahaal is facing extinction as a result of expanded Israeli settlement policy and the widening path of the wall.

'We are now surrounded by the settlement of Efrat,' Suha Ziyada, 22, one of the 750 residents of Wadi Rahaal tells IPS. 'They started constructing the wall several months ago...and the settlement is growing every day.' Efrat settlement colony, part of the Gush Etzion settlement bloc, currently houses approximately 9,000 settlers, including Israelis and immigrants from the U.S., Canada, South Africa, Britain and Russia.

The Efrat settlement colony website states that 'a garden city has blossomed in the Judean hills.' Yet one can see that large swaths of forest area and wilderness have been destroyed as the settlement grows, and settler-only roads cut the hillsides in half.

'This used to be a beautiful forest where we would go for picnics,' Ziyada tells IPS, pointing to a hill near her home. 'But now, it's been all cut down. The top of the hill is all gone. There used to be wildlife here, many different animals that would live in the forest. But they're all gone too.'

'We can't build any more houses in the village. The Israeli military prohibits any villager to expand their home and build on the land. A few months ago, (the Israeli military) destroyed three houses at the edge of the village because a settler complained to the military that he didn't want to see Arab houses from his window. So the military came in and destroyed the houses.'

Ziyada also tells IPS that the settlement practices collective punishment in many ways to eradicate the villagers from their land. 'The water supply comes from the settlement, so they control it. Last month, we didn't have running water for three weeks. They cut the water and said there was damage to the pipes, even though we knew it wasn't true.'

Last year, the Israeli military blocked every road but one in and out of Wadi Rahaal and installed a locking metal gate on the remaining road that imprisons the villagers every evening. The soldiers lock the gate at arbitrary times; there is no set schedule, and many residents find themselves unable to enter or leave their village at regular hours.

## Israeli settlement colonies on Palestinian lands, continue to expand MIDEAST: Settlers Anchoring In

‘The settlers enter Wadi Rahaal, they walk around to intimidate and frighten the villagers. They throw rocks at our heads and they are all armed. There are also Israeli helicopters that fly over the village very low. There are checkpoints all over the village,’ Ziyada says.

Just two weeks ago, Ziyada gave birth to a daughter, Mayar. ‘I was scared to death to give birth during the closure. When I went into labour, the gate was closed and locked. We tried to go around through another road, but it was impossible. So my mother went to have a fight with the soldiers in the settlement. We have no hospital, no clinic in the village, so I had to go to the Bethlehem hospital.’

After hours of anxious waiting for an Israeli soldier to come and unlock the gate, Ziyada, in active labour during that time, was finally able to reach the hospital.

The anxiety of waiting for someone to unlock the gate was worse than the labour pains, she says. ‘That feeling kills you; not having the ability to control your own life and not having the ability to give birth in security. This is the situation of all the Palestinian women here. The pregnant women are all afraid of what will happen when we give birth.’

Meanwhile, the Israeli Interior Ministry has issued a report stating that the population growth of Israeli settlers is double that of the civilian population living inside the 1948 borders of Israel proper. The Ministry revealed that there are currently 275,156 settlers living in illegal settlements in the West Bank, a 5.45 percent growth from last year's census figure of 260,932.

The fact that settlers are continuing to colonise the West Bank is in direct contravention to international law. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention stipulates that ‘the occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.’

Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, leader of the Palestinian National Initiative, a party that places itself apart from both Fatah and Hamas, told IPS in an emailed comment that Israel is pushing forward with settlement expansion projects across the West Bank, which ‘immediately negates any possibility of a contiguous Palestinian state...these developments further support the PNI's long-stated claim that Israel has no intention of ending its occupation of Palestinian territory or abiding by international law. Rather, the Israeli government remains content with its goal of the continued illegal expropriation of Palestinian land.’

Ziyada says that she is afraid for her daughter's future. ‘Being a mother is a wonderful feeling -- but in this situation, it kills your dreams. Everyone wants to have a child, to provide them with the best life, but I can't take my daughter to the clinic when she is sick. I just think, what if she gets sick at night when the gate is closed, what shall I do?’ © 2007 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

**Load-Date:** August 20, 2007

**G2: Peace talks: What do young Palestinians and Israelis think about the chances of peace in the Middle East? Emine Saner joins four activists trying to find common ground at an unofficial summit in London**

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## **Body**

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Despite the freezing temperature of the London hotel room, the atmosphere is far from frosty. Israelis Yoav Sucary and Moran Avital are sitting next to Aya Hijazi, a Palestinian, and we are waiting for her colleague, Odeh Awwad. The four, who are youth leaders for an organisation called OneVoice, are here to give a series of talks at universities and to meet leaders and politicians.

They met in person only days ago. What is most striking is the optimism they share - that, and a sense of humour. When I stand in front of the closed door, Sucary warns me that Awwad, a strapping 25-year-old, is due to burst in and will knock me flying. "We don't want another victim of the Arab-Israeli conflict," he laughs. Sucary and Awwad, who have built up an odd friendship in the few days they have known each other, bonded, Awwad tells me, over football - Awwad supports Liverpool, Sucary follows Leeds. There have been a lot of arguments too. "But we can talk, we can have a laugh," says Awwad. "We don't have to love each other. He is my enemy and I am his enemy, but that doesn't mean we can't talk and try to come up with a resolution."

This is at the heart of OneVoice, which was set up four years ago, with offices in Tel Aviv and Ramallah. Its members might disagree on a lot, but OneVoice believes that as long as they have hope for a resolution they can try to find a way to get there. Although their Israeli and Palestinian staff seldom meet, "It is very inspiring to know that on the other side someone else wants the same thing as you do," says Avital, a 28-year-old student. OneVoice tries to empower the moderate majority - through community and youth meetings, and campaigns to get people out to vote, for example - who want conflict resolution. It is not, of course, going to be easy.

The four who have come to London have different experiences of the conflict, but all have been touched by it. In 1992, Sucary, who now runs a beverage company, was working in Jaffa when a member of **Hamas** attacked a group of high-school students in front of him. "He came at them with a knife and started stabbing them. He killed two," he says. Avital was at the 1995 peace rally when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by an Israeli hardliner. She has always been active in the peace movement, but admits she has difficult feelings about the Palestinians. "When you grow up being frightened, as a direct result of that they seem to be very threatening," she says. "It feels nice to meet Aya and Odeh. It's complicated, but it's interesting."

Sucary and Avital are the first Israelis Awwad has met with whom he can have a conversation. "The only Israelis I have met until now have been settlers in their cars or soldiers pointing guns at me or asking for my ID," he says. Awwad grew up and lives near Ramallah, where he works for a bank. When he was growing up, he says, he threw



G2: Peace talks: What do young Palestinians and Israelis think about the chances of peace in the Middle East?  
Emine Saner joins four activists trying to find co....

stones at passing Israeli settlers; he was once hit in the leg by a rubber bullet. "All I've seen around me is killing and humiliation."

So why did he stop - why didn't he join one of the more militant groups? "Throwing stones was a way to release my aggression and frustration and it was helpful to me at that time. What stopped me was realising that violent acts aren't going to get us anything, but as long as Israel doesn't put on the table a timetable, a plan towards resolution, there will be more youngsters getting involved in militant acts."

His colleague, Hijazi, is 20 and also lives in Ramallah. Her house has been under fire several times and she remembers her father dragging her out of bed and throwing her on the floor so she wouldn't be hit. She joined because she wanted to do something more than shout at settlers and throw stones at soldiers. "I saw OneVoice as more practical and pragmatic than other organisations," she says. "It's about empowering ordinary people, especially women and young people, and getting out there and talking to them. We're not a bunch of peace activists talking amongst ourselves."

OneVoice says it is different from other peace organisations because it has offices on the ground working with both communities. More than 1,800 people have been through the leadership training and a quarter of a million have signed up to their mandate. The plan is to turn it into a mass civil movement. But can talking change anything? "If we stopped working on this, then nothing will change," says Awwad. "If I know that 2% of the Israeli population is with me, I will work to make it 5% or 50%. Give me a viable land and I have no problem accepting a state of Israel living next to me." OneVoice did a poll, and 76% of Palestinians and Israelis said the same \*

The four youth leaders are giving a public talk at the London School of Economics tonight. [onevoicemovement.org](http://onevoicemovement.org)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2006