

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:06:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223445369

Documents (100)

1. Songs of lost innocence

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

2. The Rule of Law

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

3. Egyptian tremors

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

4. Irish woman freed by Egyptians after Gaza visit due home soon

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

5. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

6. Israel is suppressing a secret it must face

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

7. Gaza goes unnoticed by candidates

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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Sep 30, 2008

8. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

9. Emergency supplies trickle into Gaza Strip; Reduction in rocket attacks cited for move

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

10. Israeli undercover troops kill 4 militants

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

11. Gaza goes unnoticed by candidates

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

12. Wiesenthal Center to urge UN to declare suicide bombings a 'crime against humanity'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

13. Gaza goes unnoticed by candidates

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

14. Fatah linked to suicide bombing; Israeli Killed; Second bomber with 'twitching' hand shot dead

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

15. Breaking bread

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

16. Tell Abbas to stop educating for war

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

17._Time to face the threat from Iran

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

18. As order slides, Palestinian women face honor killings

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

19. The Two Israels

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

20. THERE ARE MULTIPLE ISRAELS OUR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SHOULD SUPPORT THE ONE THAT SEEKS JUSTICE, DECENCY, FAIRNESS AND PEACE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Sep 30, 2008

21. The two Israels

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

22. Getting in the way of Mideast strife When Israeli soldiers raided an orphans' workshop in Hebron, an ex-

High Park principal bore witness

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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Sep 30, 2008

23. NEWS IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

24. Forum draws Qa'ida-curious; Deputy expected to answer online queries

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

25. The once and future child murderer

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

26. IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

27. Doom & gloom

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

28. INSIDE THE TIMES, JULY 27, 2008

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

29. DOOM & GLOOM

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

30. Comment & Debate: As it turns 60, the fear is Israel has decided it can get by without peace: This nation was forged in refuge, not imperialism. But its people have grown cynical about hopes for a deal with Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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31. Missiles fired to kill Israeli civilians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

32. Prisoners freed in gesture to Abbas

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

33. Quebec 's double standard

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

34. FAST NEWS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

35. What we're facing is 'genocidal terror'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

36. Shooting `won't sway' Israel - Palestine talks

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

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

37. FAST NEWS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

38._Trapped hunter ate rotting meat to live

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

39. NEWS IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

40. World Digest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

41. Livni's disappointed rival to quit politics KADIMA BOMBSHELL

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

42. Anger in Israel over release of killers

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

43. Invading Zim would cause chaos

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

44. Our readers' views

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

45. Four dead in bulldozer rampage of terror

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

46. Backing Ken, the Muslim who praised suicide blasts

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

47. Bin Laden tape lauds Iraq insurgency; Scorns Arab leaders who back U.S.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

48. Galway woman on humanitarian mission still being detained in Egypt

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

49. Jerusalem Arabs fear Israeli retaliation for massacre

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

50. Fisk 'fiddles' the truth

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

51. Israel frees killers; sparks anger

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

52. <u>Bush criticizes only Iran by name; DEmocracy push. Calls for reforms to transform life from Morocco to Pakistan</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

53. ANOTHER FUN YEAR AROUND THE WORLD

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

54. The view from Jebl Mukaber

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

55. OUR WOMAN IN PALESTINE .. EXCLUSIVE DIARIES OF MIRROR 1940S WAR REPORTER BARBARA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

56. Boring but important

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

57. HIL MAKES A MOUNTAIN OUT OF W. VA.; Bam thanks God for a country boy



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

58. <u>Guardian Weekly: Israelis are choosing a bubble existence: After 60 years the song of peace has been</u> muffled by cynicism and distance

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

59. 'Samaritans' caught in Gaza crossfire appeal for help

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

60. Scores killed in Gaza raids: Civilians and children die in Israeli attacks: Observer uncovers block on seriously ill patients being treated abroad

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

61. US policy vacuum on Pakistan

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

62. Rice imposes new round of sanctions against Iran

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

63. You will be blown away by the Jewvenile humour

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

64. Digest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

65. <u>Comment & Debate: Promotion of clients and stooges will get us nowhere: If the aim is to reduce the terror</u> threat and boost integration, boycotts of mainstream Muslim events are no help at all

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

66. Digest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

67. News in brief

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

68. Abbas accuses Israel of 'ethnic cleansing'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

69. Magazine Stand

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

70. Readers Write

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

71. 'Ask Zawahri' web forum draws al-Qaeda-curious

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

72. A just dilemma

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

73. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

74. Bush takes anti- Iran push to Saudis Today's visit follows key speech in Abu Dhabi

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

75. I'm an Iron Lady, Livni tells Israelis

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

76. MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED Tour did little for Middle East peace or the isolation of Iran Bush leaves

empty-handed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

77. Feature - Children of Gaza As Israel threatens holocaust in Gaza, Felicity Arbuthnot is left haunted by the

brutal onslaught that has alreadytaken place

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

78. The first thing leaders need to do

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

79. Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait, meets leaders

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

80. Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait, meets leaders

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

81. Israeli novelist, journalist to speak here

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

82. FIRST INDO- AFGHAN MUSIC ALBUM SHOT IN AMRITSAR

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

83._INSIDE THE TIMES

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

84. Whither Israeli Arabs?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

85. A story of an unlikely friendship

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

86. 'Honour killings' escalate in West Bank

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

87. Bush upbeat on Mideast prospects

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

88. Foreign attaches come within Kassam range at Yad Mordechai Holocaust museum

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

89. Supporter of suicide bombs backs Red Ken

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

90. Tibi calls Holocaust 'the worst crime against humanity' as politicians read out names of dead

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

91. Sunday - Pay TV

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

92._Tiny protesters lament Gaza bloodshed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

93. Tiny protesters lament Gaza bloodshed

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

94. News in brief

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

95. Democracy: fragile seeds that fall on stony ground

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

96. THEN & NOW: THE STORY SO FAR It was created from the ashes of the Holocaust, and grew into one of the most confident (and controversial) nations in history. Today, as Israel turns 60, its people's hopes for a peaceful future are as delicately poised as ever

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

97. The Obama -Bush presidency

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

98. The US strategy for Afghanistan won't work

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

99. On NYTimes.com

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

100. Palestinian plows into traffic with earthmover

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Songs of lost innocence

Canberra Times (Australia)

May 8, 2008 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. 19 Length: 1235 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

In the wee small hours on Israeli television, they show reruns of what was once a staple form of mass entertainment: kibbutz choirs the men in pressed work shirts, the <u>women</u> in peasant skirts singing Hebrew folk melodies exalting the Land of Israel, while a smiling audience joins in.

The pictures were black and white, the sets cardboard, and the programs interminable a socialist-realist tableau of a simple farming nation engaged in wholesome, patriotic amusement.

Visiting Israel last month, I sat transfixed when I stumbled across the public service channel that replays those old shows. The national celebrations will be more up to date, as Israel marks its 60th anniversary with street parties and beach barbecues this week. Yet if the world is watching, trying to understand the place Israel was and what it has become, it could do worse than start with those cheesy TV specials.

For one thing, too many critics like to depict the establishment of Israel in May 1948 as little more than an act of Western imperialism, inserting an alien, European enclave into the mainly Arab and Muslim Middle East.

In this view, the Jewish Israelis of today, with their swimming pools and waterside restaurants, are no different from their counterparts in other settler societies the whites of Australia or, more painfully, South Africa. A look at the faces of Jewish Israel is one easy rebuttal: the new nation that has formed by mixing Moroccan and Russian, Ethiopian and Kurd, is one of the most ethnically diverse in the world. But there is a more substantial counterargument, one that can be picked up even on those old TV singalongs.

A favourite in the patriotic repertoire is Ein Li Eretz Acheret (I Have No Other Land). In a way, no other sentence conveys the tragedy of Israel and Palestine more concisely because of course, and with good reason, the Palestinians feel exactly the same way. They too have nowhere else.

Yet this Zionist anthem articulates something very deep in Israelis' sense of themselves: they are a nation formed by those who had no other place to live. The Holocaust, inevitably, looms large in this: the establishment of a Jewish state just three years after the liberation of Auschwitz was no coincidence. After 2000 years, the world was finally persuaded that the Jews deserved what every other people regarded as a basic right: a place of their own.

A poignant reminder that Jews really had no other place because the rest of the world did not want them came with the death last month of Yossi Harel, captain of the Exodus, the leaking, rusting ship that carried 4500 Holocaust

Songs of lost innocence

survivors from Europe to Palestine in 1947, only to be sent back by the British first to France and then, incredibly, to Germany.

This must give the Israeli experience a different texture to the founding of New Zealand, Argentina or the United States. Those enterprises were fuelled chiefly by ambition and appetite for material resources. Even if those who landed on Plymouth Rock were fleeing religious intolerance, the circumstances of America's pioneers were not those of Jews in the 1940s.

The moral difference between the Jews and the white settlers of America, Africa and Australasia is the difference between a homeless man who needs a roof over his head and the landowner who fancies a second home. Those who lazily brand Zionism as imperialism should be able to tell the difference and to remember that those who boarded those battered ships felt less like imperialists than refugees desperate for shelter.

The old TV shows provide another, related corrective. They are a reminder that in some ways early Israel was less Rhodesia than it was East Germany, a small country with socialism as the state religion. Back in the 1970s, all Israeli floors looked the same: the tiles were mass produced and there was only one style. Every toilet seat was made by a single kibbutz. Foreign investors were told they were welcome so long as they were happy to sell a 51 per cent stake in their company to the Histadrut, Israel's trade union council.

That collectivism is all but gone.

Most of the kibbutzim have privatised: individual members now own their own houses and earn different wages from each other. The kibbutz was never Israel, but it stands as a metaphor for what is happening in the wider society.

Israel itself is privatising, as its people withdraw from the collective sphere and retreat into their own, individual lives. Many speak of the bu'ah they construct for themselves, the bubble in which they can hide away from the fears and angst of Israel's "situation". Polling reveals the dichotomy: while nearly 40 per cent believe the country faces a "serious threat of destruction" from its neighbours, around 83 per cent are "satisfied or very satisfied" with their own lives.

All of which has a bearing on the other meaning of this week's anniversary. The US Administration has set the date as a deadline for Israelis and Palestinians to show some progress in the talks launched at Annapolis last November, ahead of President Bush's visit to the region next week.

Israel insists that it is straining every sinew seeking peace, just as it has insisted for the past 60 years. I heard the Israeli foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, explain with pride last week that she has kept talking to her Palestinian counterpart, even "on days of terror".

Some of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's hawkish critics reckon the peace effort is, if anything, accelerating, in order to distract attention from the new, apparently serious, corruption inquiry just launched against him. And yet, there are few signs of a genuinely urgent Israeli desire for an accord with the Palestinians. The appearance of efforts for peace, in order to placate the legacy-hungry Bush, most certainly, but a fierce yearning for peace is harder to detect.

So when Jimmy Carter was in Jerusalem last month, carrying messages from Damascus and <u>Hamas</u>, no frontline Israeli minister would so much as meet him. Israel says it can't afford to legitimise <u>Hamas</u>, even indirectly, for fear of undermining the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas. Fine. In which case, surely, Israel would be doing all it could to bolster Abbas's credibility by, say, removing West Bank outposts deemed illegal under Israeli law, or offering compensation to those Jewish settlers ready to leave occupied territory voluntarily and return to Israel-proper. Yet Olmert has done no such thing.

In this, the PM is doing no more than follow the national mood.

Israelis have grown cynical about peacemaking. "We pulled out of Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza in 2005, and what did we get for our trouble?

Songs of lost innocence

Katyushas from Hezbollah and Qassams from Hamas. No thanks."

Besides, and few Israelis like to say this out loud, they believe they can get by without peace.

Thanks, they whisper, to the separation barrier or wall, terror attacks have dwindled: Palestinian violence is contained. As for the so- called demographic factor the notion that soon Jews and Arabs in the entire land ruled by Israel will reach numeric parity that feels abstract and far away.

Israelis will party tonight, celebrating an economy that enjoyed 5.1 per cent growth last year and which provides for many a good life.

Only a few insomniacs will watch the old shows and remember the long- ago melodies, including the one that sounds more passe{aac} now than ever.

It's called Shir L'shalom and it is the song for peace.

Guardian

Load-Date: May 7, 2008

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The Rule of Law

The New York Times
April 27, 2008 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section BR; Column 0; Book Review Desk; Pg. 18

Length: 1176 words

Byline: By DEXTER FILKINS

Dexter Filkins, a foreign correspondent for The Times, covered the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq from 2001 to 2006. His book, "The Forever War," will be published this fall.

Body

THE POLITICS OF CHAOS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Olivier Roy.

Translated by Ros Schwartz.

167 pp. Columbia University Press. \$24.95.

THE FALL AND RISE OF THE ISLAMIC STATE

By Noah Feldman.

189 pp. Princeton University Press. \$22.95.

Five years is a long time in the Middle East -- and especially the five that just passed. In early 2003, a barrel of oil cost \$30. A reform-minded president was at the helm in Iran. In Gaza, <u>Hamas</u> was a bunch of renegades. And a very brutal man was still ruling the region known historically as Mesopotamia.

The invasion of Iraq changed everything, if not directly; war, as Lenin said, can be the great accelerator of events. The Middle East is now in such extraordinary ferment that it is possible to imagine that the system of states carved out of the Ottoman Empire following World War I could collapse altogether.

Two new books by eminent scholars of the region offer different perspectives on the present crisis. It's a measure of how dire things are that neither one inspires much hope.

In "The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East," Olivier Roy, the research director at the French National Center for Scientific Research, takes the full measure of the state of the Middle East since the American invasion of Iraq. It's not a pretty picture. From Suez to Kashmir, the old categories have changed, or have begun to overlap. For starters, that old reliable -- the Arab-Israeli conflict -- has, in Roy's mind, passed the point of no return. "The conditions on the ground now make the creation of a viable Palestinian state impossible," he says.

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The region is now beset by armed movements, like <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah, that transcend national boundaries and pay little heed to the formal -- and invariably weak -- governments of the states where they reside. At the same time, conflicts within Islam are overshadowing the fights between states. Foremost among these is the emerging division between the Sunni and Shiite worlds, exemplified by the sectarian bloodletting in Iraq.

Behind the Sunni-Shiite conflict, of course, is the region's most troubling challenge -- that of an Iranian regime bent on challenging the status quo. With the rise of the Shiites in Iraq (enabled by the American invasion) and in Lebanon, the Iranian government is leading a fundamental reordering of the balance of power that is coming at the expense of the Sunni world -- so much so that hard-line Arab states like Saudi Arabia have even begun to move closer to Israel. "The day the United States bombs Iran," Roy says, "all the Arab capitals will protest, but more than one will be quietly jubilant."

Moving across the region, Roy asserts that entire ethnic groups, like the Pashtuns in Afghanistan and Pakistan, are becoming radicalized. And Iraq, he says, will almost certainly break apart. "Kurdistan is automatically heading towards independence," Roy writes. That doesn't mean America can leave Iraq anytime soon, Roy says -- doing so would inflame the Sunni-Shiite conflict across the region.

What is to be done? At only 167 pages, Roy's book provides a concise and penetrating summation of the current scene; it's a fine primer for anyone trying to get a sense of just how chaotic the Middle East is. But if you are looking for a way out of the quagmire, or even ways to manage the various catastrophes, you will not find much here. Roy impressively delineates the challenges, but doesn't say much about solving them. He excoriates the Bush administration for lumping all of Islam -- and all the Islamists -- into its war on terror, but half the editorial writers in America have done that. The most he can offer is a suggestion that the United States negotiate with Iran and *Hamas*. These are good ideas (and the United States is already talking to Iran about Iraq), but hardly ones likely to effect drastic change, if any at all.

Which brings us to Noah Feldman's "Fall and Rise of the Islamic State." The book begins in daring fashion, acknowledging the plight of the region and suggesting it might be saved by Islamic law. That's right: Shariah. "Just now, the Islamist promise of the rule of law offers the only prospect for meaningful political justice for many Muslims," he writes. "If it, too, fails, the alternative may well be worse."

Well now, that's a provocative assertion. At a glance, you might think Feldman, a professor at Harvard Law School, drew the most difficult card at a college debating tournament. But I have a personal interest: as a correspondent covering the Taliban in Afghanistan a decade ago, I witnessed a public execution and an amputation performed at the Kabul Sports Stadium on a Friday afternoon. "In revenge there is life," a voice called into the loudspeaker as the execution of a young man proceeded. (The announcer was reading from the Koran.) I saw the other tenets of Taliban Shariah in full flower as well, like the wholesale repression of <u>women</u>. I was eager to see how Feldman would pull off such a novel and unorthodox argument.

And he does not. Or not very convincingly, anyway. Feldman provides an interesting history of the Islamic legal system that prevailed over the Middle East and North Africa, including, in particular, the variant practiced by the Ottomans until the collapse of their empire following World War I. Feldman shows that, through a delicately balanced arrangement that relied on an unelected group of scholars to interpret the Koran and other religious texts, Shariah provided an orderly and predictable legal system that checked the power of the empire's rulers. And he shows how that system collapsed, thereby speeding the decline of the empire by removing checks on executive power.

But that was then, and this is now. In today's world Feldman's argument runs out of steam. How could it not? As Roy points out, modern attempts to impose Shariah have failed wherever they have been tried -- whether in Afghanistan or Saudi Arabia or Iran. Failed, that is, in Roy's words, at "instigating effective and legitimate political institutions and social justice, and guaranteeing economic development." Feldman is correct in pointing out that Islamist ideas will play an increasingly prominent role in the Middle East, but he avoids the critical questions. What about <u>women</u>? What about Muslims who leave the faith? Of these, Feldman says almost nothing.

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Maybe Shariah will save the Middle East. But based on the evidence we have, waiting for it to blossom into a humane and modern legal system is to engage in wishful thinking. Feldman seems to recognize this himself, and ends his book by calling on the West to help majority Muslim countries build "institutions that perceive themselves and are perceived by the public as committed to the rule of law." Nation-building, in other words. America and Europe are doing quite a lot of that already, in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. The chaos that engulfs both of those countries shows just how difficult it is for the rule of law to take hold, whether it's Islamic or not.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTO: A billboard cutout of the Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini near Baalbek, Lebanon, 2006. (PHOTOGRAPH BY LYNSEY ADDARIO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

Load-Date: April 27, 2008

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Egyptian tremors

The Jerusalem Post April 13, 2008 Sunday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 13

Length: 764 words Highlight: Editorial

Body

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak turns 80 next month. He assumed power 26 years ago, after Islamists assassinated Anwar Sadat for having made peace with Israel.

Egypt's political system remains weak on legitimacy. The liberal opposition, led by the Democratic Front Party, is in disarray. A leading reformist critic of the regime, Ayman Nour, is imprisoned.

Egyptians mostly ignored the April 8 local elections to fill 52,000 places on municipal and village councils. Seventy percent of the seats were earmarked for Mubarak's National Democratic Party because they were "uncontested." Mubarak's son, Gamal, happens to head the NDP.

Recalling the failed policies of the Shah of Iran, Mubarak has defeated the non-Islamist opposition, leaving the Muslim Brotherhood as the only credible voice of reform. This is the same toxic movement, founded in 1928, whose world-view spawned al-Qaida and <u>Hamas</u>. It wants Shari'a law imposed in Egypt and relations with Israel broken off. Prudently, the Brotherhood eschews violent revolution, patiently waiting for power to fall into its hands. Despite Mubarak's machinations, Brotherhood- supported "independent" candidates captured 20% of the 454- seat parliament.

Mubarak has stayed in power by making an implicit contract with Egypt's masses: We provide food, you keep your noses out of politics. That deal is now fraying.

Egypt is a vast country of some 76 million people, of whom 53% are under 24. Hope and economic prospects are in short supply; religion, however, is bountiful. Mosques are everywhere (one for every 745 people). Most <u>women</u> in Cairo, once a cosmopolitan city, now cover their hair.

Globalization, worldwide economic factors, even climate change have all conspired to make the temporal lives of average Egyptians more difficult. In recent weeks, labor and food riots have broken out in the Nile Delta industrial city of Mahallah-Al-Kobra. Two protesters were killed, 100 wounded and over 300 arrested. Opponents organized protests, using text messaging and even Web-based social networks to circumvent the state-controlled media. A nationwide one-day strike had been planned, but was ultimately stymied by the authorities.

Fearing the spread of rioting, Mubarak dispatched Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif to meet with workers at the stateowned weaving factory in Mahallah, which employs 25,000 people, and where the average monthly salary is \$34. And to appease the local opposition, Nazif granted it 15 seats in the municipal government.

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Six people have died since March waiting on bread lines, either from exhaustion or because frustration led to fighting. A piece of bread costs 5 piasters - about a US penny. Thirty million Egyptians depend on subsidized bread under a scheme that is riddled with corruption. Forty percent of Egyptians live under the \$2-a-day poverty line.

As an emergency measure Mubarak ordered the army to start baking bread.

Amr Elshobaki of the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies told The Washington Post last week that "The mood of the people is angry. I think it's near collapse, the state."

To address the larger crisis, the regime has halted the export of rice and cement for the next six months and continues to impose price controls on a wide range of commodities. Food is subsidized at a staggering \$13.7 billion annually.

Not everyone is suffering. The disparity between rich and poor is immense. Sales of some luxury cars are up 20 percent. The economy has grown 7%. The Cairo and Alexandria stock exchanges are up 40%. Foreign investment has surged to \$11 billion. Egypt's international reserves stand at \$30 billion; foreign debt is \$7.8 billion. Thousands of new companies are established every year. For its part, Washington contributes \$1.3 billion in military aid and a paltry \$200 million in economic assistance. More constructively, however, annual trade with the US stands at \$8 billion.

How well the regime feeds, clothes and employs its population, how swiftly it creates a civil society and system of representative government should be of foremost concern to Israel. Mubarak is mistaken in emasculating the moderate opposition, misguided in trying to "out-Islam" the Brotherhood by persecuting homosexuals. He is wide off the mark in allowing Egypt's media to demonize Jews and Israel. It took him too long to realize that letting <u>Hamas</u> bleed Israel was ultimately not in Cairo's interest.

But we who have an interest in a stable and flourishing Egypt understand the enormity of the challenges Mubarak faces. May he continue to enjoy good health, and be blessed with better judgment.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011

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Irish woman freed by Egyptians after Gaza visit due home soon

The Irish Times

February 12, 2008 Tuesday

Copyright 2008 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved **Section:** IRELAND; Other Stories; Pg. 8

Length: 279 words

Byline: Conor Lally and Lorna Siggins

Body

A Galway woman who travelled into Gaza last week to distribute charity relief has been released by the Egyptian authorities and is expected to return to Ireland in coming days.

Treasa Ní Cheannabháin (56), Barna, Co Galway, was detained on Thursday night after being permitted through the Egyptian border crossing at Rafah.

She was questioned about her visit and was only released from custody yesterday at about 4pm. Ms Ní Cheannabháin was expected to meet her Egyptian husband in Egypt last night and begin planning for their return to their home in Ireland.

The couple's daughter, medical student Naisrin Elsafty (19) and Ms Ní Cheannabháin's Egyptian niece, Seham Elhotty (26), were permitted to enter Egypt last Thursday because Ms Elsafty, who is Irish-Egyptian, had documentation and Ms Elhotty is an Egyptian passport holder. The three <u>women</u> had travelled together into Gaza last week to distribute some EUR 7,700 in Irish relief funds to Palestinian communities.

The <u>women</u> had initially been prevented from entering the territory by the Egyptian authorities, and had then travelled by taxi on back roads wearing full-length niquabs or Muslim dress.

Before her detention last Thursday, Ms Ní Cheannabháin, who is married to an Egyptian doctor Saber Elsafty, expressed concern about a humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

She said she had visited several hospitals where equipment could not be maintained and had also visited a survivor of an Israel air strike on a *Hamas* security compound, which killed seven men earlier this week.

Ms Ní Cheannabháin said she and her daughter and niece were representing the Galway branch of the Irish-Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Load-Date: February 12, 2008



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The International Herald Tribune February 4, 2008 Monday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 7

Length: 269 words

Body

Fida Qishta ("Light through the wall," Views, Jan. 31) is exemplary of many Palestinian <u>women</u> I have encountered. Despite grievous loss, living conditions that are intolerable by any standard and relentless hardships enough to drive anyone mad, she continues to strive to offer children hope for the future. The dedication of the people in Gaza and elsewhere, including the many Palestinian refugee camps, is amazing.

Associations work to guarantee health care, education, professional training, cultural activities, organized sports - the list is a long one indeed. But the people's needs are great. When your home has been destroyed, when your child is sick, when prospects for education and employment are dim at best, help from any quarter is welcome.

In this context, it is no surprise that some Palestinians support <u>Hamas</u>, because the party has a strong network of social aid. Why aren't wealthy nations doing more to support secular, grass-roots initiatives?

Sad to say, I do not share Qishta's generous belief that "if ordinary people in the U.S. and Europe knew" more about Palestinians, they would be more compassionate. Some don't care to know, some know and just don't care, and still others find advantage in the current state of affairs.

I do agree, however, that peace will come to the Middle East only when justice is achieved. Daniel Barenboim is perhaps the most eloquent international figure seeking peace and justice in the region; let us also praise <u>women</u> who are working to bring peace and justice to Palestine, one playground, one schoolroom, one clinic at a time.

Grace Coston, Bagnolet, France

Load-Date: February 18, 2008

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Israel is suppressing a secret it must face

The Independent (London)
April 28, 2008 Monday
First Edition

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. 30

Length: 1117 words **Byline:** JOHANN HARI

Body

When you hit your 60th birthday, most of you will guzzle down your hormone replacement therapy with a glass of champagne and wonder if you have become everything you dreamed of in your youth. In a few weeks, the state of Israel is going to have that hangover.

She will look in the mirror and think - I have a sore back, rickety knees and a gun at my waist, but I'm still standing. Yet somewhere, she will know she is suppressing an old secret she has to face. I would love to be able to crash the birthday party with words of reassurance. Israel has given us great novelists like Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua, great film-makers like Joseph Cedar, great scientific research into Alzheimer's, and great dissident journalists like Amira Hass, Tom Segev and Gideon Levy to expose her own crimes.

She has provided the one lonely spot in the Middle East where gay people are not hounded and hanged, and where **women** can approach equality.

But I can't do it. Whenever I try to mouth these words, a remembered smell fills my nostrils. It is the smell of shit. Across the occupied West Bank, raw untreated sewage is pumped every day out of the Jewish settlements, along large metal pipes, straight onto Palestinian land. From there, it can enter the groundwater and the reservoirs, and become a poison.

Standing near one of these long, stinking brown-and-yellow rivers of waste recently, the local chief medical officer, Dr Bassam Said Nadi, explained to me: "Recently there were very heavy rains, and the shit started to flow into the reservoir that provides water for this whole area. I knew that if we didn't act, people would die. We had to alert everyone not to drink the water for over a week, and distribute bottles. We were lucky it was spotted. Next time..." He shook his head in fear. This is no freak: a 2004 report by Friends of the Earth found that only six per cent of Israeli settlements adequately treat their sewage.

Meanwhile, in order to punish the population of Gaza for voting "the wrong way", the Israeli army are not allowing past the checkpoints any replacements for the pipes and cement needed to keep the sewage system working. The result? Vast stagnant pools of waste are being held within fragile dykes across the strip, and rotting. Last March, one of them burst, drowning a nine-month-old baby and his elderly grandmother in a tsunami of human waste. The

Israel is suppressing a secret it must face

Centre on Housing Rights warns that one heavy rainfall could send 1.5m cubic metres of faeces flowing all over Gaza, causing "a humanitarian and environmental disaster of epic proportions".

So how did it come to this? How did a Jewish state founded 60 years ago with a promise to be "a light unto the nations" end up flinging its filth at a cowering Palestinian population?

The beginnings of an answer lie in the secret Israel has known, and suppressed, all these years. Even now, can we describe what happened 60 years ago honestly and unhysterically? The Jews who arrived in Palestine throughout the twentieth century did not come because they were cruel people who wanted to snuffle out Arabs to persecute. No: they came because they were running for their lives from a genocidal European anti-Semitism that was soon to slaughter six million of their sisters and their sons.

They convinced themselves that Palestine was "a land without people for a people without land". I desperately wish this dream had been true. You can see traces of what might have been in Tel Aviv, a city that really was built on empty sand dunes. But most of Palestine was not empty. It was already inhabited by people who loved the land, and saw it as theirs. They were completely innocent of the long, hellish crimes against the Jews.

When it became clear these Palestinians would not welcome becoming a minority in somebody else's country, darker plans were drawn up. Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, wrote in 1937: "The Arabs will have to go, but one needs an opportune moment for making it happen, such as a war."

So, for when the moment arrived, he helped draw up Plan Dalit. It was - as Israeli historian Ilan Pappe puts it - "a detailed description of the methods to be used to forcibly evict the people: large-scale intimidation; and laying siege to and bombarding population centres". In 1948, before the Arab armies invaded, this began to be implemented: some 800,000 people were ethnically cleansed, and Israel was built on the ruins. The people who ask angrily why the Palestinians keep longing for their old land should imagine an English version of this story. How would we react if the 30m stateless, persecuted Kurds in the world sent armies and settlers into this country to seize everything in England below Leeds, and swiftly established a free Kurdistan from which we were expelled? Wouldn't we long forever for our children to return to Cornwall and Devon and London? Would it take us only 40 years to compromise and offer to settle for just 22 per cent of what we had?

If we are not going to be endlessly banging our heads against history, the Middle East needs to excavate 1948, and seek a solution. Any peace deal - even one where Israel dismantled the wall and agreed to return to the 1967 borders - tends to crumple on this issue. The Israelis say: if we let all three million come back, we will be outnumbered by Palestinians even within the 1967 borders, so Israel would be voted out of existence. But the Palestinians reply: if we don't have an acknowledgement of the Naqba (catastrophe), and our right under international law to the land our grandfathers fled, how can we move on?

It seemed like an intractable problem - until, two years ago, the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research conducted the first study of the Palestinian Diaspora's desires. They found that only 10 per cent - around 300,000 people - want to return to Israel proper. Israel can accept that many (and compensate the rest) without even enduring much pain. But there has always been a strain of Israeli society that preferred violently setting its own borders, on its own terms, to talk and compromise. This weekend, the elected <u>Hamas</u> government offered a sixmonth truce that could have led to talks. The Israeli government responded within hours by blowing up a senior <u>Hamas</u> leader and killing a 14-year-old girl.

Perhaps <u>Hamas</u>' proposals are a con; perhaps all the Arab states are lying too when they offer Israel full recognition in exchange for a roll-back to the 1967 borders; but isn't it a good idea to find out? Israel, as she gazes at her grey hairs and discreetly ignores the smell of her own stale shit pumped across Palestine, needs to ask what kind of country she wants to be in the next 60 years.

j.hari@independent.co.uk

Load-Date: April 28, 2008

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Gaza goes unnoticed by candidates

University Wire
March 4, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: COLUMN Length: 755 words

Byline: By Sousan Hammad, The Daily Cougar; SOURCE: U. Houston

Dateline: HOUSTON

Body

More than 112 people have been killed in Gaza by Israeli military attacks and bombings in the last five days, yet none of the presidential candidates have condemned these attacks. Israel says they are aiming at the rocket-launching squads that killed one Israeli civilian, but amid the dead; half are civilians, including a number of <u>women</u> and children, according to British newspaper The Guardian.

When the attacks first began five days ago, Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai warned, "Palestinians are bringing upon themselves a greater Shoah."

"Shoah" is the Hebrew word used to denote the Nazi Holocaust inflicted on the Jews. But Vilnai's anti-Semitic words have gone unnoticed by presidential hopefuls despite all the rhetoric emanating from pseudo-scholars on the anti-Semitic phenomenon.

Given the dirty game of politics in presidential elections, this doesn't surprise me. If any of the senators were to condemn the 112 Palestinian deaths, they would lose their Jewish vote and most likely the nomination, and Palestinians would go on living as non-people to the world.

Even though we watch the bloodshed and rebellion from afar, we cannot and should not let it go unnoticed. Let the candidates play their role of the unabated politician, but what is happening in Gaza is in fact an unprecedented massacre, presented as a saliently biased conflict by journalists and officials alike. Granted, *Hamas* should not be using rockets against civilians, though the rockets are literally made from oven pipes and crushed soda cans, but by the same token, the Israeli military should not collectively punish Palestinian civilians for the crimes of others.

Relatively few Israelis have died from the homemade Qassam rocket that <u>Hamas</u> militants used to fire into Sderot or Ashkelon, towns bordering the Gaza strip. When the deaths of 112 people and injuries of 350 others by Israeli militia are all due to the rocket launchings that killed one Israeli citizen, and not a single presidential candidate condemns the attacks, it reassures me that the only change a new president would bring is a new face to the podium and a new family to the white house.Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni has called on the international community to support Israel's actions. She said there was no "moral equation" between Palestinian victims and Israeli victims. "I cannot accept condolences saying that there are victims on both sides," Livni said.

There have been photos passing around the Internet of a father burying his 6-month-old baby. The baby's colorless face is covered in dry blood and its small body wrapped in a white sheet. Perhaps this baby was the rocket launcher, but no, not a victim, according to Livni's justification that civilians can be targeted for death.

Gaza goes unnoticed by candidates

While morality is left to linger in the homes of Israeli officials, victims of those living in the world's most densely populated area have not, and probably will not, succumb to the international pressure of a peace process between Palestinians and Israelis as long as Israel continues its air and ground offensive on Gazans. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has already suspended peace talks with the West. This just proves that peace cannot be calculated into a formula like an algebra equation.

The Palestinian has essentially come to be the Homo sacer, a figure in Roman law who is excluded from civil rights, lives in exile and may be killed by anybody. When Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben used the concept of Homo sacer to describe "bare life" in one of his books, he used the persecution of the Jews as an example.

It is really beyond me how any human being, whether to the left or right of President Bush, can ever support such a government.

Americans send in billions each year to secure Israel with military supplies and death tools. It is because of this that I boycott elections. I boycott the governing body that lays the grounds for Israel's unprecedented actions in Gaza.

Not because I am Palestinian or American, but because I am a humanist who opposes all categories of Zionist crimes; more notably, the massacre of human beings.

In essence, we are just as excluded from life as the Homo sacer or Palestinian. By ignoring our human right to advocate human rights, neither we nor any candidate will ever change anything in our society. The Palestine-Israel conflict has never been about religion, but about politics. Think about this schism when you roll up your sleeve and vote for your desired and dehumanized candidate.

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Load-Date: March 4, 2008

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<u>Letters</u>

The Jerusalem Post March 25, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1109 words

Byline: Shlomo Manns, Meira Schwartz, Reida Mishory-Isseroff, Lilly Manheim, Rabbi Asher Resnick, Lorell Blass,

D. Meyer, Ian R.A. Macmillan, Nelson Marans, Yonatan Silver, Gloria Deutsch

Highlight: Readers' Letters

Body

Fine solution...

Sir, - Ehud Zion Waldoks notes that a "Survey finds 90% of Israelis aware of water crisis and 70% willing to conserve" (March 24). However, this is far from sounding an optimistic note.

Our only fighting chance of managing the grave problem of water shortage is strict control of water usage. You can still see people hosing down their cars, shop-owners hosing down their entrances and city councils over-irrigating lawns and gardens.

Increasing public awareness is not enough. Heavy fines on water guzzlers is the way.

SHLOMO MANNS

Givatyaim

Sir, - I am sick and tired of people complaining about the lack of water. It always happens around this time of year, at the end of the rainy season and the beginning of the dry one. All of a sudden the country wakes up to the fact that we live in the Middle East, and therefore have a water problem.

But because this is the Middle East, there will always be a water problem. So why is there no permanent awareness of the need, the constant official reminders, to conserve water? Why the water displays? Every drop counts, and we need to internalize that.

So let's quit the complaining. If those in high positions, and the rest of us, really cared, conservation programs would be out there.

You can't have your water, and drink it too.

MEIRA SCHWARTZ

Jerusalem

...to our water problem

Letters

Sir, - Further to Miriam Levi's water tips ("Water wisdom," Letters, March 24), here are a few of my own:

- * If you don't own a double-flush toilet, fill a bottle with water and put it in the tank to reduce the flush.
- * Don't leave the water on while brushing your teeth or shaving. One minute of running water equals two gallons down the drain.
- * When washing vegetables, put 1-2 inches of water in the sink and rinse the vegetables there rather than under the tap.
- * Water your garden only in the early morning or late afternoon.
- * Wash your car infrequently. Have a dusty car and be proud of it!

REIDA MISHORY-ISSEROFF

Moshav Olesh

Shining example

Sir, - My heart goes out to the Wallfish family, who suffered the tragic loss of losing a child. Donating organs of that child for transplant into four other sick children was most commendable and must offer the family more solace than anything else imaginable.

I hope that this grand gesture will serve as an inspiration to others, and that Israel will not long remain on record as a country offering, compared to others, only a very negligible number of organs for transplant ("Transplants of toddler's organs save lives of four children," March 24).

LILLY MANHEIM

Jerusalem

Disappointing

Sir, - I found Conservative Rabbi Harold Kushner's "I don't know if I'm correct theologically. I don't know the reality of God... what I do know is my book makes people feel better" profoundly disappointing ("Honoring the human touch of Harold Kushner," March 23). Why would someone who doesn't know if he is "correct theologically" write a book about theology?

As an Orthodox rabbi, I was always taught that the first responsibility of a teacher is to present Judaism honestly and straightforwardly. And as parents who also suffered the loss of a child at the age of 14, it was specifically this grappling with the truth that my wife and I always found to be the most comforting.

RABBI ASHER RESNICK

Ramat Beit Shemesh

Disingenuous

Sir, - It is disingenuous to try to equate Barack Obama's pastor's outrageous remarks with outrageous remarks any minister of any faith might occasionally make from the pulpit ("Between clergy and congregant," Andrew Silow-Carroll, March 23), even if they are taped for distribution. No rabbi of any denomination could declaim "God damn America" and continue with his congregation. Rev. Wright crossed some basic lines, and no op-ed can obscure that.

LORELL BLASS

Jerusalem

Letters

Out of place

Sir, - Congratulations on securing the exclusive interview with Senator John McCain ("McCain to 'Post': *Hamas*, Hizbullah want to destroy everything Israel, the US and the West hold dear," March 19).

I think the senator deserves congratulations for having the courage to say that he does not have the answer to a particular question.

The stricture implied in "The challenge of the would- be presidents" (March 21) - that McCain did not give any hint of plans he may have to combat terrorism, confront Iran or deal with the hostage question - seemed out of place. One would hardly expect a newspaper interview to be the occasion for detailing or even hinting at such plans, especially as the interviewee is still to be elected.

Our only recourse, in this case, is to the senator's known qualities of courage, persistence and common sense.

D. MEYER

Haifa

Sir, - John McCain was quoted as saying that the members and supporters of <u>Hamas</u> and Hizbullah "are dedicated to the extinction of everything that the US, Israel, and the West believe and stand for." I disagree.

Certainly that is their posture. In reality they are dedicated to inflicting as much suffering as possible on innocent civilians of every race, color and creed. In international circles - and indeed among peace-loving Muslims - they are not renowned for their bravery. Their foot soldiers are impressionable children and mentally handicapped <u>women</u>, their chosen battlefields children's seminaries, pet markets, crowded buses and pizza parlors.

The bottom line, which is what I believe Senator McCain was telling us, is that the US, Israel and the West will be alive and well long after the present members and supporters of <u>Hamas</u>/Hizbullah have learned that in the house of Allah, the one Almighty God, they are not welcome.

IAN. R.A. MACMILLAN

Toronto

Sir, - Can there be any question in the minds of those who hold the security of Israel as the top priority that John McCain, a military man, is the best candidate for US president?

Hillary Clinton is remembered for the failed role her husband played in attempting to meet every demand of Yasser Arafat, threatening the very future of the Jewish state. And of Barack Obama and his anti-Israel personal mentor and pastor for two decades, is there any doubt where he stands, despite politically motivated statements to the contrary?

NELSON MARANS

Silver Spring, Maryland

Going cheap

Sir, - Re "Sisters sell Illinois-shaped corn flake for \$1,350" (Business & Finance, March 24): Any offers for a Gaza hot potato? A peace-process road-map lemon? Flaky political figures? A Jerusalem salami slicer? A teddy bear called Muhammad...?

YONATAN SILVER

Jerusalem

Letters

It's Spring!

Sir - If Avraham Feder was paraphrasing the lines "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind" in his op-ed "Purim and all that jazz" (March 20), he should note that Shelley, not Wordsworth, wrote them.

GLORIA DEUTSCH, Kfar Saba

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Emergency supplies trickle into Gaza Strip; Reduction in rocket attacks cited for move

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

January 23, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A13

Length: 240 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel made its first fuel, food and medical deliveries to Gaza since last week Tuesday, as Egyptian troops used gunfire and water cannons to quell a demonstration on its border with the Palestinian territory, where hundreds of women demanded entry to purchase goods denied by the Israeli blockade of the territory.

At least 10 people were injured, including an Egyptian soldier who was shot during the protest, which was caused by Egypt's refusal to open the Rafah border crossing.

The only border crossing with Gaza not controlled by Israel is under UN supervision.

Israeli tanker trucks and a pipeline began to pump the first of more than two million litres of fuel into Gaza.

Hours later, several trucks loaded with emergency medical supplies and wheat and rice from the UN's World Food Program moved across the Kerem Shalom crossing, sealed Thursday by Israel in retaliation for hundreds of rockets being fired into the Jewish state.

The limited imports, which included enough fuel to supply Gaza's only power plant for several days, arrived as five more rockets were fired into Israel and snipers fired shots into border kibbutzes.

Israel's limited reversal of its border closure was the result of international pressure, government officials said, but a one-day measure due to its own review of the situation, which included a sharp reduction in rocket fire since the weekend.

However, a *Hamas* spokes-man said the rocket attacks would continue.

Graphic

Emergency supplies trickle into Gaza Strip; Reduction in rocket attacks cited for move

Photo: Ibraheem Abu Mustafa, Reuters; Palestinians tried but failed Tuesday to storm the Rafah border crossing from Gaza into Egypt to get supplies.;

Load-Date: January 23, 2008



Israeli undercover troops kill 4 militants

The International Herald Tribune March 13, 2008 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 732 words

Byline: Isabel Kershner and Taghreed El-Khodary - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli undercover troops killed four Palestinian militants in the West Bank city of Bethlehem on Wednesday, dimming the prospects for an extended lull in violence.

Among the four were two men who had been wanted by the Israelis for years: Muhammad Shehada of Islamic Jihad and Ahmed Balboul, a senior figure in Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a militia affiliated with Fatah, the mainstream party headed by President Mahmoud Abbas.

The four were killed while riding together in a car in central Bethlehem, Israeli Army and Palestinian officials said. The army officials said that three rifles had been found in the car, and that all four had been involved in attacks against Israeli civilians. Shehada, they said, headed a network that was in direct contact with Islamic Jihad headquarters in Syria and received instructions from there.

In an interview with The New York Times last July, Balboul said that he was hoping to enter into an amnesty deal with the Israelis. "Our intentions are turned toward negotiation," he said, having come to a meeting in Bethlehem's Manger Square unarmed.

A Fatah spokesman in Bethlehem, Hassan Abed Rabbo, said Wednesday that the Palestinian Authority had requested amnesty for Balboul but the request was refused. Abed Rabbo said that as an Al Aksa Brigades leader, Balboul had not been involved in any joint activity with Islamic Jihad but that he had kept company with other wanted men in order to feel more secure.

The other two in the car belonged to Islamic Jihad, Israeli Army and Palestinian officials said.

The Bethlehem raid came hours after Ismail Haniya, leader of the <u>Hamas</u> administration in Gaza, laid out the Palestinian militant groups' conditions for a temporary cease-fire with Israel, including a cessation of all Israeli military operations in the West Bank.

The terms were the same as those annunciated by other Palestinian officials and Egyptian mediators in recent days: An Israeli commitment to a "comprehensive" truce including an end to "all acts of aggression" against the Palestinians; an end to "assassinations, killings and raids"; and the lifting of the embargo on the Gaza Strip by reopening the border crossings.

Israeli undercover troops kill 4 militants

<u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic militant group, controls Gaza only. But Haniya said the truce should also apply to the West Bank, where the Israeli Army and the forces of Abbas hold sway. "We will not abandon you, our people in the West Bank," Haniya said. He added: "Aggression against you is aggression against us."

An Islamic Jihad leader in Gaza, Khaled al-Batsh, said in an interview earlier this week that his group had accepted an Egyptian request for a temporary calm in order to create conditions for a broader truce involving the West Bank and Gaza. He said the success of the lull was "in the hands of the Israelis. If they attack," he said, the military wing of Islamic Jihad "will have to respond."

Speaking before thousands of students, male and <u>female</u>, at the Islamic University in Gaza City on Wednesday, Haniya began by hailing the recent round of hostilities between Israel and the militants in Gaza as a "heroic" episode. With massive barrages of Qassam rockets being fired at Israel from Gaza in late February and early March, Israel mounted an air and ground campaign in Gaza that left more than 120 Palestinians, including many civilians, dead. Two Israeli soldiers died in the fighting and one Israeli civilian was killed by the rocket fire.

Haniya said the Israeli military assault had failed and that Israel had found itself "confronting a generation" that is "in love with martyrdom" as the Israelis are "in love with life."

Israel has refused Palestinian demands to stop army operations in the West Bank in the past.

Early Wednesday morning, another senior militant from Islamic Jihad was killed by Israeli fire in a village near Jenin in the northern West Bank. Military officials said that forces had come to arrest the man, who they identified as Saleh Amar Saleh Karkoor, 26, but that he had refused to surrender and had been killed in an exchange of fire. They said that Karkoor was jailed in Israel from 2002 to 2006 after confessing, among other things, to recruiting suicide bombers. Islamic Jihad issued a statement after the dawn attack threatening revenge.

Isabel Kershner reported from Jerusalem and Taghreed El-Khodary from Gaza. Khaled Abu Aker contributed reporting from Jerusalem.

Load-Date: March 30, 2008



Gaza goes unnoticed by candidates

University Wire

March 4, 2008 Tuesday

Copyright 2008 The Daily Cougar via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 755 words

Byline: By Sousan Hammad, The Daily Cougar; SOURCE: U. Houston

Dateline: HOUSTON

Body

More than 112 people have been killed in Gaza by Israeli military attacks and bombings in the last five days, yet none of the presidential candidates have condemned these attacks. Israel says they are aiming at the rocket-launching squads that killed one Israeli civilian, but amid the dead; half are civilians, including a number of <u>women</u> and children, according to British newspaper The Guardian.

When the attacks first began five days ago, Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai warned, "Palestinians are bringing upon themselves a greater Shoah."

"Shoah" is the Hebrew word used to denote the Nazi Holocaust inflicted on the Jews. But Vilnai's anti-Semitic words have gone unnoticed by presidential hopefuls despite all the rhetoric emanating from pseudo-scholars on the anti-Semitic phenomenon.

Given the dirty game of politics in presidential elections, this doesn't surprise me. If any of the senators were to condemn the 112 Palestinian deaths, they would lose their Jewish vote and most likely the nomination, and Palestinians would go on living as non-people to the world.

Even though we watch the bloodshed and rebellion from afar, we cannot and should not let it go unnoticed. Let the candidates play their role of the unabated politician, but what is happening in Gaza is in fact an unprecedented massacre, presented as a saliently biased conflict by journalists and officials alike. Granted, *Hamas* should not be using rockets against civilians, though the rockets are literally made from oven pipes and crushed soda cans, but by the same token, the Israeli military should not collectively punish Palestinian civilians for the crimes of others.

Relatively few Israelis have died from the homemade Qassam rocket that <u>Hamas</u> militants used to fire into Sderot or Ashkelon, towns bordering the Gaza strip. When the deaths of 112 people and injuries of 350 others by Israeli militia are all due to the rocket launchings that killed one Israeli citizen, and not a single presidential candidate condemns the attacks, it reassures me that the only change a new president would bring is a new face to the podium and a new family to the white house.Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni has called on the international community to support Israel's actions. She said there was no "moral equation" between Palestinian victims and Israeli victims. "I cannot accept condolences saying that there are victims on both sides," Livni said.

There have been photos passing around the Internet of a father burying his 6-month-old baby. The baby's colorless face is covered in dry blood and its small body wrapped in a white sheet. Perhaps this baby was the rocket launcher, but no, not a victim, according to Livni's justification that civilians can be targeted for death.

Gaza goes unnoticed by candidates

While morality is left to linger in the homes of Israeli officials, victims of those living in the world's most densely populated area have not, and probably will not, succumb to the international pressure of a peace process between Palestinians and Israelis as long as Israel continues its air and ground offensive on Gazans. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has already suspended peace talks with the West. This just proves that peace cannot be calculated into a formula like an algebra equation.

The Palestinian has essentially come to be the Homo sacer, a figure in Roman law who is excluded from civil rights, lives in exile and may be killed by anybody. When Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben used the concept of Homo sacer to describe "bare life" in one of his books, he used the persecution of the Jews as an example.

It is really beyond me how any human being, whether to the left or right of President Bush, can ever support such a government.

Americans send in billions each year to secure Israel with military supplies and death tools. It is because of this that I boycott elections. I boycott the governing body that lays the grounds for Israel's unprecedented actions in Gaza.

Not because I am Palestinian or American, but because I am a humanist who opposes all categories of Zionist crimes; more notably, the massacre of human beings.

In essence, we are just as excluded from life as the Homo sacer or Palestinian. By ignoring our human right to advocate human rights, neither we nor any candidate will ever change anything in our society. The Palestine-Israel conflict has never been about religion, but about politics. Think about this schism when you roll up your sleeve and vote for your desired and dehumanized candidate.

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Load-Date: March 4, 2008



Wiesenthal Center to urge UN to declare suicide bombings a 'crime against humanity'

The Jerusalem Post February 26, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 742 words

Byline: MICHAL LANDO, Jerusalem Post correspondent

Body

NEW YORK - The Simon Wiesenthal Center will hold a private meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on Tuesday to urge the international body to address suicide bombing and declare it a "crime against humanity." They will also call on Ban to cancel the "Durban II" conference slated for 2009, and address the "world's amnesia" about rocket attacks on Sderot.

In a private meeting Tuesday, representatives from the Wiesenthal Center are expected to ask Ban to advocate for a special session of the General Assembly on suicide bombing and terrorism and reverse the Assembly's longstanding refusal to raise the issue in its halls.

"The GA has had many special sessions on issues such as apartheid, drugs smuggling, disarmament, but the greatest scourge - suicide terror - is being blocked," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center. "We know that 57 Muslim countries don't want a meeting on it. But if you look at the world, it's not only global warming threatening the fabric of civilization, but suicide terrorism."

The center began campaigning to designate suicide bombings a "crime against humanity" six months after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, but progress has been slow.

Following the assassination of former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, the center ran full-page advertisements in the New York Times and the International Herald Tribune reading: "Suicide terror. What more will it take for the world to act?" Attempts to get the ad placed in four Arab newspapers failed.

"The special sessions are supposed to deal with looming problems, but this is the one subject that's never touched," said Hier, who will be among the delegation to meet Ban. "To allow a virtual veto power to 57 Muslim countries does not benefit the world."

"We want the secretary general to force it on the agenda of the international community," said Hier, who will also present the Ban with a petition to designate suicide bombs a crime against humanity signed by over 10,000 people worldwide. "The truth is, if you want to take world back from extremists, this is the best way to do it, not by hiding."

The Wiesenthal Center will also urge the secretary- general to cancel the Durban II conference scheduled for 2009, which many Jewish organizations fear will be a recap of the first conference held in South Africa in 2001 under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. That conference was titled "The World Conference

Wiesenthal Center to urge UN to declare suicide bombings a 'crime against humanity'

against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance," but dealt mostly with Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. Both Israel and the US eventually quit the conference.

"When will we see a Durban conference on the treatment of <u>women</u> in the Arab world, or the religious police in Saudi Arabia and Iran?" asked Hier. "To have a conference that focuses myopically on one country under the globe, that is a hate fest targeting the same people as the Holocaust, is unacceptable."

On Sunday, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni announced that Israel would not participate in the Durban II Conference in 2009 unless it received proof that the venue would not serve as another platform for anti-Semitic or anti-Israel activity. The decision followed an assessment by the Foreign Ministry and other Western governments that it would be impossible to prevent the conference from turning into an anti-Israeli gathering.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, who is also expected to participate in Tuesday's meeting, compared the Durban conference to a train on a "specific schedule."

"There is no one to put a brake on it, unless changes are instituted at the top." It remains unclear whether the US will participate in the conference.

Several US senators have claimed that Washington will boycott the conference. However, State Department Spokesman Tom Casey recently said the decision would be up to the next US administration because the conference is scheduled to take place after President George W. Bush leaves office.

Lastly, delegates from the Wiesenthal Center will raise the issue of "the world's amnesia" regarding rocket attacks on Sderot.

"We want him [Ban] to clamp down on <u>Hamas</u>, and say 'when you are elected, you have responsibilities to secure the borders,' but instead they are giving tacit approval," said Hier. "This is hypocrisy that the world has to expose and the UN has to say to <u>Hamas</u> - 'you are responsible.'"

Graphic

Photo: UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Gaza goes unnoticed by candidates

University Wire

March 4, 2008 Tuesday

Copyright 2008 The Daily Cougar via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 755 words

Byline: By Sousan Hammad, The Daily Cougar; SOURCE: U. Houston

Dateline: HOUSTON

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Load-Date: March 4, 2008



Fatah linked to suicide bombing; Israeli Killed; Second bomber with 'twitching' hand shot dead

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

February 5, 2008 Tuesday

All But Toronto Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A14

Length: 656 words

Byline: Isabel Kershner, The New York Times, With Files From News Services

Dateline: DIMONA, ISRAEL

Body

DIMONA, ISRAEL - One of two suicide bombers from Gaza who may have sneaked into Israel from the Egyptian Sinai blew himself up at a shopping centre in this southern desert town yesterday, killing an Israeli woman and wounding 11 other people.

It was the first suicide attack in Israel in more than a year.

The second bomber was knocked unconscious by the blast from the first bomb and failed to detonate his explosive belt.

Police officer Kobi Moor, 34, said he approached the man as he lay on the ground, then shot him when he moved his hand toward an explosives belt strapped to his abdomen.

"His hand was twitching," Mr. Moor said.

"He raised it again. So I shot four bullets into his head and neutralized him."

"I saw them grab him and open his jacket, and I saw his explosive belt before they shot him in the head," said Jacqueline Ganish, 58.

"Terrorism in Dimona? We've never had anything like this."

The remote working-class town in the Negev desert is best known for its proximity to Israel's nuclear reactor. The attack took place several kilometres from the heavily guarded reactor.

Palestinian groups made the names of the attackers public later yesterday, saying they had come from Gaza.

Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militia loosely affiliated with the mainstream Fatah movement headed by Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, claimed responsibility and said it carried out the attack with another faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and another unknown group calling itself the United Popular Brigade.

Mr. Abbas's office condemned the attack.

Fatah linked to suicide bombing; Israeli Killed; Second bomber with 'twitching' hand shot dead

Shimon Peres, the Israeli President, attacked "the despicable terrorists who want to murder innocent <u>women</u> and children and nip in the bud any chances of peace." However, Israeli officials vowed to press on with peace talks with Mr. Abbas.

After the bombing, the police services went on high alert in various areas of the country. Near Dimona, police officers were stationed at main junctions on roads leading to the city and the area of the bombing was closed to the public.

In the previous 11 days, Gaza residents had been able to move in and out of Egypt with relative ease because of a temporary breach in the Gaza-Egypt border, which the Egyptian military resealed on Sunday.

The Israeli authorities had warned in recent days that Palestinians were taking advantage of the breached border, which occurred after members of the *Hamas* movement that runs Gaza blasted sections of a wall on Jan. 23.

Over the past few days, Egyptian authorities have reported the arrest of more than 12 Palestinians carrying weapons and explosives in the Sinai Peninsula near the border with Gaza.

The last suicide attack in Israel was in January, 2007, in the southern city of Eilat, in which three Israelis died.

"Palestinian terror groups continue to strike at Israeli civilians," said David Baker, an Israeli government spokesman, after the attack yesterday. "Israel will continue to take the requisite steps to defend its people," he said, without elaborating on any likely response.

Israeli retribution was swift. A senior member of the Popular Resistance Committees, a group linked to <u>Hamas</u>, was killed in an air strike in Gaza within two hours of the bombing.

"The Palestinian terrorist organizations have shown once again who they are and what they stand for," said Aryeh Mekel, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman. "Just like the Qassam rocket fire on Sderot and the sniper fire on Israeli fields bordering Gaza, today's attack deliberately targeted innocent civilians."

At Sunday's Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, the head of Israel's Shin Bet internal security service warned that terrorists had smuggled advanced weaponry into Gaza while the border was down, including long-range missiles and anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles.

Ehud Barak, the Israeli Defence Minister, told the Cabinet there was an urgent need to build a fence along the porous border between Israel and Egypt.

Graphic

Color Photo: Menahem Kahana, AFP, Getty Images; Zaka volunteers clean up the site of a suicide bombing in the southern Israeli town of Dimona yesterday. A second bomber was shot before he could detonate.;

Load-Date: February 5, 2008



Breaking bread

The Jerusalem Post January 29, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 16

Length: 1090 words

Byline: LIAT COLLINS

Highlight: You can cast your bread upon the waters off Herzliya, but by the time it reaches the coast in Gaza it will

be too soggy for consumption

Body

Nationality

I have grown past hate and bitterness,

I see the world as one:

But though I can no longer hate,

My son is still my son.

All men at God's round table sit,

And all men must be fed;

But this loaf in my hand,

This loaf is my son's bread.

- Dame Mary Gilmore

There are poems you are forced to learn in school. And some you simply choose to remember. I came across this poem by the under-appreciated Australian writer and social activist Dame Mary Gilmore when I was at a particularly impressionable stage of adolescence. It made such an impact that I copied it down on the back page of a notebook in writing considerably more legible than I have today, and kept it.

Nowadays, when I scribble words like "loaf" on a piece of paper it is usually a reminder to buy bread for the sandwiches that my six-year-old takes to school. The mundane nature of my shopping lists and a "to-do" list so long I'm tempted to add a few adverbs and seek a book publisher are far from the poetry I cherished in my youth. But the sentiment aroused by Gilmore's concise verse has traveled well: It has accompanied me from my early teens in London to my mid-forties in Jerusalem. The last stanza sprang to mind last week when I grabbed the shopping list, and felt guilty as it revealed the to-do list reminder to call my friend in Sderot.

Breaking bread

I had wanted to phone the previous day, but every time I started to dial, the radio broadcast another news flash of incoming missiles on the Negev town and surrounding communities. Fifty missiles struck the area on January 16. When I finally called my friend the next day I wasn't sure I'd have anything to say. The feeling was compounded when she translated the dry facts into her experience: Her young son had got on and off the school bus four times in one journey because the Red Color alert had been sounded, giving them all of 15 seconds to seek shelter from the incoming Kassams. A long time ago, hundreds of missiles back, she told me that she doesn't use safety belts when driving in the area because of the fear she won't be able to extricate her three sons quickly enough when the warning is sounded. I know parents who, in similar circumstances, carpooled simply to disperse their kids among different vehicles to reduce the chances of losing all their offspring in one attack.

FIFTY KASSAMS is unusual for one day's tally. Sderot residents put up with three or four as a matter of routine. My friend's children are so used to living with Kassams that when her seven-year-old invites my six-year-old to "Come for a Shabbat!" it is in that wonderful way that young children have of being proud of their homes and parents no matter what.

I can sympathize, too, with the mothers in Gaza.

I sympathize with them but I identify with the Sderot residents, who Public Security Minister Avi Dichter has repeatedly declared are being subjected to a game of "Gaza Roulette."

Like the rest of the world, I saw the images of Palestinian <u>women</u> using candlelight to cook in their kitchens as electricity was cut off and fuel supplies allegedly ran down. I saw the protests against the "fuel blockade" by Gazans alerting the world to Israel's "inhumanity."

Eventually, the Gazans did the natural thing: They turned to their southern neighbor, Egypt, which responded by wounding 90 people, most of them **women**, as they stormed the Rafah border crossing into Egyptian territory.

THE END result was highly predictable: Israel was forced to ease the blockade - which in any case had not been as total as <u>Hamas</u> would have us believe - when "only" four Kassams landed in the Negev. The fact that the reduced number of missiles is proof that <u>Hamas</u> can control the rocket launchers - and more significantly evidence that Israel's tough measures had worked - is largely being ignored. Also being overlooked - blurred by the blood of the wounded at Rafah and silenced by the arrests of some 500 protesters in Cairo - is the fact that it is far more natural for Palestinians in Gaza to look to Egypt than to look to Israel.

The Palestinians continue to decry "the occupation" in Gaza - even after the forcible removal of every Jewish resident from the area - because Israel still controls the border crossing. To demand that Egypt open up its border did not enter into the equation, although it was eventually done by force.

<u>Hamas</u> won the PR war. Yet again the Palestinians were the victims. Warnings of a "humanitarian crisis" flashed across the globe with the speed that does justice to the age of computers and satellites. Dr. Margaret Chan, secretary-general of the World Health Organization, stated the organization in Geneva is "concerned about the health situation in and around Gaza and the suffering this has caused for civilian populations in the area."

The UN planned a debate. The crisis was avoided - in Gaza. My friend still thinks twice about popping out to buy a loaf of bread for her sons. She can't risk leaving them alone in an alert but is hesitant about taking them out of the relative safety of their house to the store. The physical and mental health of residents of Sderot, a civilian population very much in the area of Gaza, has not made it to the WHO's agenda as far as I know.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, speaking on January 22 at the Herzliya Conference, said both Israel and the Palestinian Authority "must refrain from letting problems from the outside come into the negotiating room." But these aren't problems from the outside: They are - to hijack a phrase - "core issues."

You can cast your bread upon the waters off Herzliya, but by the time it reaches the coast in Gaza it will be too soggy for consumption. And not even the crumbs will make it to Sderot.

Breaking bread

Maybe we should just eat cake. Several of my neighbors in Jerusalem have adopted the practice of ordering their Sabbath loaves from a Sderot bakery as an act of solidarity. One friend surprised me this week with the offer of a Sderot chocolate cake - which we both found tastier than the hallot.

An army marches on its stomach; the home front in the Jewish state can certainly relate to that. Consuming chocolate cake to avoid being consumed by guilt is definitely an unusual but very Israeli way of participating in the war effort.

And war it is. I wish the world would make as much of an effort to save Sderot from Gaza as it does to save Gaza from itself. I could save on phone bills, my neighbor could save on calories. We could all be saved from worrying.

And next time my friend's son invites us for a Shabbat, we could happily set off to break bread together.

Graphic

Photo: A GUSH SHALOM rally at the Erez crossing protests Israel's Gaza 'blockade'. (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Tell Abbas to stop educating for war

The Jerusalem Post January 10, 2008 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 13

Length: 720 words Highlight: Editorial

Body

In his meeting today with Mahmoud Abbas, President George Bush will likely urge the Palestinian Authority president to implement his responsibilities under the road map, such as eliminating the infrastructure of terrorism. Abbas will claim that he is doing the best he can, and respond by demanding that Israel dismantle outposts and freeze settlements.

And nothing will change.

This sort of pointless, circular maneuvering has, at best, continued for the past 14 years, since the signing of the Oslo principles in 1993. At worst it has degenerated into terrorism and war.

While Israel rejects the legitimacy of the Palestinian claim that "the settlements made me do it," in 2005 Israel attempted to remove this excuse by withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and dismantling all the settlements there, along with a few settlements in Samaria. The result was not more Palestinian compliance but less - more terror and radicalism from precisely the area Israel had left.

So let's say for the moment that Israel decided to dismantle outposts and stopped lifting a single brick over the Green Line. Does anyone seriously believe that Abbas would suddenly crush the terrorist gangs roaming the West Bank, crack down on corruption, institute the rule of law, and start building a peaceful Palestinian state? This is not a credible prospect at this moment, and not just because <u>Hamas</u> is already in control of Gaza and poised to take over the West Bank too if the IDF stopped operating there. The main obstacle to progress is even more fundamental, but something that Abbas can control and chooses not to - in part because he is never asked.

In the ostensible dichotomy between <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah, the former is against the two-state solution and the latter is busy trying to bring it about. And since Fatah supposedly understands that it cannot have a state without making peace with Israel, one might presume that Abbas would be busy preparing his people for the Palestinian version of the "tough concessions" that Israeli leaders often talk about it.

Yet not only are such preparations absent, but Abbas's PA also continues to do the exact opposite: encouraging hatred, violence, terrorism, and rejection of Israel's right to exist.

Yesterday, Bush said the first thing he would ask Abbas is "what are you going to do about the rockets" that are being fired from Gaza into Israel. As much we appreciate this question, a more salient one might be: "Why is your television glorifying suicide bombers?" Just last month, PA television, which Abbas brought under his personal authority when he took office, started rebroadcasting a video that ran dozens of times at the height of the suicide bombing campaign against Israel. The video begins with an imagined scene of a woman shot dead in the back by

Tell Abbas to stop educating for war

Israeli soldiers. She then rises to an Islamic paradise to join the "72 virgins" who await any suicide bomber. Next a young man swears to avenge the woman, is also killed by Israelis, and is seen joining this group of young <u>women</u> for his eternal reward. This is education for anything but peace.

Then there are the dozens of schools named after suicide bombers. There are the recent textbooks that teach that Palestine was stolen by "Zionist gangs" and deny any Jewish connection to the land. There are the official PA maps and emblems that depict Palestine not as the West Bank and Gaza, but all of Israel as well.

No one expects Abbas to start teaching his people to be good Zionists. But he cannot make peace when he is readying them for war. On the contrary, just as it took Israelis years to reverse the inculcated rejection of a Palestinian state, it will take Palestinians years to reverse their rejection of the rights and history of a Jewish state. It is a long process, but for a peace agreement to happen, it must be not only begun, but fast- tracked.

Accordingly, the most important thing Bush can do in Ramallah is to say to the Palestinians that if they want a state they must stop spewing hatred and glorifying terrorism. Rather than constantly using the "right of return" as code for Israel's destruction, Abbas must tell his people the truth: a Palestinian state requires giving up the dream of Greater Palestine, making peace with the Jewish democracy of Israel, and building a state alongside it in most of the West Bank and Gaza.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Time to face the threat from Iran

The Irish Times
September 20, 2008 Saturday

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 17

Length: 326 words

Body

Madam, - As Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad prepares to address the UN General Assembly, it is time that Ireland recognised that his regime is not a legitimate example of a different culture, but a savage, repressive tyranny. Ireland, and the whole EU, should show its total opposition to the Iranian regime's human rights abuses, oppression of religious and ethnic minorities, persecution of homosexuals, execution of minors and stoning of **women**.

Ahmadinejad's Iran is not only one of the world's major human rights abusers but also an obstacle to lasting global peace and security. Ahmadinejad's continual bellicose language, denial of the Holocaust, repeated calls for the destruction of the UN-mandated state of Israel, rejection of the current peace process and active support of terrorist groups such as Hizb-Allah, Islamic Jihad and <u>Hamas</u> are feeding further violence and increasing instability in an already volatile Middle East.

The Iranian regime's religious fanaticism and glorification of global Jihad, combined with its ongoing development of nuclear capabilities (that could soon produce military warheads), along with its existing missile arsenal, should send alarm bells ringing globally. The International Atomic Energy Agency's recently published report points to an oil-rich Iran increasingly blocking legitimate international scrutiny of its nuclear intentions - and Iran has not proved that its desire to go nuclear is solely for peaceful civilian purposes. It has also ignored the UN Security Council's demand for a freeze of its nuclear programme.

As they have done in the past, the Irish Government, trade unions, churches, NGOs and people who are sensitive to global moral and humanitarian issues must show their objection to Ahmadinejad's regime, to its abuse of human rights, its continued attempts to destabilise the region, and its development of nuclear weapons. - Yours, etc,

TOM CAREW,

Irish Friends of Israel,

Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

Load-Date: September 20, 2008



As order slides, Palestinian women face honor killings

Christian Science Monitor November 20, 2007, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 1

Length: 1187 words

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

Dateline: QALQILYA, WEST BANK

Body

All the women in the family say Wafa Wahdan was wonderful.

But her sisters-in-law add that they noticed a few little things. She had changed the way she dressed in the past year to a less conservative style and she sometimes went out for a drive without saying where she was going.

A few weeks ago, the body of the young mother of four was found in a garbage dump east of town. Police arrested two of the woman's male cousins for having trapped Ms. Wahdan and shot her to death, committing the third "honor killing" in Qalqilya last month.

Wahdan's brutal murder devastated her husband and immediate family, who say that the rumor mill's tales of Wahdan having an affair were untrue. But regardless of their veracity, suspicion alone can be enough to get a woman killed by distant relatives looking to "cleanse" the family honor when there is talk of an illicit relationship.

According to local organizations, such murders have risen in the Palestinian territories to nearly 50 this year - a fact that many here blame on the absence of any true law and order, which allows individuals to enforce their own version of justice. Palestinians here say the image of an ever-weaker Palestinian Authority has increased after **Hamas**'s violent takeover of the Gaza Strip in June, making this local vigilantism harder to combat.

Particularly galling to many here is the fact that a man who admits to murdering a *female* relative for reasons of honor can be sentenced to as little as six months in jail. Palestinians say that policy is based on an old Jordanian law, which still holds in the West Bank: Article 341 considers murder a legitimate act of defense when the killer acts "in defense of his life or his honor."

Saed Taha, dean of Qalqilya's College of Islamic Law, says that honor killings in the Palestinian territories are never carried out according to proper Muslim stipulations and thus are unacceptable according to sharia, or Islamic law. In Islam, an unmarried woman found guilty of having an affair can be sentenced to 100 lashes; for a married woman, the sentence is death by stoning. But first, four witnesses must say they saw the illicit act with their own eyes.

"When the sentence is only six months, the consequence is that [perpetrators] encourage others to do the same," says Dr. Taha. "Islam does not allow anyone to take the law into his own hands. And for a woman to be sentenced [for illicit affairs], it would have to take place in a system that operates under Islamic law, which we don't have right now."

Tribal traditions are often a motive

But ancient tribal mores, not Islam, are usually what drive family members to demand that their honor be restored. In this case, according to several of Wahdan's relatives interviewed for this story, the men of the family met and came to a joint decision that Ms. Wahdan should be killed.

"These men have no fear of God," says Wahdan's mother, Umm el-Walid. She pulls out of a photograph of her daughter, big-eyed and pretty, sitting with some of Mrs. Walid's now-motherless grandchildren.

"Had my daughter had an extramarital relationship, her husband would have been the first to notice and do something," says Wahdan's mother, stopping to squint out tears. "They charged her, sentenced her, and executed her all in one fell swoop."

Her children harassed in school

Hala Wahdan, a sister-in-law, says the other <u>women</u> in the family, who are now trying to take care of the late woman's children, are devastated. The oldest kids, aged 9 and 12, are being harassed in school.

"Her children are extremely affected by this, especially with people gossiping and saying things that aren't true," she says. "They tell her 9-year-old girl, Noura, 'You're the daughter whose mother was killed because of honor.' And to the 12-year-old son, 'Your mother was killed because she was messing around.' "

Just days after Wahdan's murder, two other young <u>women</u> - sisters Sima and Eman el-Adel - were killed. Under questioning, police say, their brother confessed to having killed both of them in defense of the family honor. The word around this town of 60,000, however, is that they were having an inheritance dispute.

<u>Women</u>'s rights activists say that nearly any perpetrator of a <u>female</u> relative's murder can make an "honor killing" claim, when in fact quite different motives may be present.

"We consider the law here to be permitting these crimes, and whoever commits these crimes knows that he will only be punished with six months in jail," says Margaret Ir-Rai, spokeswoman for Qalqilya's Jafra Center for <u>Women</u>. "Therefore, our battle is with the law, which we need to change. Many people ... hide behind the killing by saying it had an 'honor motive,' and [are] exonerated."

Ms. Ir-Rai says that while it is possible for victims' survivors to press charges in a civil court, they rarely do so because of the fear it will unleash a cycle of continued vengeance-taking and bloodshed.

The Jafra Center has launched a new awareness campaign on this issue and holds workshops throughout the West Bank for <u>women</u>, who often contribute to the phenomena. They place ultrastrict expectations on other <u>women</u> and accuse others of unchaste behavior, sometimes assisting in and even committing honor crimes as well. That's why the law needs to push ahead, she says, pulling societal norms with it.

"The only way for <u>women</u> here to get their rights is through a change in the law, not through societal pressure," she says. "We started a petition all over the West Bank to have people condemn this." The <u>women</u>'s groups are also lobbying members of the Palestinian Legislative Council to pass legislation that would carry much heavier sentences for men who commit honor crimes. "Unfortunately, the political situation is not helping us to make this happen," Ir-Rai says.

The Palestinian parliament rarely meets these days, its functionality cast into doubt since the violent Fatah-<u>Hamas</u> split over the summer. She points to the ensuing uncertainty as a reason for the increase in honor killings.

Call to religious leaders: speak out

Jafra counts 21 such murders in the West Bank so far this year. There have been 25 honor killings in Gaza since the beginning of the year, says Maryam Abu Daqqa, the head of the Union of *Women*'s Committees.

As order slides, Palestinian women face honor killings

"During these hard times Gaza is going through, it is difficult for <u>women</u>'s organizations to do anything more than condemn," she says. "And with a lack of clear judiciary oversight, with the confusion created by <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah, people are taking the law into their own hands and directing their anger against the weak link: <u>women</u>."

Other women here complain that religious leaders should be more vocal about Islam's view on the matter.

"We haven't heard anyone from any group go to the mosque and condemn it. If you ask people on the street, you'll find they support it, and that the families are happy when they've cleansed the family honor," says another <u>women</u>'s activist who asked not to be named. "I cannot go to the street and condemn this based on <u>women</u>'s rights. They'll say whoever is defending her is just like her."

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Load-Date: November 19, 2007



The Two Israels

The New York Times
June 22, 2008 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section WK; Column 0; Editorial Desk; Pg. 12; OP-ED COLUMNIST

Length: 818 words

Byline: By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

Dateline: HEBRON, West Bank

Body

To travel through the West Bank and Gaza these days feels like traveling through Israeli colonies.

You whiz around the West Bank on new highways that in some cases are reserved for Israeli vehicles, catching glimpses of Palestinian vehicles lined up at checkpoints.

The security system that Israel is steadily establishing is nowhere more stifling than here in Hebron, the largest city in the southern part of the West Bank. In the heart of a city with 160,000 Palestinians, Israel maintains a Jewish settlement with 800 people. To protect them, the Israeli military has established a massive system of guard posts, checkpoints and road closures since 2001.

More than 1,800 Palestinian shops have closed, in some cases the doors welded shut, and several thousand people have been driven from their homes. The once flourishing gold market is now blocked with barbed wire and choked with weeds and garbage.

"For years, Israel has severely oppressed Palestinians living in the center of the city," notes B'Tselem, the Israeli human rights group, in a recent report. The authorities, it adds, "have expropriated the city center from its Palestinian residents and destroyed it economically."

Rima Abu Aisha, a housewife in Hebron, has the misfortune of living in an area near the settlers. When she went into labor, an ambulance could not get the appropriate permissions in time and the baby died, she said.

Even if the Hebron settlement were not illegal in the eyes of much of the world, it is utterly impractical. The financial cost is mind-boggling, and the diplomatic cost is greater.

Perhaps greatest of all is the cost for any hope of a peaceful settlement: the barriers and checkpoints have undermined Palestinian moderates like President Mahmoud Abbas and have empowered <u>Hamas</u>. Polls show that two-thirds of Palestinians now approve of terror attacks against civilians in Israel, up from 40 percent in 2005.

The Palestinians are committing national suicide as well. By turning toward the zealots of <u>Hamas</u>, and toward the short-term thrill of sending rockets into Israel, they are building a tombstone for their state before it is even born.

The Two Israels

Americans who haven't toured the West Bank or Gaza recently may not appreciate how the new security regime of the last few years is suffocating, impoverishing and antagonizing Palestinians.

In the village of Ein Bani Salim, a farmer named Khalifa Danna pointed to his field, separated from his house by a barbed-wire fence that Israel built in 2004. Since then, he has been unable to get to the fields. Mr. Danna shows photos he has taken of Israeli settlers on his land -- even using it to throw stones at him.

B'Tselem is giving video cameras to Palestinians to document the attacks and abuses they suffer. Just this month, a Palestinian woman near Hebron used a camera to record a group of four settlers clubbing her family in a field; two settlers were later arrested.

The settlers see the issue very differently, emphasizing the continuing Palestinian attacks on them and noting that the security steps were put in place only in reaction to Palestinian terrorism during the second intifada a half-dozen years ago.

"If people are trying to actively wipe you out and kill your people, then you have to take security measures," says David Wilder, a spokesman for the settlers in Hebron. "If that antagonizes them, they should stop trying to kill us."

So the chasm grows wider and peace more distant.

It is here in the Palestinian territories that you see the worst side of Israel: Jewish settlers stealing land from Palestinians (almost one-third of settlement land is actually privately owned by Palestinians); Palestinian <u>women</u> giving birth at checkpoints because Israeli soldiers won't let them through (four documented cases last year); the diversion of water from Palestinians. (Israelis get almost five times as much water per capita as Palestinians.)

Yet it is also here that you see the very best side of Israel. Israeli human rights groups relentlessly stand up for Palestinians. Israeli <u>women</u> volunteer at checkpoints to help Palestinians through. Israeli courts periodically rule in favor of Palestinians. Israeli scholars have published research that undermines their own nation's mythologies. Many Israeli journalists have been fair-minded toward Palestinians in a way that Arab journalists have rarely reciprocated.

All told, the most persuasive indictments of Israeli actions come from Israelis themselves. This scrupulous honesty and fairness toward Israel's historic enemies is a triumph of humanity.

In short, there are many Israels. When American presidential candidates compete this year to be "pro-Israeli," let's hope that they clarify that the one they support is not the oppressor that lets settlers steal land and club <u>women</u> but the one that is a paragon of justice, decency, fairness -- and peace.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: June 22, 2008



THERE ARE MULTIPLE ISRAELS; OUR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SHOULD SUPPORT THE ONE THAT SEEKS; JUSTICE, DECENCY, FAIRNESS AND PEACE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 24, 2008 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2008 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B-5

Length: 808 words

Byline: Nicholas D. Kristoff

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Notes

Nicholas D. Kristoff is a columnist for The New York Times.

Load-Date: June 25, 2008

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The two Israels

The International Herald Tribune
June 24, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 7

Length: 798 words

Byline: Nicholas D. Kristof - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: HEBRON, West Bank

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Load-Date: July 4, 2008



Getting in the way of Mideast strife; When Israeli soldiers raided an orphans' workshop in Hebron, an ex-High Park principal bore witness

The Toronto Star May 20, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA02

Length: 728 words

Byline: Oakland Ross, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Many years later, when he gazes back on his two-month sojourn among the Palestinians this spring, Art Arbour of Toronto may well have difficulty choosing which, among a host of memorable events, was most riveting of all.

Was it his 65th birthday, which he celebrated on March 21?

Or was it that wild April 30 night in Hebron when nearly three-dozen Israeli soldiers smashed their way into the Arab orphanage where he was sleeping - on a couch in the caretaker's room - and ripped out and hauled away all equipment and supplies from the sewing workshop, utterly terrifying the 110 girls and young <u>women</u> cowering in their beds upstairs?

Or, just possibly, was it that magical interlude early this month, in the neo-Romanesque confines of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City of Jerusalem, when Art Arbour made Beverly Hollow his wife?

Questions. Questions.

What ought to be clear, however, is Arbour is not your average retired Toronto primary-school principal.

If he were, it would be extremely unlikely he would do this spring what he has done every spring for the past eight years, which is to spend two months living in the eerily unstable West Bank city of Hebron, acting as a witness for justice and an envoy for peace in a corner of the world where neither is in plentiful supply.

"By nature, I'm a positive person," says Arbour, an affable extrovert with a two-toned voice - loud, louder - and a zeal for this brief and fragile enterprise called life. "You have to be to do this kind of work. The victories are all little ones."

By this kind of work, Arbour is talking about his annual involvement with 24-year-old volunteer outfit the Christian Peacemaker Teams, an organization that seeks to promote peace, save lives, and defend the oppressed by witnessing sometimes terrible events in places where observers are apt to be neither welcome nor safe.

"Our motto," he says in an interview, "is: Getting in the Way."

Getting in the way of Mideast strife When Israeli soldiers raided an orphans' workshop in Hebron, an ex-High Park principal bore witness

For the past eight years, the former principal of St. Cecilia Catholic School in High Park has been doing just that, by making an annual pilgrimage to Hebron, a biblical city in the West Bank south of Jerusalem, where conflict smoulders daily and not infrequently catches flame.

That has certainly been true these past few weeks as the Israel Defense Forces have executed a counter-terrorist crackdown on a network of orphanages.

Run by the philanthropic Islamic Charitable Society, the orphanages give shelter and care for more than 5,000 imperiled girls and boys in Hebron and the surrounding area.

Since March, however, the IDF has been seeking to close the operation down. It has welded shut the gates of a boys' school being constructed by the charity, gutted a warehouse used to store food and supplies for children and tried to evict businesspeople from a society-owned shopping mall.

Late last month, IDF soldiers smashed into a large sewing workshop operated by the agency and made off with everything inside.

Arbour had arranged to be on hand for the occasion, armed with a video camera, which he used to record the operation.

"It took them four hours to take everything out," he says. "They brought in a tow motor. They used a grinder to break up the huge cutting tables. They loaded two huge tractor-trailer trucks."

The IDF accuses the charitable society of funnelling money to <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamist fundamentalist group that rules the Gaza Strip, and of indoctrinating Palestinian youngsters in terrorist ideology - charges society officials flatly deny.

Arbour saw no evidence the agency is a front for *Hamas*.

"They are a registered charity," he says. "A Grade 1 teacher said to me, 'We want these kids to grow up knowing someone loves them. We can't do that and teach hate at the same time."

For all its frustrations, says Arbour, Christian Peacemakers work can also provide huge satisfactions.

"When you get a Palestinian family through an army checkpoint and to a hospital, you know you did something worthwhile today."

The same could perhaps be said of getting married.

A widower since 1991, Arbour became a husband again this month when he wed Hollow, a retired Toronto education consultant.

Next year, in all likelihood, Arbour will be back.

"I came once, and I liked it, and I've been coming ever since," says the career educator who officially "retired" in 1998. "I couldn't imagine the next 20 years on a tennis court or a golf course."

Graphic

Oakland ross toronto star Art Arbour celebrated his 65th birthday in the West Bank this past spring, got married for the second time and also managed to act as an advocate for peace in the troubled city of Hebron for Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Getting in the way of Mideast strife When Israeli soldiers raided an orphans' workshop in Hebron, an ex-High Park principal bore witness

Load-Date: May 20, 2008



NEWS IN BRIEF

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

March 14, 2008 Friday

1 - Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 21

Length: 336 words

Body

Afghan civilians killed

A SUICIDE car bomber rammed a convoy carrying US troops near the airport in Afghanistan's capital Kabul yesterday, killing six civilians and injuring 18. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast. Meanwhile, Britain voiced regret after four civilians -- two <u>women</u> and two children -- were killed in a counter-strike by its forces in southern Helmand province.

Gaza rocket barrage

THE militant Islamic Jihad group in Gaza fired more than 12 rockets at southern Israel yesterday after Israeli forces killed one of its West Bank leaders and three other gunmen, shattering moves by Gaza's Islamic <u>Hamas</u> rulers toward an informal truce. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas accused Israel of ``barbaric crimes".

Hostages' grisly sign

US authorities in Baghdad have received five severed fingers belonging to four Americans and an Austrian who were taken hostage more than a year ago in Iraq. The FBI is investigating the grisly development.

Green-tinted budget

BRITISH Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling has announced environmentally friendly budget measures, including charges to cut the use of plastic bags and gas-guzzling cars.

Hong Kong flu fears

HONG Kong has ordered more than 500,000 students to stay home for two weeks after three children died in recent flu outbreaks. The World Health Organisation said it was a seasonal outbreak.

Serbs call election

SERBIAN President Boris Tadic has dissolved parliament and called elections for May 11, after the collapse of the ruling coalition in a policy rift over EU integration and Kosovo's independence.

Inmate too fat for jail

NEWS IN BRIEF

SUSPECTED Sicilian mafia member Salvatore Ferranti, 36, who weighs 210kg, has been placed under house arrest after he was deemed to be too fat for prison life. Guards had to assist him in all his bodily functions.

Last of WWI vets

FRANCE has lost its last veteran of World War I, Lazare Ponticelli, who has died at the age of 110 after outliving all the other 8.4 million Frenchmen who fought in ``la Grande Guerre".

Load-Date: March 13, 2008



Forum draws Qa'ida-curious; Deputy expected to answer online queries

The Gazette (Montreal)

January 26, 2008 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A23

Length: 297 words

Byline: RANDALL MIKKELSEN, Reuters

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

A woman frustrated by the lack of opportunities in Al-Qa'ida and a supporter wondering if Muslims should deal in gold instead of dollars are among hundreds who have submitted Internet questions to Al-Qa'ida deputy Ayman al-Zawahri.

"My question: What is the role of <u>women</u> in Al-Qa'ida? ... We are the ones who sit with broken hearts and we sit here with nothing to do," one woman asked, according to the U.S.-based terrorism monitoring service SITE Intelligence Group.

The questions were drawn by an offer last month by Al-Qa'ida-linked Web sites that carried an interview with Zawahri, Osama bin Laden's second-in-command.

The deadline was Jan. 16, and Zawahri's answers to selected questions are expected within the next several weeks, SITE said. It sampled about 500 questions of the more than 2,000 submitted. Most were in Arabic.

Although Zawahri and other top Al-Qa'ida leaders are believed to be holed up in remote Pakistan, analysts credit the group with being highly Web-savvy. The semi-interactive forum with Zawahri lets him appear accessible, SITE senior analyst Adam Raisman said.

Questioners wanted to know whether Al-Qa'ida has a presence in Palestinian areas or plans one. It is believed the network wants to establish a foothold, but faces competition from the well-established *Hamas*.

Many asked about ties between Al-Qa'ida and regional groups, how a local group can sign up with Al-Qa'ida, and the proper role for aspiring militants in their home countries.

The Web forums of Islamist groups often debate whether <u>women</u> should confine their roles to helping men, or carry out operations themselves, Raisman said.

Many asked about the duties of Westerners: "What should be the extent of strikes against Western infidels in their countries and what result would be satisfying?"

Load-Date: January 26, 2008



The once and future child murderer

The Jerusalem Post July 22, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1249 words

Byline: FRIMET ROTH

Highlight: The writer and her husband founded the Malki Foundation (<u>www.kerenmalki.org</u>) in memory of their daughter, murdered in the Sbarro restaurant massacre in Jerusalem in 2001. The foundation provides concrete support for Israeli families of all faiths who care at home for a special-needs child.

Body

With the specter of another Ron Arad-type tragedy looming, the return of kidnapped soldier Gilad Schalit has taken center stage. Yet the impending prisoner release could spell a hero's welcome for my daughter's murderer, one even more chilling than that for Samir Kuntar.

<u>Hamas</u> has repeatedly said that one of its iron-clad conditions for Schalit's return is the release of all <u>female</u> and teenage Palestinian prisoners. And after Hizbullah's emboldening success in freeing Kuntar, <u>Hamas</u> is certain to be more extortionist than ever. But the government must plumb the ramifications of this purportedly "humanitarian" demand.

WHO ARE those anonymous female terrorists? And for what crimes are they imprisoned?

<u>Women</u> have acquired enviable status in the world of terrorism. They enjoy the best of both genders. On the one hand, their organizations deem them strong enough and clever enough to mastermind, coordinate and execute terror attacks. Then, once convicted, they morph into delicate, fragile creatures deserving early release by dint of their femininity.

In October 2003, Ahlam Tamimi was sentenced to 16 consecutive life sentences for her role in the terror bombing of Jerusalem's Sbarro restaurant. Fifteen men, <u>women</u> and children perished in that explosion on a hot August afternoon in 2001.

Tamimi, a communications student and a television news reader for the Palestinian Authority, was the linchpin of that atrocity. She had the prior practical experience of planting a bomb in a trash bin at a Jerusalem supermarket, one that was detected before it detonated. Tamimi was not apprehended at the time.

Several months later, she tried again. This time, she carried 10 kg. of explosives concealed in a guitar case. Izzaddin al-Masri, the suicide bomber, sat beside her in a taxi until they neared the Israeli checkpoint. Exiting alone, he approached the Israeli soldiers empty-handed. He sailed through the security check.

Meanwhile Tamimi, 23, attractive, dressed in Western- style clothing and chatting in English, aroused no suspicion. She passed unhampered through the Kalandiya checkpoint on Jerusalem's edge.

The once and future child murderer

Once inside Israel, Masri got back into the taxi. He rode with Tamimi to the walls of Jerusalem's Old City, and from there they walked together into west Jerusalem. At the intersection of Jaffa Road and King George Avenue in the city's center stood Sbarro, a pizza restaurant. Why Tamimi selected it as the target is not hard to figure: On that vacation afternoon, it was filled with <u>women</u> and children.

In separating from her "weapon," Tamimi asked Masri to wait 15 minutes before detonating the bomb. She wanted to be far enough from the explosion to escape unscathed. He complied.

DURING THESE past five years, Tamimi has received all the perks that the Prisons Service offers: the right to dress in clothes of her choice, the right to visitors, the right to socialize with fellow prisoners, the right to decorate her cell as she sees fit, the right to study, the right to practice her religion and the right to wed (she recently married a male terrorist murderer, her cousin Nizar Tamimi). Tamimi has also been permitted two interviews. The first, in March 2006, was reported in the press. The second was videotaped and included in an award- winning documentary film, Hothouse. Some of the film's reviews, including one in The New York Times, featured a glamorous, smiling photograph of Tamimi.

I have tried to detect signs of suffering during Tamimi's five years of imprisonment - but in vain.

Nor has a hint of remorse surfaced. During her Hothouse interview, Tamimi learned that her act cost the lives of eight children, rather than the five she had believed died. She smiled upon hearing the updated tally.

In the first interview she had declared: "I'm not sorry for what I did. We'll become free from the occupation, and then I will be free from prison." Israel's past willingness to release convicted terrorists has made them confident of an early release.

TAMIMI IS no anomaly in the world of terrorism. At the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in 2006, Juliette Shedd of George Mason University delivered a study entitled "Understanding *Female* Terrorists: An Analysis of Motivation and Media Representation." She culled myriad reasons that terrorist organizations avidly recruit *women*

Terrorist organizations play upon the stereotypes of <u>women</u> to achieve their goals; popular opinion considers <u>women</u> as victims of violence... rather than perpetrators... The lore that arises around <u>female</u> terrorists can also provide an advantage... Because <u>women</u> are often not part of the terrorist 'profile,' they are able to get through security check points... and can provide cover for male terrorists by assuming mother or girlfriend roles...

<u>Women</u>... often display ruthlessness, dominance, and calm under pressure... In fact, 'shoot the <u>women</u> first' is reportedly an instruction given to counterterrorist recruits in West Germany and other Interpol squads...

A mystique also arises around **female** terrorists... There is a general sense that **women** are more likely to receive the media attention needed... In addition, **women** seem to inspire the question 'Why?'... journalists search for explanations for the violent activities of **women** [providing] a venue for the terrorist group to spread their message.

Writing in a 2006 academic study by the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, Avi Issacharoff, Haaretz's special correspondent for Arab affairs, pointed out that "the lives of <u>female</u> suicide terrorists are no less tragic than those of male suicide bombers, yet the media accords <u>women</u> more sympathy and treats them with kid gloves."

WE ISRAELIS need to stop using lines like: "No price is too high to free our captive soldiers" or, as Ministerwithout-Portfolio Ami Ayalon put it last week: "Returning the abducted soldiers is above all else." Such assertions are hackneyed and patently false. Plainly there are demands with which no civilized government would comply.

If, for instance, <u>Hamas</u> instructed us to execute one Israeli child to gain Gilad Schalit's freedom, would we? Is releasing a mass child murderer, able and eager to kill more Jewish children, very different from that?

The once and future child murderer

On the morning that the returned hostages Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev were buried, Defense Minister Ehud Barak intimated that there is a red line when he said: "We will do everything that is possible and appropriate to bring Schalit home." But did he mean it?

Before the early release of an "ordinary" murderer, the judicial system ensures that the victims' voices are heard. Yet in the context of terrorist murders, the only concession to families of the victims is the publication - a mere 48 hours prior to the release - of the names of the prisoners being set free. Furthermore, the High Court has never once granted a terror victim's petition to block such a release.

Nevertheless, Smadar Haran, the wife and mother of Samir Kuntar's victims, revealed last week that her wishes had been factored into past government calculations. Even as she expressed her approval of Kuntar's release, she told the nation she had lobbied tirelessly to keep him behind bars for 27 years. She was motivated, she said, by a sense of duty to her murdered loved ones.

I also feel an obligation to my daughter Malki to do everything I can to keep her murderer behind bars. And the rest of Israel owes the same obligation to Tamimi's future targets - their own children.

Graphic

Photo: MALKI ROTH with her mother in 2001. (Credit: Courtesy)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



IN BRIEF

The Australian (Australia)

January 2, 2008 Wednesday

3 - All-round Metro Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 307 words

Body

---- 7 killed in Gaza -----

GAZA CITY: At least seven Palestinians were killed in the latest round of internal clashes in the Gaza Strip, as president Mahmoud Abbas called for unity after a bloody and divisive year. A 12-year-old boy, two other civilians, three Fatah supporters and a member of the *Hamas* police were killed in exchanges of gunfire during a rally east of the southern Gaza town of Khan Yunis.

---- Fired up for fun -----

PARIS: Vandals torched 372 cars as France celebrated the new year, down on the figure last year after a night police described as ``relatively calm". Cars are burned regularly in France and vehicles in flames in poor suburbs became symbolic of the riots in 2005, when angry youths set fire to as many as 1400 vehicles. The Interior Ministry said 144 cars had been burnt in the Paris region overnight and 228 in the rest of France -- down from 397 last New Year's Eve.

---- Taipei threat grows -----

TAIPEI: Taiwan's President has accused China of attempting to change the status quo in the Strait by stockpiling more than 1000 missiles. Chen Shui-bian said that over the past seven years, China had increased the number of ballistic missiles deployed on its side of the Taiwan Strait from 200 to 1328.

---- Castro sparks up -----

HAVANA: Convalescing Cuban leader Fidel Castro has sent a new year's message telling Cubans to celebrate the anniversary of his 1959 revolution nearly 17 months after illness forced him to hand power to his brother. Cubawatchers say a smooth transition of power has already taken place under Raul Castro.

---- Bird flu kills two -----

CAIRO: Two Egyptian <u>women</u> have died of bird flu, bringing to four the number of fatalities from the virus in Egypt in less than a week. All four cases involved <u>women</u> and are believed to have resulted from exposure to sick or dead backyard birds.

Load-Date: January 2, 2008



Doom & gloom

MX (Australia)

November 28, 2007 Wednesday

Melbourne Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 18

Length: 303 words

Body

US SOLDIERS KILL WOMEN, CHILD

SEVEN Iraqis, including three <u>women</u> and a child, were killed by US fire, as a suicide bomber disguised as a shepherd killed seven in an attack on police in the city of Baquba.

Three <u>women</u> and a man were killed when their minibus came under US fire in Baghdad's northeastern Al-Shaab neighbourhood, while US troops also opened fire on a car that tried to speed through a roadblock during an operation against al-Qaida, killing a child and two men.

FIREWORKS EXPLOSION CLAIMS 13

AN EXPLOSION in an illegal fireworks workshop in central China killed 13 people just days after police launched a safety crackdown against fireworks manufacturers.

The blast in rural Hunan province tore apart a house where villagers were assembling the firecrackers that many Chinese people let off at weddings and other celebrations.

MAN DIES AT WEST BANK RALLY

PALESTINIAN police killed one man in the West Bank as they broke up rallies against a US peace meeting, while <u>Hamas</u> supporters in Gaza rallied against the conference.

US President George Bush said Israelis and Palestinians had agreed to launch immediate, bilateral talks aimed at reaching a comprehensive peace deal by late 2008.

MINE BLAST LEAVES 13 DEAD

THIRTEEN civilians were killed by a Sri Lankan military mine in rebel-held Kilinochchi, the Tamil Tigers said, hours before the rebel leadership was due to issue its annual policy statement.

The blast, denied by the military, is the latest claimed action in intensified fighting between government forces and rebels.

TYPHOON DEATH TOLL RISES TO 17

Doom & gloom

THE death toll from Typhoon Mitag rose to 17 in the Philippines, as search operations continued for a missing air force jet and a fishing vessel with 27 people on board.

The typhoon killed 17 people and left four others missing, the civil defence office said.

Load-Date: November 28, 2007



INSIDE THE TIMES, JULY 27, 2008

The New York Times
July 27, 2008 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2008 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1869 words

Body

International

LOOKING PAST KREMLIN,

Russian Tabloids Thrive

The Russian newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda, formerly a gray government mouthpiece, is now part of a vibrant tabloid culture that illustrates the complex nature of life under Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin: As long as the papers do not threaten the Kremlin or its closest friends, they can be as raucous as they like. PAGE 6

MORE EXPLOSIONS IN INDIA

At least 16 explosions rocked an Indian city for the second time in two days, this time in the western city of Ahmedabad Gujarat State, killing 29. The Indian government said cities across the country had been put on alert for similar attacks. Similar blasts went off in the southern technology hub of Bangalore on Friday. PAGE 10

FATAH IS RAIDED IN GAZA

<u>Hamas</u> police officers in Gaza rounded up scores of activists in Fatah, the rival Palestinian movement, and raided its offices after five <u>Hamas</u> militants and a young girl were killed in a bomb blast late Friday, local residents said. The explosion and the <u>Hamas</u> reaction stoked internal tensions in Gaza to one of the highest levels since the **Hamas** takeover of the Palestinian territory last year. PAGE 10

Qantas Inquiry Persists 9

NATIONAL

FLORIDA AGENTS PROTEST

Bond for Cuba Travel

Florida travel agents who provide charter flights to Cuba are relieved after a judge temporarily lifted a measure requiring them to post a \$250,000 bond to continue doing business with Cuba. But the battle between state lawmakers and the agents is far from over. PAGE 13

TEAM FAULTED FOR SPONSOR

INSIDE THE TIMES, JULY 27, 2008

The Washington Nationals opened their season with the country's first certified green professional sports stadium. That hasn't spared them protests from environmentalists, who are taking issue with the Nationals' advertising relationship with ExxonMobil. PAGE 13

NEW YORK REPORT

LIFE ON THE FRINGES

Of the New Brooklyn

Newer residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant, a Brooklyn neighborhood which has high rates of crime and foreclosures, but which New York magazine labeled the city's "next hipster enclave," have grown frustrated waiting for change to come. PAGE 18

A MEMBERS-ONLY TRACK

The Monticello Motor Club is where members pay \$125,000 to push their Ferraris to the limit without worrying about speeding tickets. Neighbors complain it is a throwback to an age before high gasoline prices made fuel economy big news. PAGE 19

SPORTS

THE JETS, BRETT FAVRE

And Desperation

When the Jets began inquiring about a possible acquisition of Brett Favre, the retired star quarterback, they did so in the hope that he would be an immediate improvement over their incumbent signal-callers. But for Coach Eric Mangini and Mike Tannenbaum, the team's general manager, there's also the hope that Favre could help save their jobs. Harvey Araton, Sports of the Times. PAGE 1

HISTORY AND TEDIUM

Indianapolis Motor Speedway is laden with history, which makes it fun for stock car drivers to drive into. Racing there is another story, as the stock car races on the track tend not to have a lot of lead changes and the track requires that the drivers go much slower. PAGE 6

Wrigley Field North 2

OBITUARIES

KATHERINE KINKADE, 77

A utopian idealist, she with fellow believers took over a former tobacco farm in Charlottesville, Va., in 1967 to found Twin Oaks, an experimental community inspired by the behaviorist ideas of B. F. Skinner. "She was the Hillary Clinton of Twin Oaks," Ms. Kinkade's daughter said. PAGE 20

NORMAN DELLO JOIO, 95

A composer who achieved wide popularity in the mid-20th century with a proliferation of lyrical works, he wrote dozens of pieces each for chorus, orchestra, solo voice, chamber groups and piano, as well as three operas, among them "The Triumph of St. Joan." PAGE 20

CHARLES L. BRIEANT JR., 85

A former chief judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, he presided over a raft of controversial and sometimes unusual cases. PAGE 20

The Magazine

GLIMPSES OF WOMEN

In a Closed World

The photographer Stephanie Sinclair was given rare access two weeks ago to some of the <u>women</u> at the center of the battle between the State of Texas and the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The <u>women</u> may be keeping their faith, Sarah Corbett writes in a companion essay, but they have had to start a relationship with the world they call the "outside." PAGE 36

An Afghan Narco-State? 44

SUNDAY BUSINESS

AN UPSTART AGENCY

Lands Big Names

Creative Artists Agency has long been the talent industry's leader. Then came Endeavor, a junior agency known for the sort of quick thinking and ferocity that carried Creative Artists to the top. But Endeavor must show it has staying power, and how it accomplishes that task offers a window onto the shifting landscape of talent brokering in Hollywood. PAGE 1

DOWNLOADING CHEMISTRY

Textbook publishing has a nasty problem on its hands: College students, who regularly pay hundreds of dollars a book, are beginning to download textbooks free on pirate Web sites. Which is why textbook publishers are going digital, shifting the business model from selling objects to renting access to a site with a time-defined subscription. PAGE 4

Beating Foreclosure 1 STYLES

LEAVING YOUR EGO

At the Garage Door

With rising costs at the gas pump, guilt over exhaust, and self-consciousness about the image a full-size behemoth conveys about its driver, Americans' romance with the automobile is being severely tested. "The love affair is over," said one software engineer who just sold his dream car, a Toyota 4Runner. "I'm ready to let it go." PAGE 1

AUDITIONS AT THE CAMPFIRE

The frenzy that many children face to get into the right school is particularly acute for those who aspire to a career in the performing arts. Attending the right summer theater camps (Stagedoor Manor, French Woods) can be a steppingstone to Broadway or even Hollywood. "It's like the secret handshake," said one aspiring actor of Stagedoor Manor. PAGE 1

Blogosphere's Glass Ceiling 1

ARTS & LEISURE

EDITING BEIJING'S HISTORY

With Gentrification

INSIDE THE TIMES, JULY 27, 2008

An explosion of construction activity has transformed Beijing into a modern metropolis. It has also turned many of the city's historical neighborhoods -- known for their narrow alleyways, or hutongs -- into rubble. As grass-roots preservationists labor to protect what remains, they are facing a new, equally insidious threat: gentrification. PAGE 1

RETURN OF THE RENEGADE

Few children's book authors during the cold war years made a habit of playing poker with the Cuban envoy to the United Nations. Or had a side career publishing books of often disturbing erotica. But Tomi Ungerer, who did, left America in 1970 and took his reputation with him. With Phaidon reissuing 20 of his books and the Weinstein Company acquiring the movie rights to one of them, Mr. Ungerer is back in the spotlight. PAGE 1

The Demise of Liner Notes 15 TRAVEL

THREE INTIMATE INNS OFFER

A Taste of Scotland

Draw a straight line from where you are to where you're going: That's the scenic route. Now draw a wavy line, or a figure eight: Those routes are just as scenic. The adjective loses meaning after a while. The Highlands of Scotland are full of gorgeous landscapes and stunning views. And three B&Bs are making the region a culinary destination as well. PAGE 1

AMONG CRETE'S GOATHERDS

The eastern end of Crete, made up of enclaves of 300-year-old cottages once used by olive farmers and goatherds, offers portholes into the island's history and robust geography. Peaceful and primitive, the cottages, many of them now rustic retreats for tourists, give visitors a glimpse into the life of old Crete. PAGE 3

BOOK REVIEW

FOR ONE ENGLISHMAN,

The Greatest Love of All

Thrumpton Hall is a Jacobean manor house in Nottinghamshire. To judge from photographs, it's nothing special, Charles McGrath writes. But the place had an extraordinary hold on Miranda Seymour's father. Her odd and oddly affecting book, "Thrumpton Hall: A Memoir of Life in My Father's House," is a story of house-love that borders on madness. PAGE 1

WEEK IN REVIEW

WHEN TO INDICT

A War Criminal

The dueling war crimes cases of July -- the Sudanese president, Omar Hussein al-Bashir, and the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic -- received distinct reactions from the international community. That's because there is a strand among human rights advocates who say that war crimes indictments should be used only after a conflict is resolved, as such indictments can extend the length of a conflict. PAGE 1

SENATOR TO MR. PRESIDENT

John McCain or Barack Obama will be only the third president to go directly from the Senate to the White House. And, perhaps not coincidentally, Patrick Healy writes, both men face an electorate that seems to crave Senate-style compromise and negotiation, defying conventional wisdom in modern politics. PAGE 1

A Brief History of Hacking 2

The Siren Call of Escapism 3

AUTOMOBILES

AN OVERACHIEVER

Lives Up to Its Billing

Nissan gave the GT-R a clearly defined mission: annihilate nearly every other car on the market around a racetrack while providing seating for four, room for two sets of golf clubs and year-round livability, all for the price of a well-optioned Porsche Cayman S. Amazingly, it hits each of those targets. SPORTS PAGE 11

EDUCATION LIFE

GOOD FOR THE PLANET,

Good for the Ranking

When the Princeton Review releases its annual guide to colleges, it will include a new measure: a "green rating." Campuses are thus racing to be the greenest of them all. But some officials worry they are taking easy steps to win the label rather than doing the unglamorous work to reduce carbon emissions. PAGE 26

THE SUSTAINABLE HAMPTON

Stony Brook Southampton, SUNY's newest campus, is building not only an environmentally friendly campus but also a curriculum in which nearly every course deals with sustainability. PAGE 28

A Green Charter School 30

When Twins Compete 16

Editorial

REBATES RUN THEIR COURSE

Lawmakers are considering a second round of stimulus. One is needed, but tempting as it is to send out checks in an election year, lawmakers will do a disservice to voters if they simply serve up more of the same. WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 9

Op-Ed

FRANK RICH

Presented with a leadership void, Barack Obama has taken the reins as acting president, and John McCain has cracked. WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 12

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

The only good thing to come from soaring oil prices is that they have spurred innovator/investors like T. Boone Pickens and Shai Agassi to move into clean energy with a mad-as-hell, can-do ambition. WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 10

MAUREEN DOWD

The columnist interviews Barack Obama as they jet from Paris to London, on the last leg of his Eurotrip. WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 11

INSIDE THE TIMES, JULY 27, 2008

TOO BIG TO FAIL OR SURVIVE

In an Op-Ed article, William Poole, the departing chief executive of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, contends that while the government is right to bail out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac now, it should look to put them out of business over the long run. WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 11

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTOS

Load-Date: August 5, 2008



DOOM & GLOOM

Sydney MX (Australia)

November 28, 2007 Wednesday

SYD Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 14

Length: 303 words

Body

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DOOM & GLOOM

THE death toll from Typhoon Mitag rose to 17 in the Philippines, as search operations continued for a missing air force jet and a fishing vessel with 27 people on board.

The typhoon killed 17 people and left four others missing, the civil defence office said.

Load-Date: November 28, 2007



Comment & Debate: As it turns 60, the fear is Israel has decided it can get by without peace: This nation was forged in refuge, not imperialism. But its people have grown cynical about hopes for a deal with Palestinians

The Guardian - Final Edition
May 7, 2008 Wednesday

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Section: GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES; Pg. 29

Length: 1261 words

Byline: Jonathan Freedland

Body

In the wee small hours on Israeli television, they show reruns of what was once a staple form of mass entertainment: kibbutz choirs - the men in pressed work shirts, the <u>women</u> in peasant skirts - singing Hebrew folk melodies exalting the Land of Israel, while a smiling audience joins in. The pictures were black and white, the sets cardboard, and the programmes interminable - a socialist-realist tableau of a simple farming nation engaged in wholesome, patriotic amusement.

Visiting Israel last month, I sat transfixed when I stumbled across the public service channel that replays those old shows. Tonight the national celebrations will be more up to date, as Israel marks its 60th anniversary with street parties this evening and beach barbecues tomorrow. Yet if the world is watching, trying to understand the place Israel was and what it has become, it could do worse than start with those cheesy TV specials.

For one thing, too many critics like to depict the establishment of Israel in May 1948 as little more than an act of western imperialism, inserting an alien, European enclave into the mainly Arab and Muslim Middle East. In this view, the Jewish Israelis of today, with their swimming pools and waterside restaurants, are no different from their counterparts in other settler societies - the whites of Australia or, more painfully, South Africa. A look at the faces of Jewish Israel is one easy rebuttal: the new nation that has formed by mixing Moroccan and Russian, Ethiopian and Kurd, is one of the most ethnically diverse in the world. But there is a more substantial counter-argument, one that can be picked up even on those old TV singalongs.

A favourite in the patriotic repertoire is Ein Li Eretz Acheret (I Have No Other Land). In a way, no other sentence conveys the tragedy of Israel and Palestine more concisely - because of course, and with good reason, the Palestinians feel exactly the same way. They too have nowhere else. Yet this Zionist anthem articulates something very deep in Israelis' sense of themselves: they are a nation formed by those who had no other place to live. The Holocaust, inevitably, looms large in this: the establishment of a Jewish state just three years after the liberation of Auschwitz was no coincidence. After 2,000 years, the world was finally persuaded that the Jews deserved what every other people regarded as a basic right: a place of their own.

Comment & Debate: As it turns 60, the fear is Israel has decided it can get by without peace: This nation was forged in refuge, not imperialism. But its people

A poignant reminder that Jews really had no other place - because the rest of the world did not want them - came with the death last month of Yossi Harel, captain of the Exodus, the leaking, rusting ship that carried 4,500 Holocaust survivors from Europe to Palestine in 1947, only to be sent back - by the British - first to France and then, incredibly, to Germany.

This, surely, gives the Israeli experience a different texture to the founding of, say, New Zealand, Argentina or the US. Those enterprises were fuelled chiefly by ambition and appetite for material resources. Even if those who landed on Plymouth Rock were fleeing religious intolerance, the circumstances of America's pioneers were not those of the Jews in the 1940s. The moral difference between the Jews and the white settlers of America, Africa and Australasia is the difference between a homeless man who needs a roof over his head and the landowner who fancies a second home. Those who lazily brand Zionism as imperialism should be able to tell the difference - and to remember that those who boarded those battered ships felt less like imperialists than refugees desperate for shelter.

The old TV shows provide another, related corrective. They are a reminder that in some ways early Israel was less Rhodesia than it was East Germany, a small country with socialism as the state religion. Back in the 1970s, all Israeli floors looked the same: the tiles were mass produced and there was only one style. Every toilet seat was made by a single kibbutz. Foreign investors were told they were welcome - so long as they were happy to sell a 51% stake in their company to the Histadrut, Israel's TUC.

That collectivism is all but gone. Most of the kibbutzim have privatised: individual members now own their own houses and earn different wages from each other. The kibbutz was never Israel, but it stands as a metaphor for what is happening in the wider society.

Israel itself is privatising, as its people withdraw from the collective sphere and retreat into their own, individual lives. Many speak of the bu'ah they construct for themselves, the bubble in which they can hide away from the fears and angst of Israel's "situation". Polling reveals the dichotomy: while nearly 40% believe the country faces a "serious threat of destruction" from its neighbours, around 83% are "satisfied or very satisfied" with their own lives.

All of which has a bearing on the other meaning of tomorrow's anniversary. The US administration has set the date as a deadline for Israelis and Palestinians to show some progress in the talks launched at Annapolis last November, ahead of President Bush's visit to the region next week.

Israel insists that it is straining every sinew seeking peace, just as it has insisted throughout the past 60 years. I heard the Israeli foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, explain with pride in London last week that she has kept talking to her Palestinian counterpart, even "on days of terror". Some of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's hawkish critics reckon the peace effort is, if anything, accelerating, in order to distract attention from the new, apparently serious, corruption inquiry just launched against him. And yet, there are few signs of a genuinely urgent Israeli desire for an accord with the Palestinians. The appearance of efforts for peace, in order to placate the legacy-hungry Bush, most certainly, but a fierce yearning for peace is harder to detect.

So when Jimmy Carter was in Jerusalem last month, carrying messages from Damascus and <u>Hamas</u>, no frontline Israeli minister would so much as meet him. Israel says it can't afford to legitimise <u>Hamas</u>, even indirectly, for fear of undermining the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas. Fine. In which case, surely, Israel would be doing all it could to bolster Abbas's credibility - by, say, removing West Bank outposts deemed illegal under Israeli law, or offering compensation to those Jewish settlers ready to leave occupied territory voluntarily and return to Israel-proper. Yet Olmert has done no such thing.

In this, the PM is doing no more than follow the national mood. Israelis have grown cynical about peacemaking. "We pulled out of Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza in 2005, and what did we get for our trouble? Katyushas from Hizbullah and Qassams from *Hamas*. No thanks." Besides, and few Israelis like to say this out loud, they believe they can get by without peace. Thanks, they whisper, to the separation barrier or wall, terror attacks have dwindled: Palestinian violence is contained. As for the so-called demographic factor - the notion that soon Jews and Arabs in the entire land ruled by Israel will reach numeric parity - that feels abstract and far away.

Comment & Debate: As it turns 60, the fear is Israel has decided it can get by without peace: This nation was forged in refuge, not imperialism. But its people

Israelis will party tonight, celebrating an economy that enjoyed 5.1% growth last year and which provides for many a good life. Only a few insomniacs will watch the old shows and remember the long-ago melodies, including the one that sounds more passe now than ever. It's called Shir L'shalom - and it is the song for peace.

You can hear Jonathan Freedland discussing Israel at 60 on the Sounds Jewish podcast at guardian.co.uk/podcasts

freedland@guardian.co.uk

Load-Date: May 7, 2008



Missiles fired to kill Israeli civilians

The Herald (Glasgow)
October 3, 2007

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 12

Length: 332 words

Body

IN RELATION to the civil strife in Burma, Duncan McFarlane in his letter (October 2) talks of the hypocrisy of the US and UK governments for not "putting pressure on the Israeli government to end its occupation of Palestinian territory and killings of Palestinian civilians". He was particularly anxious about Gaza, as well he should be. While <u>Hamas</u> may have been the victor in democratic elections there, it is far from having democracy either at or in its heart. It is a cruel and manipulative organisation that attacks <u>women</u>, gays and religious minorities.

As for Israeli attacks on Palestine, I didn't read in Mr McFarlane's letter any condemnation of the daily assault on the western Negev of missiles aimed for the sole purpose of killing innocent Israeli civilians.

Dr Graeme D Eddie, Bothwell Gardens, East Lothian.

DUNCAN McFarlane's idealised vision of a democratic, peace-loving Gaza wanting to be left in peace to enjoy good relations with her neighbours (Letters, October 2) is far removed from reality. Since the handover of Gaza by Israel, 2000 rockets have landed in Israel causing damage, injury and loss of life.

It is my belief that democratic elections in Gaza are a feeble justification for demanding that Israel tolerates daily bombardment against her citizens because they happen to emanate from terrorists encouraged by a democratically-elected government.

Not a week passes without an attempted terrorist attack against Israel being intercepted by the IDF. Mr McFarlane fails to relate his Palestinian casualty figures to that fact. To apply the term "civilian" to armed terrorists who have been killed in action is disingenuous and naive.

Mr McFarlane has disregarded Israel's drive for peace, recently demonstrated by the releasing of a large number of terrorists from Israeli prisons but as yet she has received no reciprocal offers for the release of captured Israeli soldiers, who have even been denied International Red Cross access.

Myer Green, 103 Ayr Road, Glasgow.

Load-Date: October 3, 2007



Prisoners freed in gesture to Abbas

Financial Times (London, England)

August 26, 2008 Tuesday

London Edition 1

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 334 words

Byline: Vita Bekker in Tel Aviv

Body

Israel yesterday freed 198 Palestinian prisoners out of an estimated 9,000 held in Israeli jails, hours before the US secretary of state was to arrive in the region to boost faltering peace talks.

The release of 194 men and four <u>women</u> is a gesture of support for Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority, ahead of Condoleezza Rice's one-day visit. Ms Rice's trip is aimed at brokering a peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians by the time President George W. Bush leaves the White House in January.

The release of prisoners is a central demand of Mr Abbas, who is trying to win public support for peace talks with Israel, as his moderate Fatah movement is being challenged by *Hamas*, the Palestinian Islamist group.

A spokesman for Ehud Olmert, the Israeli prime minister, said the release was aimed as a "confidence-building" measure for Mr Abbas. He added: "Releasing prisoners can be difficult, especially when you talk about individuals who have been involved in the murder of innocent civilians. The idea for this release was to strengthen moderate and pragmatic Palestinians." Yesterday's move followed the freeing of 429 Palestinian prisoners by Israel in December, after the US-backed Annapolis conference that kick-started peace talks.

Mr Abbas, speaking at a ceremony at the Palestinian Authority compound in Ramallah, said: "There will be no peace unless all prisoners are released." Addressing the prisoners still in Israeli custody, he added: "Your time is coming."

Most of those released were members of Fatah and convicted on charges including attempted murder, shootings, stone-throwing and carrying arms. In a rare move by Israel, which has stirred some controversy among its own citizens, it also released two convicted killers.

Both Israeli and Palestinian senior officials have expressed scepticism about reaching a peace deal this year. Tzipi Livni, Israel's foreign minister, has warned that "premature" efforts to bridge gaps between the two sides could lead to violence.

Load-Date: August 25, 2008



Quebec's double standard

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

September 12, 2008 Friday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A17; Barbara Kay

Length: 850 words

Byline: Barbara Kay, National Post

Body

My manicurist's brother's girlfriend just had her fifth abortion on the public dime, I learned yesterday. No worries. This is Quebec, which "enjoys" twice the abortion rate of the other provinces. The right to abortion is sacred here -- as many and as often as you like. In fact, support for unlimited access to abortion is apparently a litmus test for one's worthiness to enter politics.

Someone running for office in the Conservative party, for example, who adheres to a faith holding that abortion is morally wrong may be publicly censured by the Bloc Quebecois leader. On the other hand, a candidate linked to terrorist apologists in Quebec won't raise the slightest objection from that same party leader.

Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe has taken umbrage because a candidate for the Conservative party, Nicole Charbonneau Barron, running in the South Shore Montreal riding of St. Bruno-St. Hubert, is a member of Opus Dei, a personal prelature within the Catholic Church.

Attempting to whip up fears that the Tories want to take away a woman's right to choose, Mr. Duceppe complained that "those people are against a lot of things that are generally accepted in Quebec."

It is true that members of Opus Dei do not support abortion. On the other hand, "those people," do not sympathize with <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah or believe Jews are legitimate targets for terrorism, surely views that are not "generally accepted in Quebec" as well?

Which brings me to what should be the actually worrying case of Samira Laouni, the NDP candidate for the riding of Montreal-Bourassa. Some of us in Quebec who keep our eye on activities and players in the Islamic community wonder why Mr. Duceppe is so fascinated by Ms. Charbonneau Barron's privately held views on abortion, but is not at all exercised by Ms. Laouni's enthusiasm for shariah law and anti-Western agents provocateurs.

Ms. Laouni was interviewed by outspoken popular radio host Benoit Dutrizac Wednesday. He asked her, "What is the difference between a good Muslim and an Islamist?" She replied: "I don't know, I have never been around an extremist ..."

Not true.

Quebec 's double standard

I attended a Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) fund-raiser in September, 2007, in Ms. Laouni's riding, which featured the notoriously controversial British journalist, Yvonne Ridley. As Project Manager for the CIC's Quebec branch, Ms. Laouni's name was listed on the program as an organizer and contact person.

Ms. Ridley, a convert to Islam after a period of captivity with the Taliban, is famous for her provocations: She has defended the Chechen terrorist leader Shamil Basayev -- the mastermind behind both the Moscow theatre hostage crisis and the Beslan school massacre -- as a shaheed (martyr) with an assured home in Paradise; and she is on record counselling British Muslims "to boycott the police and refuse to cooperate with them in any way, shape or form." Ms. Ridley performed as expected that night, praising the misunderstood Taliban, Canada's mortal enemies, cheering on Hezbollah and bashing the West at every turn. I'd call that extremist.

Ms. Laouni's active participation in the leadership of the CIC is problematic. This organization has petitioned to have Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> removed from the government's official terror list. CIC's president, Mohamed Elmasry, once declared every adult Jew in Israel to be a legitimate target for murder.

Ms. Laouni's name may be vaguely familiar to those who followed the Reasonable Accommodation hearings in Quebec. She was co-chair of the delegation that went to the infamous town of Herouxville to lecture its residents on "respect" and "tolerance."

That's a bit rich in light of a rather shocking poem that had just been published, written by Ms. Laouni's riding association president (and until recently her campaign manager), Haydar Moussa. Allegedly an expression of the pain felt by Muslim <u>women</u> who experience prejudice, Ms. Moussa's poem lashes out at heritage Quebec culture, portraying Quebec <u>women</u> as promiscuous drunks:

"My veil is not a kerchief ... It's my skin/My modesty, my dignity, my respect.

"And if you, old-stock immigrant/ You have neither faith nor law/And you spent your youth drunk/And went from one male to the next/That's not the case for me."

Ms. Moussa, who has yet to apologize for the poem, is vice-president of the Association des Jeunes Libanais Muselmans de Montreal. Their Web site features the Hezbollah war anthem Ya Ashraf An Na (United We Stand), which calls on Muslims to fight the tyrant (the U. S. and Israel, presumably) because victory is promised by God.

The association's Web site also has links to a number of radical Shiite ayatollahs, including Hezbollah's spiritual leader, jihadism strategist Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, who, for the record, supports terrorism, although, ironically enough, does not support abortion. Has anyone asked Ms. Laouni what her private views on jihadism, as well as abortion, are? Or, she being Muslim, not Catholic, and NDP, not Conservative, would such an intrusion into her private conscience be considered too politically indelicate?

bkay@videotron.ca

Load-Date: September 12, 2008



FAST NEWS

The Courier Mail (Australia)

June 6, 2008 Friday

1 - First with the news Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 44

Length: 329 words

Body

Car bombs kill 19

BAGHDAD: Two car bombs rocked Baghdad yesterday, killing 19 people, while US troops suffered their biggest single loss in a month, bringing to an end a relative lull in violence. Three US soldiers were killed by small arms fire in the mainly Sunni Arab town of Hawijah, near the northern oil city of Kirkuk, the US military said. The US deaths raised to 4090 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the 2003 invasion.

Suicide attack call

DUBAI: Al-Qaeda's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahri has urged Palestinians to step up suicide and rocket attacks, saying in an internet recording they are the only way to end Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip. Zawahri also criticised Egypt for not opening its border to the Palestinians, branding Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak a "traitor". Last month, Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden urged Muslims to help break the blockade of the *Hamas*-controlled Gaza Strip and fight Arab governments that deal with the Jewish state.

Prize for UK author

LONDON: British author Rose Tremain has landed the Orange Prize for <u>women</u> writers with The Road Home, the tale of an East European immigrant grappling with the challenges of life in London. It took judges three hours to pick the winner of the pound stg. 30,000 (\$62,000) prize and their final choice was a unanimous decision. The hero of The Road Home is Lev, who travels to Britain with no job prospects, little money and few words of English.

Payback deaths

PORT MORESBY: Three brothers and a cousin were ``cut up like cattle" and four other people are missing after Papua New Guinea clansmen launched a payback attack to avenge a murder. The four mutilated bodies were found at a settlement outside Port Moresby yesterday, police said. Police believe yesterday's killings were a payback for the murder of another man on Wednesday. Payback attacks are widespread in PNG, but authorities seek to persuade people to settle matters through police and the court system.

Load-Date: June 5, 2008

FAST NEWS



What we're facing is 'genocidal terror'

The Jerusalem Post March 28, 2008 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 14

Length: 3476 words

Byline: DAN IZENBERG

Highlight: The Hebrew University's Elihu Richter and Ted Tulchinsky argue that the legal notion of 'proportionality'

takes on a new meaning when one side intends to destroy the other, and they fiercely dispute UN Special

Rapporteur John Dugard's 'understanding' of rocket attacks

Body

Last year, the European Journal of Public Health published an article arguing that had the United Nations, human rights organizations and the media used the term "genocide" rather than "ethnic cleansing" to describe events in Rwanda, Darfur and Bosnia, tens of thousands of lives might have been saved.

The article was written by Dr. Rony Blum and Elihu Richter of the Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem-Hadassah Ein Kerem; Prof. Gregory Stanton, president of Genocide Watch; and HU law student Shira Sagi.

According to their findings, precise and accurate terminology is of crucial, practical importance in dealing with and preventing, or at least intervening at an earlier stage to halt, genocide. "The term 'ethnic cleansing,'" they wrote, "corrupts observation, interpretation, ethical judgment and decision-making, thereby undermining the aim of public health. 'Ethnic cleansing' bleaches the atrocities of genocide, leading to inaction in preventing current and future genocides."

According to the figure published in the article, 800,000 people were killed in Rwanda, 200,000 in Bosnia and 400,000 had been killed in Darfur at the time the article was published.

Richter and a group of his public health colleagues in Israel believe the same principle applies to the terminology used to describe the campaign waged by <u>Hamas</u> and other Palestinian terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip. Before presenting their views, it needs to be emphasized that Richter and the others, including Dr. Ted Tulchinsky, who also teaches public health at Hadassah, are neither right-wing political ideologues nor indifferent to Palestinian suffering. Richter and Tulchinsky have spent many years participating in joint Israeli-Palestinian medical projects and training programs and believe the commitment to public health on the part of both Israeli and Palestinian doctors and scientists provides fertile ground for the most positive kind of cooperation.

Over the past few years, Richter and Tulchinsky have concluded that the terror groups headed by <u>Hamas</u> are waging a campaign of "genocidal terror" against Israel and that their actions meet the criteria established by the UN in the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The convention defines genocide as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Richter maintains that if the UN, human rights organizations and the media were to define the rocket attacks on Sderot and other civilian communities as "genocidal terrorism" rather than "war crimes," as they do today, they would be presenting a much more accurate depiction of the threat with which Israel is contending.

In trying to explain the difference between "regular" and "genocidal" terrorism, Richter told The Jerusalem Post, "Note that *Hamas* and its Iranian sponsor, backer and funder are explicitly committed to the destruction of Israel. In contrast, take terrorists in Colombia. They target prominent individual Colombians, some for political reasons, others for ransom money. The same holds true for the Weathermen, who kidnapped Patty Hearst, or the Red Brigades. They were targeting specific political figures from their own countries without reference to national, ethnic or religious status. They were kidnappers, robbers and murderers."

RICHTER IS not a lawyer. He said he came to his conclusion on the basis of the same kind of epidemiological studies that are applied to natural disasters or epidemics. "The idea evolved out of the efforts of some of us to understand what was happening, based on an examination of who, when, where, which, how and what the data were telling us," he said.

For example, he examined the gender and age breakdown of Palestinian and Israeli fatalities during the second intifada and found that there was a disproportionate number of elderly, <u>female</u> and child victims on the Israeli side, compared to a disproportionate number of young male victims on the Palestinian side.

In developing the concept of genocidal terrorism, Richter also consulted with legal experts including Stanton, co-author of the ethnic cleansing article, who is currently professor of human rights at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. "I think genocidal terror is exactly what al-Qaida, *Hamas* and Hizbullah are doing," he wrote. "I think the key nexus is that genocidal killing is intended to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. Terror is aimed at killing members of another group, making no distinction between civilians and combatants. That distinction is required by the Geneva Conventions and Optional Protocol I and II and Common Article 3 apply the conventions to non- state actors."

Richter also referred to Israel Charney, executive director of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide, Jerusalem. Charney, who has written several books on genocide, told Richter, "I am pessimistic about the growing violence in the world from the emerging 'transnational genocide terrorism.' I sadly anticipate and fear deeply that before long, there will be a use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by terrorists, including suicide bombers, with resulting horrendous widespread deaths, agony and breakdown of civilized life in widespread areas."

Perhaps the most prominent jurist in the world working on redefining international law to address the changes that have taken place in the nature of terrorism over the decades is Harvard University's Alan Dershowitz. In an interview with the Post published on March 14, Dershowitz said the clear distinction between civilian and combatant breaks down in a war against terrorists, and international law must acknowledge and deal with this. "The anachronistic theory that you can clearly tell the difference between civilian and combatant must be updated to deal with the new reality in which terrorists use civilian population for fighting purposes," he said.

Instead of the either/or duality of civilian versus combatant, Dershowitz proposes what he calls the "continuum of civilianality."

"You can rank people on a scale of one to 10, one being an infant baby, 10 being a grown man with a shoulder rocket about to fire. In between, there are those people who allow their homes to be used for rocket launches or storage, imams who encourage suicide bombing, people who make explosive belts," he explained.

In a recent article published in The Wall Street Journal, Dershowitz appeared to go even farther. He referred to a report in The New York Times that quoted Zahra Maladan, the editor of a Lebanese <u>women</u>'s magazine, as warning her son at the funeral of arch-terrorist Imad Mughniyeh, "If you're not going to follow in the steps of the Islamic resistance martyrs, then I don't want you."

In this new kind of terrorism, Dershowitz continued, "there is a new image of mothers urging their children to die, and then celebrating the martyrdom of their suicidal sons and daughters by distributing sweets and singing wedding songs. As more <u>women</u> and children are recruited by their mothers and their religious leaders to become suicide bombers, more <u>women</u> and children will be shot at - some mistakenly. That, too, is part of the grand plan of our enemies. They want us to kill their civilians, whom they also consider martyrs, because when we accidentally kill a civilian, they win in the court of public opinion. We need new rules and strategies to deal effectively and fairly with these dangerous new realities. We cannot simply wait until the son of Zahra Maladan, and the sons and daughters of hundreds like her, decide to follow [their] mothers' demand."

In calling for a redefinition of international law, Dershowitz maintained that in today's world, the old notion of deterrence, achieved by massive superiority, plays less of a role than prevention and pre-emption. For example, he wrote, "You can't deter a person who wants to die or a nation prepared to sacrifice itself, as some in Iran have suggested they're prepared to do."

International law today does not state that it is illegal to kill a civilian in the process of striking at a military target. However, it invokes the principle of proportionality, which states that in deciding whether or not to attack a military target, the state must take into account whether the number of potential civilian casualties is proportional to the anticipated military gain. If the estimated casualties are "disproportionate," the strike is illegal. By introducing the concept of a "continuity of civilianality," it appears that Dershowitz seeks to change the numerical balance between civilians and combatants who would be potential victims of the strike in favor of the combatants.

IN A VIEW similar to Dershowitz's, Richter maintains that large segments of Palestinian society in Gaza are involved in terrorism. "If 40 percent of all families know someone who has been killed 'fighting the Israelis,' i.e. launching terror attacks or defending their perpetrators, and latest estimates are that some 20,000 Gazans are under arms in various military units, it would seem that we are dealing with population-wide involvement in such terror attacks and not a few 'extremists.'"

Asked whether his estimation of the "population-wide involvement" in terror gave Israel moral and legal license to strike at the entire population, Richter replied, "When the goal is genocidal and the threat is disruptive to the way of life of an entire population [i.e. the Israeli population], it seems that the proportionality of the threat [to Israel] and not only the actual losses [to the Israeli population] becomes critical in framing the scope of a response compatible with ethical norms. When those producing the threat are receiving support from sizable segments of the population, or taking refuge among the population, it would seem that the perpetrators of genocidal terror - and adult members of that population - bear responsibility for the losses to that population resulting from the use of force against them. The outburst of joy over the murder of eight students at the Mercaz Harav Yeshiva on March 6 bespeak of this support. At the same time, everything must be done to try to limit the damage."

In order to limit damage to innocent civilians, Richter suggested giving advanced warning before destroying areas used for launching rockets.

Several weeks ago, Richter protested to the Post following an article in the paper which quoted from an official of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Middle East region. The official had provided figures regarding the damage to Gaza hospitals caused by the severe fuel import restrictions imposed by Israel beginning in October 2007. Richter, Tulchinsky and other Israeli physicians have been actively involved with WHO over the years, but Richter complained that in the past year, there has been a growing "selective indifference on the part of the regional office to the problem of terror."

He and his colleagues were particularly incensed over a two-page interview with John Dugard, the outgoing Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Palestine and Other Occupied Territories, which appeared in the September-October 2007 edition of Bridges, the WHO regional bi-monthly.

Dugard, to put it mildly, is the bte noire of many Israelis who are personally involved in, or closely follow, the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

"The mandate of Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Palestine, created in 1993 by the discredited and now defunct UN Commission on Human Rights, is to investigate only violations by Israel, a one-sided duty John Dugard has zealously embraced since his appointment to the post in 2001," Richter charged. "His reports stand out, even by UN standards, for their virulently anti-Israel prejudice. There are many UN figures who like to lambast Israel. But Mr. Dugard has the dubious distinction of being the only appointee of the UN who regularly rails against the UN-sponsored Quartet and its road map for the Middle East [for not demanding an end to Israel's alleged human right violations in Gaza]."

Richter and Tulchinsky were particularly incensed by what Tulchinsky described as "the bashing of Israel on medical referrals to Israel, which has been a big issue pushed by WHO and Dugard."

This would obviously be a particularly sensitive point for public health physicians. WHO wrote that of the total number of Palestinian patients from Gaza who requested permits to enter Israel in 2007 for hospital treatment (in Israel, the West Bank or Jordan), 18.48% were rejected, compared to 9.84% in 2006. In their response, Tulchinsky, Richter and Ronny Starkshall - another member of the Braun School - pointed out that the number of patients who had received permits jumped from 4,932 in 2006 to 7,176 in 2007, an increase of 45%. Regarding the disturbing figures that only 64.5% of Gazans had been granted permits in November 2007 and 64.3% in December 2007, shortly after Israel's pronouncement that Gaza was a "hostile territory," the three wrote, perhaps naively, that "the recent difficulties with approvals are being addressed at [the] Erez crossing and by the local WHO office in goodwill meetings with the Israel Defense Forces Coordinator's Office." This comment came as a result of a meeting between Maj.-Gen. Yosef Mishlev, Coordinator of Activities in the Territories and his staff, WHO officials and three Israeli doctors, including Tulchinsky.

As for the Dugard interview in Bridges and a controversial report that the special rapporteur presented to the UN General Assembly on January 21, Tulchinsky, Richter and Starkshall wrote that they "strongly object to the unbalanced and erroneous remarks of Prof. John Dugard. Dugard addresses Palestinian rights issues but fails to address the fundamental rights of Israelis to be free from terrorist rocket and suicide bomber attacks by the <u>Hamas</u> government and terror organizations aimed at population centers, notably Sderot, with the specific intention of killing and injuring civilians. Terror attacks directed against a civilian population fall within the definition of genocide by the UN Convention on Genocide."

Dugard's seventh and final report to the UN, released on January 21, was indeed controversial and went so far as to show "understanding" for the terrorist rocket attacks against Israeli civilian population centers.

In an exclusive interview, Dugard replied to questions by the Post on his comments made in the annual report. (See interview, Page 18)

IN THE final analysis, Richter bases his arguments on the following axiom: "The right to life," he says, "trumps all other human rights."

"Funerals are forever, closed border crossings can be reopened. Their effects are reversible." As for the water and electricity shortages suffered by Gaza hospitals as a result of Israel's fuel and electricity sanctions, Richter said, "Hospitals should be sanctuaries, but not if used as sites for arms storage, hiding of armed terrorists, launching sites. But we have to be careful in ascertaining what is truly happening. Last time around, the power outages were staged and <u>Hamas</u> reportedly siphoned off electricity for its own uses. Regions under siege are entitled to receive water shipments. But in such cases, the strong steal from the weak."

It is important to note that Richter gives little, if any, credence to the claim that the Palestinians resort to violence because they have no other way of opposing the Israeli occupation of their land. As far as he is concerned, terrorism is caused by the hate language and incitement of its leaders.

"It is the children who are the most vulnerable to hate language and incitement," Richter wrote. "Perpetrators of genocide or genocidal terror use hate language to stigmatize and dehumanize the 'other,' without which they cannot recruit their followers. If the Kassams are the hardware of genocidal terror, the incitement of children and youths provides the software. The claim that the occupation is the cause of the terror, and by implication, the cause of the incitement to terror, is not sustainable. The incitement reappeared in Palestinian textbooks with the establishment of the PA and Israel's first withdrawals, and its ebb and tide bear no relationship to subsequent Israeli withdrawals."

According to Richter and Tulchinsky, the overwhelmingly disproportionate criticism of Israel by the UN, international human rights organizations and the media constitute "an upscale variant of classical anti-Semitism. This trend seems to apply different standards to the value of life of Israelis and Palestinians and attributes the problems of the latter exclusively to the barriers, curfews and checkpoints and not to failures of the Palestinian leadership in taking charge of its own society."

Tulchinsky told the Post that "The buzzword is that Israel is illegitimate in its methods. The message is that Israel is illegitimate."

HEBREW UNIVERSITY professor Yuval Shany, an expert in international law and academic director of the Minerva Center for Human Rights, said most violations of international criminal law fall into the category of war crimes or crimes against humanity. Determining that a crime constitutes genocide is, in general, more controversial. Furthermore, he said, "it is one thing to call to update international law by bringing it more in line with current realities, and another thing to call for violating the law as it currently exists."

On the other hand, Shany added that international law does not provide the complete answer to complex situations which must take contradictory factors into account. Furthermore, it leaves much leeway for interpretation. For example, what may be a proportional act in the eyes of one party may be disproportional to another. Unless an international court rules on the matter in accordance with the independent opinions of its judges, there can be no unequivocal answer to such a question.

But, continued Shany, for those (like Dershowitz) who maintain that international law is a barrier to democracies fighting fairly against tyrants, there are others, including many human rights activists, who maintain that it fails to sufficiently protect the rights of innocent civilians. Thus, neither side is satisfied with the provisions of international law, which may not necessarily be negative, since it can be indicative of its balanced nature.

In general, Shany regards international law as a restraining factor rather than a set of clear-cut legal provisions unequivocally detailing what may and may not be done in war. The most that can be said is that without it, many countries would likely treat enemy civilians more violently than they do.

While Shany did not comment on the entire range of the comments in Dugard's January 21 report, he told the Post that the UN official's analysis of the legal situation in Gaza was biased. Shany believes Israel's disengagement from Gaza brought an end to the occupation and that Israel no longer bears the responsibilities of a belligerent occupier as laid down in international humanitarian law. In other words, the Palestinians are no longer a protected population and Israel has no special responsibility for their well-being.

"Dugard's report is based on a tendentious analysis of the law," Shany said. "I disagree with his conclusions."

According to Shany, the relations between Gaza and Israel today are governed by the laws of war and, specifically, by the laws governing situations of siege. "When A breaks the law against B, B may punish A," he explained. The only limitation is that punitive measures cannot cause a humanitarian crisis such as starvation and the applied sanctions must be proportional to the original violation. Thus, B may not block humanitarian supplies from reaching A. Beyond that threshold, however, B may legally impose economic sanctions against A and they will not be

regarded as violations of international law even though they constitute a form of collective punishment, provided that they meet the test of proportionality.

Indeed, Shany is of the opinion that the initial sanctions taken by Israel against the Gaza Strip after <u>Hamas</u> defeated Fatah and took exclusive control over the area in June 2007 were legal. However, he thinks Israel's recent fuel and electricity cutbacks might be illegal because of the humanitarian hardships they have caused the Palestinian population.

Graphic

5 photos: 'One man's freedom fighter is essentially another man's terrorist,' says John Dugard. Dr. Ted Tulchinsky points out that while percentages have gone down, the number of Palestinians who received permits for medical treatment in Israel has gone up by over 2,000 in one year. A Sderot resident examines rocket damage to his house. Prof. Elihu Richter calls Kassams 'the hardware of genocidal terror,' and incitement 'the software.' (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski; AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Shooting 'won't sway' Israel-Palestine talks

The Advertiser (Australia)

March 10, 2008 Monday

1 - State Edition

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 31

Length: 347 words

Body

JERUSALEM: Israeli-Palestinian peace talks will proceed this week on several levels despite a shooting attack in Jerusalem that killed eight Israelis.

The comments yesterday by Israeli officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity since there was no official announcement on the talks, came hours after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called for Israel not to abandon peace efforts despite a recent escalation of violence.

The attack at a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem on Thursday combined with incessant violence in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel threatened the U.S.-backed talks that the sides hope will bring a peace agreement by the end of 2008.

Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, said in his first public response to the shooting attack that it was ``horrible" and carried out in ``cold blood".

Those launching rockets from Gaza and those involved in the shooting had the same purpose, Mr Olmert said.

"The perpetrators of both intend to make our lives unbearable," Mr Olmert told an event celebrating international **women**'s day in a Tel Aviv suburb. "This won't happen."

Israel will use both "military and diplomatic tools" to ensure its existence, he said. Mr Olmert did not speak directly about the peace talks with the Palestinians.

Earlier this week, Mr Abbas had briefly called off talks with Israel in response to the killing of more than 120 Palestinians, including dozens of civilians, during Israeli military operations in Gaza, which followed an increase in rocket fire from the *Hamas*-controlled territory.

But on Saturday he said the negotiations should go ahead.

Israel and the Palestinians will hold talks Thursday in a meeting with a U.S. general assigned to monitor progress.

Israeli police have arrested eight people in connection with Thursday's shooting, they said yesterday.

Gunman Alaa Abu Dheim did not meet the typical profile of Palestinian attackers, police said.

Shooting `won't sway' Israel - Palestine talks

``He is not known to the security forces," Jerusalem police commander Aharon Franco told Channel Two TV. ``He was a normal man, who worked as a driver, who was going to wed soon."

Load-Date: March 9, 2008



FAST NEWS

The Courier Mail (Australia)

March 14, 2008 Friday

1 - First with the news Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 40

Length: 333 words

Body

Rockets hit Israel

GAZA: Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad fired rockets into Israel yesterday, ending an Egyptian-brokered moratorium in what it called an ``initial" response to deadly Israeli raids in the West Bank. No one was hurt by the salvo against the border town of Sderot but it looked likely to set off alarm bells for many Israelis, who had begun to grow used to a week-long lull following a surge of bloodshed in the *Hamas*-run Gaza Strip. Islamic Jihad had vowed revenge after Israeli troops killed four of its members two West Bank towns on Wednesday.

Raid kills civilians

LONDON: Four civilians have died in an air strike in Afghanistan, Britain's Defence Ministry said yesterday and a military expert said the tide of the war against insurgents was running against the US and its allies. The strike on Wednesday was called in after Taliban militants ambushed British troops operating in the southern province of Helmand, the ministry said. Two **women** and two children were killed and a fifth person was injured.

Sailors missing

BEIJING: Coast guard search and rescue teams were searching for 23 missing Chinese sailors aboard a Panamanian-registered cargo ship that sank off eastern China yesterday, state press reported. The New Hangzhou sank off the coast of Zhejiang province while carrying 9000 tonnes of cargo from China's northern port of Tianjin to Vietnam, Xinhua news agency said. Crew members aboard the ship reported the vessel was sinking via mobile phone, the report said.

An ill wind

LONDON: A self-confessed ``old fart" who was asked by his social club to go outside to break wind is in hospital --after he was blown over by a gale in south-west England. Pensioner Maurice Fox, 77, made national headlines in December when the Kirkham Street Sports and Social Club in Paignton, Devon, asked him to ``go outside when required" because of his ``breaking of wind while in the club". Mr Fox was knocked over by a gust which caused a broken rib, bruised hip and grazes.

Load-Date: March 13, 2008

FAST NEWS



Trapped hunter ate rotting meat to live

The Western Mail

January 23, 2008, Wednesday

WMail Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8 Length: 344 words

Body

A CANADIAN hunter ate rotten meat and fended off snarling animals to survive for 96 hours trapped under his truck in remote countryside before he was discovered. Ken Hildebrand was near Calgary, Alberta, on January 8 when his vehicle hit a rock and rolled over, trapping him underneath.

Mr Hildebrand, who has a weak leg due to polio, was face down on the snowy ground with the truck pinning his strong leg. He kept himself alive, if sick, by eating the rotting meat of the animals he had collected and using a beaver carcass to keep himself warm. He blew a whistle to keep away coyotes that came near.

"It was time to get ready for survival mode," he said.

Women descend on Egyptian border

EGYPTIAN border guards fired in the air and used clubs and water cannon to drive back hundreds of Palestinian <u>women</u> who surged across the border from Gaza yesterday.

The <u>women</u> were demanding the frontier be opened for shipments of food and essential provisions, in short supply since Israel closed its borders with the coastal strip.

Eyewitnesses said 15 **women** injured in the scuffle with the Egyptians were taken from the Rafah border crossing by Palestinian ambulances.

They said several thousand <u>women</u>, carrying flags of the militant Islamic <u>Hamas</u> movement, which rules the Gaza Strip, demonstrated at the Palestinian side of the crossing.

Crowds tear gassed before 'peace' visit

POLICE fired tear gas to break up pro-government demonstrations in Kenya yesterday in advance of the arrival of former UN chief Kofi Annan on a peacemaking mission.

Mr Annan, who will hold talks with disputed president Mwai Kibaki and his main rival Raila Odinga, is seen as the main hope for getting a settlement that will end weeks of violence.

Crowds in the capital Nairobi chanted, "Kibaki is our president!" before riot police broke up the gathering. The election last month returned Mr Kibaki to power for a second five-year term, with official results putting opposition

Trapped hunter ate rotting meat to live

leader Mr Odinga second in the closest presidential race in Kenya's history. Mr Odinga accused Mr Kibaki of stealing the vote.

Load-Date: January 23, 2008



NEWS IN BRIEF

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

December 24, 2007 Monday

1 - Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 20

Length: 330 words

Body

Deaths on the Nile

SIXTEEN people, including six children, died when a minibus they were riding in fell off a rickety ferry and sank in the Nile River in southern Egypt, local officials said yesterday. Police chief Mahmoud Noureddin said the driver survived by jumping out of the vehicle, but all the passengers died.

Ceasefire shot down

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Ehud Olmert yesterday ruled out ceasefire talks with <u>Hamas</u>, calling Israel's battle against the Islamic militant group a ``true war". ``Operations against terrorists will continue as they have been conducted for many months," he said.

Major marijuana haul

COSTA Rican agents have made the largest marijuana bust in the Central American nation's history, seizing 4.4 tonnes of the drug on an abandoned boat. Police said the stash was discovered on Friday during a joint patrol with the US Coast Guard. The ship's crew fled, abandoning the 15m boat near the border with Panama.

Gross surgery glitch

TANZANIAN authorities yesterday concluded that ``gross negligence" led to a mix-up where a knee patient underwent brain surgery and a brain tumour sufferer with the same first name had his knee operated on. On November 8, surgeons at Muhimbili hospital opened the skull of Emmanuel Didas to remove a non-existent brain tumour, while Emmanuel Mgaya, who had a tumour, underwent knee surgery. Mgaya has since died.

Hunt for tiger killers

POLICE are searching for the culprits behind the beheading and skinning of a rare Siberian tiger at a zoo in central China. The *female* tiger was found with its head, legs and skin missing at the Three Gorges Forest Wild Animal World in Yichang city in Hubei province, Xinhua News Agency said.

Kiwi cops caught out

NEWS IN BRIEF

TWO New Zealand motorcycle traffic cops have appeared in court after being clocked racing each other on an Auckland motorway at 183km/h. The officers' driving licences were suspended pending a further court hearing and they are confined to desk duty, the Sunday Star-Times reported.

Load-Date: December 24, 2007



World Digest

The Toronto Star

December 13, 2007 Thursday

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Section: WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA04

Length: 330 words

Body

Belarus

Merger could mean

a new job for Putin

Vladimir Putin could become the leader of a land even larger than Russia - a development that may hinge on talks beginning today in neighbouring Belarus.

Putin has unexpectedly revived efforts to create a single state from the two former Soviet republics - a merger that could allow him to leave the Russian presidency as promised in May yet still remain a chief of state. Putin was headed today to Minsk, the capital of Belarus, for discussions on a framework for the long-debated union, fleshing out an existing agreement that has meant little in practice.

Israel

Mayor quits in protest

over Gaza rocket attacks

The mayor of Sderot, a small town in Israel that has borne the brunt of rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip, announced yesterday he is stepping down, saying the situation there is "impossible."

Eli Moyal said he hoped his resignation would spur authorities to move against the <u>Hamas</u> militants who overran Gaza six months ago. Sderot, two kilometres from the Gaza Strip, has been battered by more than 4,500 rockets launched by Palestinians since 2001.

France

Sarkozy defends visit

by Libya's Gadhafi

President Nicolas Sarkozy defended Moammar Gadhafi's visit to France yesterday, saying the Libyan leader is "not perceived as a dictator in the Arab world."

World Digest

Gadhafi's first visit to France in 34 years has been accompanied by the signing of several business deals, and critics have accused Sarkozy of putting commerce before human rights.

India

Deaths of rare reptiles

raise pollution fears

At least 21 endangered crocodile-like reptiles have died mysteriously in a river sanctuary in central India, raising fears one of the country's last unpolluted waterways has become toxic.

Wildlife officials found the bodies of one male and 20 <u>female</u> gharials - reptiles that look like crocodiles, but with long slender snouts - in the Chambal River over the last three days, an official in Uttar Pradesh state said yesterday.

From the Star's wire services

Load-Date: December 13, 2007



Livni's disappointed rival to quit politics; KADIMA BOMBSHELL

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)
September 20, 2008 Saturday
First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 17

Length: 354 words

Byline: JASON KOUTSOUKIS IN JERUSALEM

Body

AS THE newly elected leader of the Kadima party, Tzipi Livni, began talks on a new coalition agreement to govern Israel, her defeated rival, Shaul Mofaz, dropped a bombshell by announcing his retirement from politics.

The Transport Minister and former chief of the Israel Defence Forces narrowly lost Wednesday's ballot on who would succeed the Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, as leader of Kadima.

"Today I have decided, together with my family, that the time has come for a timeout," Mr Mofaz announced at a press conference yesterday.

While he did not directly criticise the primary, he was visibly angry and disappointed at losing.

His dramatic resignation came as a shock to party colleagues and staff, who had no idea what he planned to say when he called the sudden media briefing. Ms Livni immediately pressed him to change his mind, but he refused.

His exit from the political stage is a blow for Ms Livni, whose first task since winning the party leadership is to try to unite her colleagues around her.

Mr Mofaz's decision was all the more surprising given that he launched a scathing attack on Ms Livni during the primary campaign over reports she might quit Kadima if she lost.

"Livni is not a loyal person," he said at the time. "Kadima is holding democratic elections for the first time and [she] will refuse to accept the results?"

Meanwhile, a day after securing a victory that sets her up to become Israel's second <u>female</u> prime minister, Ms Livni had a productive meeting with the chairman of Shas, Eli Yishai. Shas, which controls 12 seats in the 120-member Knesset, is part of the governing coalition but has threatened to walk unless she agrees to increases in allowances for parents with more than five children.

There were also reports that Ehud Barak, chairman of the Labor Party, had threatened to leave. The Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper reported that Ms Livni had delivered him an ultimatum: take part in a government she heads now or go to elections within 90 days.

Her victory was welcomed by the Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, but <u>Hamas</u> declared it another indicator of the "collapse in Israeli society".

Load-Date: September 19, 2008



Anger in Israel over release of killers

The Daily Telegraph (London)

August 26, 2008 Tuesday

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The Daily Telegraph

Section: NEWS; International; Pg. 11

Length: 401 words

Byline: Tim Butcher in Jerusalem

Body

ISRAEL freed two convicted killers yesterday in its latest release of Palestinian prisoners as part of its attempt to bolster the peace process. Under pressure from the United States, Israel released 198 Palestinians, including the two convicted killers, whose victims were Israelis.

The release, the third this year, was intended to provide a boost to Mahmoud Abbas, the moderate leader who heads the Palestinian National Authority and supports peace talks with Israel.

It coincided with the arrival in Israel of Condoleezza Rice, the US Secretary of State, on her latest attempt to break the deadlock between the two sides.

But the inclusion of convicted killers provoked protests in Israel because it meant that the government was breaking its own rule of not freeing those "with blood on their hands".

Three Israeli high court judges criticised the government for providing no explanation for the change in policy on convicted killers.

Shaul Mofaz, the transport minister who is in the running to take over as prime minister after Ehud Olmert stands down next month, fiercely attacked the decision to go ahead with the release.

"When Israel frees prisoners to weak elements without demanding anything in return, they remain weak," Mr Mofaz said.

"This is a decision conveying weakness and an acceptance of the existing situation."

Prisoner releases have become a routine feature of the Israeli-Palestinian political landscape. Israel holds about 11,000 Palestinians, including many **women** and teenagers, in its jails.

Some are held without charge under administrative rules derived from Israel's occupation of the West Bank and their release is demanded routinely by Palestinian politicians.

Anger in Israel over release of killers

The three releases this year have been weighted heavily towards Fatah, the political movement headed by Mr Abbas.

This has led to suggestions that Israel is rewarding his willingness to negotiate while deliberately punishing *Hamas*, the Islamist movement and main rival of Fatah, which opposes peace talks with Israel.

Coaches carrying the freed men passed from Israel into West Bank territory nominally controlled by Fatah early

yesterday before depositing the 198 at the Muqata or

presidential compound

in Ramallah, for a celebration.

The group included Said al-Attaba, 56, who was jailed in 1977 for killing an Israeli woman, and Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Ali, 51, who was imprisoned in 1979 for killing an Israeli reservist.

Load-Date: August 26, 2008



Invading Zim would cause chaos

The Star (South Africa)
July 07, 2008 Monday
e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 9 Length: 401 words

Body

There is little doubt that some form of action needs to be taken to alleviate the immense suffering of the Zimbabwean people.

However, the danger of invasion is getting bogged down into a quagmire without resolving the problem, with no satisfactory exit strategy.

The history of past invasion and occupation by mainly Western countries has been for political reasons disguised as interventions for altruistic purposes.

A review of some the cited examples in Europe, Africa and the Middle East makes this clear.

The illegal invasion of Iraq, ostensibly to remove the American-supported dictator Saddam Hussein, was simply to gain control of the oil supplies and to protect Israel.

The issues of democracy, protection for the Kurds, liberation of the people of Iraq, and his ambitions to make an atomic bomb served as a pretext for the invasion.

The invasion and occupation of Afghanistan is another example.

The fundamentalist rule by the Taliban, the harbouring of Osama bin Laden, suppression of <u>women</u>, and support for al-Qaeda provided a useful veil for the invasion.

Somalia, Bosnia and Kosovo still remain powder kegs on the verge of explosion.

The probable invasion of Iran by the US and Israel is likely to cause unprecedented upheaval and turmoil throughout the world.

This, because Iran insists on its legitimate right to pursue developing nuclear energy, a right that is guaranteed under international law.

Unfortunately, the United Nations has become a willing tool to endorse the illegal designs of the superpowers and their allies by passing resolutions under duress.

The case for an invasion of Zimbabwe after its sham democratic elections is weakened because of the world's double standards.

Invading Zim would cause chaos

Mugabe rigged the elections through intimidation, coercion, and violence.

Yet, in Palestine, a free and fair election endorsed by the entire world and which saw <u>Hamas</u> victorious led to a boycott of the government and a policy of mass starvation instituted against its people.

It is time to review the system of pseudo-democracy by which immoral and self-serving leaders ascend to the centres of power to amass wealth and unleash savagery to those opposing their rule.

This does not only apply to the tin-pot dictators in the developing world, but particularly to the so-called Western democracies who, under the cloak of humanitarian intervention, brutalise and murder millions throughout the world.

Firoz Osman

Pretoria

Load-Date: July 4, 2008



Our readers' views

The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington)

August 30, 2008 Saturday

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Section: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR; Pg. C4

Length: 944 words

Body

Punishment is effective

Stephanie Desparois, in an Aug. 25 letter, "Prisons are not the solution," stated that mandatory sentences have never worked. I worked for 30 years in law enforcement in Los Angeles County and I can tell you that she is wrong.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, there was an epidemic of residential burglaries and rates were rising fast. The reason: Burglary convictions resulted in probation or only a few days in county jail. The solution: Convicted burglars were sent to state prison. The result: Burglary rates plummeted.

Numerous studies have shown the effectiveness of punishment. Yes, prisons are expensive to operate, but there is also a high price to pay for leaving criminals on the street.

Desparois says that it's shameless that we have more people incarcerated than other civilized countries. She is right. The fault is not with punishing people for no reason, but with the breakdown of the family and our permissive society.

Steve Douglass

Vancouver

Humanitarian care given

In response to Elijah Smith's Aug. 20 letter, "World will be watching," it is interesting that the "Free Gaza" activists exhibit total disregard for the innocent Israeli victims of Gaza's past terror attacks.

What of the Palestinians who suffer at the hands of their own regime? Are the "Free Gaza" supporters at all disturbed by <u>Hamas</u>' recent brutal attacks on their own brethren? Would any "Free Gaza" group members consent to live, for even a day, under the radical Islamist regime they are now bolstering?

Would they send their own children to the sort of military training camps that <u>Hamas</u> runs as summer camps? Smith says that Israel refuses to allow humanitarian assistance into Gaza - this is just not true. In fact, Israel routinely admits Gazans into its hospitals to receive cutting-edge medical care free of charge and transfers humanitarian aid almost daily into the Gaza Strip.

Ann Bardacke

Vancouver

Exaggerations criticized

Stop. Play it straight. Resist the impulse to sensationalize. These are my requests to The Columbian during this presidential campaign. Please, my valued local daily, free yourself from the bondage of The Associated Press and speak thoughtfully to your readers.

Case in point: In the Aug. 24 AP story, "Biden jumps into attacks on McCain," I looked for factual information to help me evaluate the new vice presidential hopeful; I found little. The "slashing attack"? Apparently a needling reference to John McCain's "seven kitchen tables." A needle, not a sword or knife. Another example, in the Aug. 26 story from McClatchy-Tribune, "Light shines on Obamas as Democrats pass torch," reads "mission of [Democratic] convention to begin ripping McCain apart." No evidence of such vicious activity, just the assertion. Trouble is, some readers do believe that stuff without questioning. This is not a good way to nurture an informed electorate.

Our readers' views

Politics can get nasty enough on its own. Editors: Don't feed it with exaggeration. Readers: Read critically.

Patty Page

Vancouver

LNG is dangerous folly

Reasons why importing LNG is bad for the country and the globe are numerous, but recent events make it even more evident.

- 1. The proposed tankers will pump 15 billion gallons of water from the Columbia River, directly from one of the most important salmon nursery areas in the estuary.
- 2. The price has recently dropped on domestic gas and reserves are up. Production is at a 35-year high and we are looking at a glut of natural gas.
- 3. It doesn't make economic sense. The international price of LNG is more than double the U.S. price, and rising
- 4. If these energy giants plan to reverse the flow and export LNG from these Oregon terminals (as they are doing in Texas), the public interest factor is even a greater issue. It isn't legal to seize citizens' land for pipelines to carry LNG for export, the sale of which benefits these gas companies solely. Debbie Thrall

Forest Grove, Ore.

Payment easy to compute

The Aug. 23 editorial "Jeers" gave me a good chuckle, implying by the use of the words "good luck on that," that Oregon will find it difficult trying to recover \$3.1 million in overpayments to 940 fire and police pensioners and survivors.

Those overpayments were unauthorized and in violation of statute. Oregon is required to collect overpayments unless those debts are waived and reimbursement forgiven by enactment of a new statute.

But all the state needs to do now is dock future retirement checks by some amount, say \$50 per month over an average period of about five years, until each and every debt is repaid. Computers do that. Now, that isn't so hard is it?

Here's hoping for the sake of their taxpayers that the Oregon pension officials are better at this game than some editorial writers in Washington. In any case, thanks for the chuckle.

Michael B. Lumbard

Washougal

Provide health care for all

The number of uninsured children has increased by more then 1 million over the past two years. The All Healthy Children Act (S. 1564/HR 1688) will provide health insurance to children, pregnant and postpartum women, and children who have aged out of foster care until the age 21.

Having no health insurance leads to increased number of illnesses, and poor reading scores and attendance among children. Spending one dollar today vaccinating children against measles, mumps, and rubella saves \$16 in future cost per child.

Help inform everyone of this growing issue and support the All Healthy Children Act. All Americans over the age of 65 have access to health care coverage under the Medicare program, regardless of income. The All Healthy Children Act would provide the same guarantee to children.

Cynthia D. Letarte

Vancouver

Load-Date: September 3, 2008



Four dead in bulldozer rampage of terror

Daily Mail (London)
July 3, 2008 Thursday

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Section: 1ST; Pg. 27 Length: 348 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Body

A PALESTINIAN who drove a bulldozer into traffic on one of Jerusalem's busiest streets was yesterday shot dead after killing three Israelis and wounding more than 40.

The attack - the first in Jewish West Jerusalem for nearly four months - caused havoc to the city centre, leaving a trail of mangled vehicles in its wake.

Witnesses say the driver used the 20-ton vehicle to ram repeatedly a bus packed with passengers before striking another and crushing several cars on Jaffa Street.

A police officer managed to shoot the man after a brief struggle.

Last night, police named the attacker as 30-year-old Hosam Dwayyat, a construction worker from Arab East Jerusalem. Israeli police chief Dudi Cohen said there had been no immediate claim of responsibility from militant groups and that Dwayyat appeared to have acted alone.

The Israeli government immediately denounced the attack as 'an act of senseless, murderous violence', while an aide to Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas claimed it was an attempt to wreck peace negotiations.

However, both <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad called the attack a 'natural' response by Palestinians to Israeli aggression. Neither Islamist group claimed responsibility.

Police confirmed last night that two Israeli women and a man died in the attack.

There were also claims on Israeli TV that one unnamed woman had saved her baby daughter's life by throwing her out of a car window seconds before the bulldozer hit..

The baby escaped unharmed although the mother was injured.

Another five-month-old girl was pulled alive from the wreckage of one of the buses after rescuers heard her cries. It later become clear her mother was one of the two **women** who died.

It is the first major attack on Jerusalem since March, when a 25- year-old gunman killed eight students at a Jewish religious school a short distance from Jaffa Road.

Four dead in bulldozer rampage of terror

Since then, fatal attacks on Israelis have become relatively rare, despite frequent rocket and mortar fire from Gaza. Israeli forces have killed more than 360 Palestinians this year, mostly in Gaza.

More than 100 of the Palestinian dead were civilians..

Graphic

Saved: A five-month-old girl is plucked from a crushed bus

Load-Date: July 3, 2008



Backing Ken, the Muslim who praised suicide blasts

Daily Mail (London)

April 17, 2008 Thursday

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Section: 1ST; Pg. 20 Length: 367 words

Body

AN Islamic extremist who advocates suicide bombings has been linked to a group backing Ken Livingstone's efforts to be reelected London mayor.

Azzam Tamimi, who supports terror group *Hamas*, has lent his name to a campaign targeting the capital's 400,000 Muslim voters.

He once claimed that he would 'sacrifice' himself for Palestine and shared a stage with radical preacher Yusuf al-Qaradawi - now banned from Britain as a threat to 'security and peace'.

Dr Tamimi supports the Muslims 4 Ken group. Many Londoners with memories of the 7/7 bombs fresh in their minds will be disgusted at his involvement.

'For us Muslims martyrdom is not the end of things, but the beginning of the most wonderful things,' Dr Tamimi has said. 'If I can go to Palestine and sacrifice myself I would do it. Why not?' Mr Livingstone has been criticised for openly courting the Muslim vote and making anti- Jewish remarks, despite widespread praise for his response to the Tube and bus suicide attacks.

Last night mayoral rival Boris Johnson said: 'The Mayor has form. He invites people who are preachers of hate to London - radicals who are homophobic and sexist. Now its been revealed that supporters of suicide bombers support his campaign.

The Tory candidate added: 'We must lead by example and promote diversity, not division.' LibDem candidate Brian Paddick added: 'We have seen in the past how Ken Livingstone has invited the likes of Yusuf al- Qaradawi to City Hall, someone who holds abhorrent views, including treating <u>women</u> as second-class citizens, the murdering of gay people and hatred towards Jews.

'We need a Mayor who will unite all communities of London, not one who associates with people who promote hatred.' Muslims 4 Ken is run by Anas Altikriti, 39. He said Dr Tamimi has been 'vociferous in his support' for Mr Livingstone.

Mr Altikriti added: 'We needed him for a couple of talks in mosques but he was out of the country. He has lent his name, as have dozens of others, that's as far as it goes.' Dr Tamimi heads the Institute of Islamic Political Thought in London. Mr Livingstone's spokesman said reports of Dr Tamimi's backing were a 'smear'. 'Ken has made it clear that he opposes suicide bombing,' he said..

Load-Date: April 17, 2008



Bin Laden tape lauds Iraq insurgency; Scorns Arab leaders who back U.S.

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

March 21, 2008 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 362 words

Byline: Ali Khalil, Agence France-Presse

Dateline: DUBAI

Body

DUBAI -- Al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden urged Muslims on Thursday to support the insurgency in Iraq as the best way to support the Palestinians, and accused Arab leaders of backing Israeli attacks on the <u>Hamas</u>-controlled Gaza Strip.

"The nearest Jihad (holy war) battlefield to support our people in Palestine is the battlefield of Iraq . . . It should be taken care of and supported," said an audiotape attributed to him on Al-Jazeera television whose authenticity could not be immediately verified.

"The people of As-Sham (Greater Syria), all of As-Sham, should support their brothers the mujahedeen (holy warriors) in Iraq," said the voice attributed by the Doha-based channel to the al-Qaida leader.

The speaker also scorned pro-U.S. Arab leaders, calling them the "Arabs of Annapolis" in reference to the November Middle East peace conference held in the United States, and accusing them of supporting Israel in its offensive against the Gaza Strip.

"This lethal siege started after the United States and the Zionist entity got the support of the Arabs of Annapolis," he claimed. "With this support, they are partners in this horrid crime."

Palestinian militants in the diaspora should join the insurgency in Iraq and ignore the "illusions of the parties and groups that are falling for the tricks of infidel democracy," he said without elaborating.

"It is a great opportunity and a huge duty for my brothers, the emigrants among the people of Palestine, who have been deprived of fighting in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) . . . to hurry to take their positions among the mujahedeen in Iraq, so that with support comes victory from Allah.

"Then will follow the surge towards the blessed Aqsa (mosque), where the mujahedeen from abroad meet their brothers inside" the Palestinian territories.

The tape came a day another audio message in which a voice purporting to be that of Bin Laden warned Europe of a "reckoning" for publishing controversial cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

Bin Laden tape lauds Iraq insurgency; Scorns Arab leaders who back U.S.

Addressing the "intelligent ones" in the European Union, the speaker said publishing the "insulting drawings" was a greater crime than Western forces targeting Muslim villages and killing <u>women</u> and children.

Load-Date: March 21, 2008



Galway woman on humanitarian mission still being detained in Egypt

The Irish Times

February 9, 2008 Saturday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 10

Length: 384 words

Byline: Lorna Siggins, Western Correspondent

Body

Middle East: A Galway woman who travelled into Gaza last week to distribute charity relief was still being held for questioning by Egyptian authorities last night.

Treasa Ní Cheannabháin (56), from Barna, Co Galway, was detained on Thursday night after being permitted through the Egyptian border crossing at Rafah.

Her daughter, medical student Naisrin Elsafty (19) and Ms Ní Cheannabháin's Egyptian niece, Seham Elhotty (26), were permitted to leave earlier, as Ms Elsafty, who is Irish-Egyptian, had documentation, and Ms Elhotty is an Egyptian passport holder.

The three <u>women</u> had travelled together into Gaza last week to distribute some EUR 7,700 in Irish relief funds to Palestinian communities. The <u>women</u> had initially been prevented from entering the territory by the Egyptian authorities, and had then travelled by taxi on back roads wearing full-length niquabs or Muslim dress.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dermot Ahern has said his department will "do everything possible" to resolve the situation. The department said last night that the Irish Embassy in Cairo was liaising with Ms Ní Cheannabháin's family and the Egyptian authorities to determine when she would be reunited with her relatives.

As Friday was the Muslim sabbath, it could be today before Ms Ní Cheannabháin is released, a spokesman said last night.

Speaking to The Irish Times before her detention, Ms Ní Cheannabháin, who is married to an Egyptian doctor Saber Elsafty, expressed concern about a severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

She said she had visited several hospitals where equipment could not be maintained, and had also visited a survivor of an Israel air strike on a *Hamas* security compound, which killed seven men earlier this week.

Ms Ní Cheannabháin said she and her daughter and niece were representing the Galway branch of the Irish Palestine Solidarity Campaign. The Galway-Palestinian Children's Fund raised EUR 10,000 almost four years ago through sale of a CD, entitled An Phailistin, written by Ms Ní Cheannabháin and Donal Lunny and recorded with her daughter, sean-nós singer Róisín Elsafty and Sharon Shannon. Some EUR 3,000 had already been allocated to orphanages and the balance was taken to the region by the <u>women</u> this week. Ms Ní Cheannabháin's husband was en route to Egypt yesterday.

Load-Date: February 9, 2008



Jerusalem Arabs fear Israeli retaliation for massacre

The Jerusalem Post March 9, 2008 Sunday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 858 words

Byline: KHALED ABU TOAMEH

Body

Many Arabs in Jerusalem expressed fear over the weekend that Israel would retaliate for last Thursday's shooting attack at Mercaz Harav Yeshiva by denying them privileges they are entitled to as holders of Israeli ID cards.

Meanwhile, the family of Ala Abu Dhaim, the 25-year- old resident of Jebl Mukaber who carried out the shooting spree, reacted with mixed feelings to the involvement of their son in the attack. Some of them hailed him as a "hero" and "martyr," while others expressed fear that the attack would give Israel an excuse to impose strict measures against Arab residents of the city.

"This attack has caused huge damage to the Arabs in Jerusalem," said Hisham Shkirat, a resident of the neighborhood. "I'm very worried when I hear some people in Israel talk about expelling Arabs from the city in response to the attack."

As residents of Jerusalem, the 220,000 Arabs living in and outside the city are entitled to the same privileges as Israeli citizens, with the exception of voting for the Knesset.

Since they hold blue Israeli ID cards, the Arabs in the city enjoy freedom of movement and are entitled to social, economic, health and education services provided by the state.

Unlike Palestinians living in the West Bank, the Jerusalem Arabs are also entitled to drive cars with yellow Israeli license plates.

"I hope Israel does not resort to collective punishment following this attack," said school teacher Majdi Shweiki, who lives in Silwan. "I believe that the majority of the Arabs in Jerusalem would prefer to continue living under Israeli rule."

Shweiki said he was nevertheless concerned that some Israelis would exploit the attack to demand a tough policy against the city's Arab residents.

"In every society you have a minority of people who act against the interests of their people," he said. "But we must bear in mind that most of the Arabs here are peaceful."

Shweiki said young people such as Abu Dhaim were obviously affected by the scenes of dead children and <u>women</u> in the Gaza Strip during the IDF operation in the Gaza Strip last week.

Jerusalem Arabs fear Israeli retaliation for massacre

"The Arab TV stations, specifically Al-Jazeera, broadcast many pictures from the Gaza Strip that had a negative impact on many people," he said. "I'm sure Abu Dhaim was also affected by the things he watched on TV."

An Arab lawyer living in the Bet Hanina neighborhood did not rule out the possibility that Israel would revoke the Israeli ID card from many Arab residents in response to the attack.

He warned that such a move would have "serious repercussions" and could drive more people into the open arms of the radicals.

"Revoking the ID card is tantamount to deportation from the city," he said. "Once you lose your status as a resident of Jerusalem, you would not be permitted to enter the city or any part of Israel."

The lawyer said that an Arab who lost his status as a resident of Jerusalem would also be denied payments from the National Insurance Institute, free health care and education.

"These are severe measures that could backfire," he cautioned. "When you deny people their rights, they will resort to violence."

In Jebl Mukaber, relatives of Abu Dhaim said they were surprised to hear that he had carried out the attack.

"Ala was a quiet man," said his cousin, Omar Abu Dhaim. "He was engaged and was supposed to get married this summer. We had no idea that he was planning something like this."

He also denied reports that Abu Dhaim belonged to <u>Hamas</u> or any other group. However, some residents said Abu Dhaim was known for his support for both <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad. "He was a very religious person," said one neighbor. "But we didn't expect him to carry out such a big attack."

On Friday, the police released Abu Dhaim's father, Hisham, and one of his uncles. The two were arrested shortly after the attack. The father used to work as an engineer for the Jerusalem Municipality.

Abu Dhaim's fiancee remained in custody over the weekend, as did a number of his relatives and friends.

One of Abu Dhaim's cousins, who asked not to be identified, said he was proud of Abu Dhaim, whom he described as a shahid (martyr). "We have nothing to apologize for," he said. "Ala did what he did because of the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. This was a heroic operation that was carried out against radical Jews, some of them members of the Israeli security forces."

The Fatah-controlled media has also praised Abu Dhaim as a martyr, describing the attack as a heroic operation. Fatah's armed wing, the Aksa Martyrs Brigades, issued a statement in support of the attack.

One of the mukhtars (elders) of Jebl Mukaber, who also asked not to be identified, said he was worried by the fact that many residents of his village viewed the attack as an heroic act.

He said he and other village leaders phoned Israeli friends over the weekend to condemn the attack and ask that Israel refrain from taking retaliatory measures against the whole village.

"Most of the young men here work in Israel," the mukhtar said. "Some of them have already been told not to return to work and this is very worrying. We hope that Israelis will refrain from collective punishment."

Graphic

MOURNERS GRIEVE for the victims of Thursday's terrorist attack outside the Mercaz Harav Yeshiva in Jerusalem on Friday. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Fisk 'fiddles' the truth

Cape Times (South Africa)
January 21, 2008 Monday
e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 403 words

Body

Robert Fisk ("Bush fiddles in Riyadh while Middle East burns", January 18) is the journalistic equivalent of a stealth bomber. He disguises his propaganda and misrepresentations under a cloud of irrelevancies and flowery prose.

But, while difficult to pin down, the message is delivered: America is foolish and evil, its allies like Saudi Arabia are tyrannical, religious zealots and, behind all, is cunning Israel.

Well, part of it is true. America can certainly be foolish and, occasionally, evil. The Saudis and some of the other oil sheikhs are indeed unattractive, intolerant regimes and the Israelis are not only cunning, but also tough and resilient and determined to survive on their tiny ancient homeland.

But in the Fisk universe, where may we find the equally tyrannical Iran with its uranium enrichment and holocaust denial, its suppression of **women** and political opposition and its ambitions in the Middle East and globally?

Where indeed was Saddam Hussein before the American intervention and where is Syria with its exploitation and infiltration of Lebanon and support for terror organisations? Where indeed are <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, |al-Qaeda and the host of other despotic, violent and poverty-stricken states and terror entities in the Middle East? And where are Russia, and others, with their own global ambitions and arms sales?

These countries and organisations are airbrushed out of the Fisk universe on the basis of a simple rule: if at any time or manner an antagonist of the US or Israel, not only are their sins and shortcomings forgiven, but they themselves miraculously vanish into the Fisk underworld where inconvenient realities are stored out of mind.

Through this sleight of hand, Fisk is able to focus all his attention, and ours, on the villains of his fictional narratives - the West, the US and Israel.

There is no attempt at serious historical analysis or consideration of the legitimate concerns and aspirations of the parties involved or of the realistic options and obstacles which constitute the political equation within the Middle East.

Fisk has only one aim: to denigrate and vilify the objects of his animosity.

For his psychological and financial welfare, one must only hope that the Middle East does not lapse into peace and co-operation within his lifetime; an unlikely event at best, and one which he bends every effort at his disposal to prevent.

Fisk 'fiddles' the truth

Mike Berger

Cape Town

Load-Date: January 20, 2008



Israel frees killers; sparks anger

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)
August 26, 2008 Tuesday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 395 words

Byline: Tim Butcher, Daily Telegraph

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel freed two convicted killers Monday in its latest release of Palestinian prisoners in an attempt to bolster the peace process. Under pressure from the United States, Israel released 198 Palestinians, including the two killers whose victims were Israelis.

The release, the third this year, was intended to provide a boost to Mahmoud Abbas, the moderate leader who heads the Palestinian National Authority and supports peace talks with Israel.

It coincided with the arrival in Israel of Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. Secretary of State, on her latest attempt to break the deadlock between the two sides.

But the inclusion of convicted killers provoked protests in Israel because it meant that the government was breaking its own rule of not freeing those "with blood on their hands."

Three Israeli high court judges criticized the government for providing no explanation for the change in policy on convicted killers.

Shaul Mofaz, the transport minister who is in the running to take over as prime minister after Ehud Olmert stands down next month, fiercely attacked the decision to go ahead with the release.

"When Israel frees prisoners to weak elements without demanding anything in return, they remain weak," Mofaz said.

"This is a decision conveying weakness and an acceptance of the existing situation."

Prisoner releases have become a routine feature of the Israeli-Palestinian political landscape. Israel holds about 11,000 Palestinians, including many *women* and teenagers, in its jails.

Some are held without charge under administrative rules derived from Israel's occupation of the West Bank and their release is demanded routinely by Palestinian politicians.

The three releases this year have been weighted heavily towards Fatah, the political movement headed by Abbas.

Israel frees killers; sparks anger

This has led to suggestions that Israel is rewarding his willingness to negotiate while deliberately punishing *Hamas*, the Islamist movement and main rival of Fatah, which opposes peace talks with Israel.

Buses carrying the freed men passed from Israel into West Bank territory nominally controlled by Fatah early yesterday before depositing the 198 at the Muqata or presidential compound in Ramallah, for a celebration.

The group included Said al-Atabeh, 56, who was jailed in 1977 for killing an Israeli woman, and Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Ali, 51, who was imprisoned in 1979 for killing an Israeli reservist.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Reuters; Said al-Atabeh, the longest-serving Palestinian prisoner in Israeli custody, is greeted by his mother upon his arrival at his house in the West Bank city of Nablus on Monday as Israel freed nearly 200 Palestinian prisoners.;

Load-Date: August 26, 2008



Bush criticizes only Iran by name; DEmocracy push. Calls for reforms to transform life from Morocco to Pakistan

The Gazette (Montreal)

January 14, 2008 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A3

Length: 946 words

Byline: JAMES GERSTENZANG, Los Angeles Times; the washington post

Dateline: ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates

Body

U.S. President George W. Bush called Iran "the world's leading state sponsor of terror" yesterday and sought to shore up opposition to the government in Tehran throughout the Middle East.

But even as he criticized Iranian leaders, saying they were seeking to repress their own citizens and cow neighbouring countries, Bush appealed to U.S. allies in the region to open up their own political and economic systems to greater democracy.

Spotlighting a swath of the globe where U.S. diplomacy is built around seeking help for the administration's antiterrorism effort, the president criticized only Iran by name. He avoided mentioning Egypt, his final stop on a sixnation Middle East trip, despite its long record of human-rights abuses, limited political rights and economic disparity. Nor did he cite other nations across the region with similarly troubled histories.

He did, however, appear to have Egypt in mind when he said: "You cannot build trust when you hold an election where opposition candidates find themselves harassed or in prison. You cannot expect people to believe in the promise of a better future when they are jailed for peacefully petitioning their government."

Speaking just 240 kilometres across the Persian Gulf from Iran, Bush said the Islamic Republic "sends hundreds of millions of dollars to extremists around the world, while its own people face repression and economic hardship at home." He said Iran was seeking "to intimidate its neighbours with ballistic missiles and bellicose rhetoric."

In Tehran, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mohammed Ali Hosseini dismissed the Bush's approach to Iran as ineffective.

"During the past seven years, the Bush administration has followed a policy to isolate Iran and promote Iranophobia in the region," Hosseini said, according the official Islamic Republic News Agency. "All regional states adopted a vigilant approach regarding that policy and opposed it."

Bush's criticism of Tehran occurred as the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna reported that Iranian representatives had promised to answer key questions within a month about their nation's past covert nuclear activities.

Bush criticizes only Iran by name; DEmocracy push. Calls for reforms to transform life from Morocco to

Bush made only brief reference to alleged Iranian efforts to develop a nuclear weapon, which an administration intelligence report recently said had been halted in 2003, and did not speak of the announcement in Vienna.

Bush spoke to an audience of government officials, business executives, academics and students assembled by the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research, a think tank. Delivering an otherwise gingerly worded address intended to revive a quiescent campaign for broader democracy across the Middle East, he called for reforms that would transform life from Morocco to Pakistan.

Using the language of a middle-school civics lesson, Bush proclaimed a "new era," which he said was "founded on the equality of all people before God."

It is built, he said, "with the understanding that power is a trust that must be exercised with the consent of the governed - and deliver equal justice under the law."

"For decades, the people of this region saw their desire for liberty and justice denied at home and dismissed abroad in the name of stability," Bush said. "Today your aspirations are threatened by violent extremists who murder the innocent in pursuit of power."

Bush spoke in an opulent auditorium of the \$3-billion Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi, one of the two major metropolitan areas in the United Arab Emirates. He planned to visit the other, Dubai, today on his way to Saudi Arabia.

There was no applause during the speech; at the end, the audience applauded with restraint.

The reaction to Bush's speech in the region appeared at best mixed, if cynical in some quarters, owing to a widespread belief that the president has practised a double standard in refusing to recognize *Hamas*, the armed Islamic movement that won free elections in the Palestinian territories before seizing power in the Gaza Strip last summer. The U.S. government considers *Hamas* a terrorist group.

Bush has had two principal themes on the eight-day trip: encouraging support around the region for fledgling Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and pressing leaders at each stop to stand with the United States in its efforts to change Iranian behaviour.

Senior administration officials had promoted the speech as a return to what the president calls his "freedom agenda." His plea for Middle Eastern democracy was given voice in his second inaugural address, but has drawn little public presidential focus in the intervening years as Bush sought to right foundering efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bush called Abu Dhabi an example of the future he sees for the region, citing its openness to international trade and appointment of **women** to ministerial posts.

But the State Department's most recent human rights report, issued in March, called respect for human rights here "problematic," noting that citizens have no right to change the government, freedom of speech is restricted and flogging is a judicially approved punishment.

In Egypt, Bush's final stop before returning to Washington on Wednesday, respect for human rights "remains poor," the report said, noting "serious abuses" in many areas, including torture, harsh prison conditions, arbitrary arrest and other human rights violations. Saudi Arabia also received a sharply negative assessment.

White House press secretary Dana Perino, who has sat in on some of the president's meetings, said she believed his message is being well-received.

"The idea of more openness is one they have told the president they recognize will help them in the future," she said yesterday.

Bush criticizes only Iran by name; DEmocracy push. Calls for reforms to transform life from Morocco to Pakistan

Graphic

Colour Photo: KEVIN LAMARQUE REUTERS; U.S. President George W. Bush gets a bird's eye view of falconry in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Bush will visit Egypt before heading home Wednesday.;

Load-Date: January 18, 2008



ANOTHER FUN YEAR AROUND THE WORLD

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

December 25, 2007 Tuesday

0 South Pinellas Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A

Length: 801 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN, Times Senior Correspondent

Body

After all those hefty holiday meals, a few nuggets from the international scene in 2007:

With intros like this, who needs insults?

In "welcoming" Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in September, Columbia University President Lee Bollinger called him a "petty and cruel dictator" who is "either brazenly provocative or astonishingly uneducated."

He should have gone to Barney's instead.

Iranian men's fashion drew international derision after 15 captured British sailors posed for photos in cheap, ill-fitting suits before they were flown home last spring.

But the humidity is higher in Terre Haute.

Apparently oblivious to the bombed-out buildings and heavy security, U.S. Congressman Mike Pence visited Baghdad's Shorja market in April and found it to be "just like a normal outdoor market in Indiana in the summertime."

He must have missed the "government of the people..." part

In suspending the constitution and declaring emergency rule Nov. 3, Pakistani dictator Pervez Musharraf quoted from Abraham Lincoln and compared his actions to Lincoln's suspension of certain rights during the U.S. Civil War.

The 194...make that 193 world nations.

At the recent international conference on climate change, delegates were warned that rising sea levels could swamp the island nation of Maldives and its thriving tourism industry.

If it was good enough for Mary and Joseph...

To help boost the Palestinian economy, Middle East envoy Tony Blair spent the night at a luxury hotel in the storied town of Bethlehem. Asked how he reconciled his visit with U.S. and U.K. warnings against "non-essential travel" to the occupied territories, the former British prime minister said: "I think it is time to reconsider the advice."

ANOTHER FUN YEAR AROUND THE WORLD

It sounds even better in the original Spanish

"Why don't you shut up?"

- King Juan Carlos of Spain to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez at a summit in Chile after Chavez called a former Spanish prime minister a fascist.

He puts the "abs" in absolute power

Russian <u>women</u> who went gaga over photos of President Vladimir Putin's well-toned physique will have at least five more years to admire him, thanks to a political tour-de-force whereby Putin will become prime minister once his term as president ends in March.

If she could see better, she might have flipped for Vladimir, too.

"When I'm looking for something I've dropped on the carpet, I have a bit of a problem."

- German Chancellor Angela Merkel saying energy-saving light bulbs are not bright enough.

May we suggest a dash of rat poison?

"If he was here today, then of course I would prepare him a mutton korma. It was his absolute favorite, with a pilau full of almonds, orange peel and raisins."

-- Osama bin Laden's former valet Akhtar, on the terrorist leader's love of curries.

Famous last words, Part I.

In agreeing to a unity government with the rival Fatah party last February, <u>Hamas</u> leader Khaled Mashaal said the accord "will unify our ranks. We will preserve this partnership." Less than four months later a violent power struggle erupted that led to <u>Hamas</u> seizing the Gaza Strip and Fatah controlling the West Bank.

Excusez-moi, but we just don't have nice shops like this in Paris.

In a visit to the United States last summer, Cecilia Sarkozy, about to be ex-wife of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, skipped lunch with the Bush family because of an alleged sore throat. She recovered quickly enough to spend two days shopping in Wolfeboro, N.H. (pop. 6,600).

We'd love to read THEIR postcards home

"It's not evil, but it's certainly something we frown on."

- Jake Grieves-Cook, chairman of the Kenya Tourist Board, commenting on reports that as many as one in five single **women** visiting from rich Western countries are in search of sex with young Kenyan men.

Rejoinder of the year

"I'm prepared to give it a go, but only if the Air Vice-Marshal shows me how to do it first."

- British pilot on suggestion from Air Vice-Marshal David Walker that the Royal Air Force should consider suicide attacks.

Famous last words, Part II.

"It doesn't get bigger than this."

ANOTHER FUN YEAR AROUND THE WORLD

-Titanicdirector James Cameron, standing in front of a 2,000-year-old stone box he said contained the remains of Jesus. Scholars and archaeologists quickly poured scorn on the claim, which Cameron later admitted had a 1 in 2-million chance of being true.

And you thought U.S. schools had problems

British teachers are being encouraged to make classes more interesting by linking lessons to celebrities like soccer star David Beckham and Spice Girl wife Victoria, i.e. using their three kids as a springboard for discussion on population growth. (This is the same David Beckham who admitted he couldn't help his 6-year-old son with math because "it's totally done different to what I was teached in school.")

And on that note, Happy New Year!

Susan Taylor Martin can be contacted at susan@sptimes.com

Graphic

PHOTO, Associated Press: Who're you calling petty?: Columbia University in New York invites Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak. PHOTO, Associated Press: ABS man:Russian President Vladimir Putin walks along the Khemchik River in the Tuva region of Siberia in August. A squall of gossip and speculation followed Putin's exposure while on holiday. PHOTO, Associated Press: Holy remains?: Religion professor James Tabor, left, and James Cameron sit with an ossuary that may be linked to Christ. PHOTO, Wirelmage: Math not his strong point: Soccer star David Beckham and his wife, Victoria, may be used to spice up lessons.

Load-Date: December 26, 2007



The view from Jebl Mukaber

The Jerusalem Post March 14, 2008 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 14

Length: 2386 words

Byline: LARRY DERFNER

Highlight: In the past, left-wing Palestinian national movements were especially popular in the affluent Jerusalem

village. But today, *Hamas*, Islamic Jihad and another Islamic party hold the greatest sway

Body

Inside a sliding front gate, a long flight of stairs leads down to the spacious hillside balcony of the Abu Dhaim home in Jebl Mukaber. On Monday afternoon, four days after Ala Abu Dhaim waged mass slaughter at Mercaz Harav Yeshiva before being killed by an IDF soldier and police, the succa-like mourning tent that the prosperous Palestinian family has put up around the balcony is hung with a couple of dozen posters of the terrorist. With the golden Dome of the Rock as background, the photo shows him young, clean-cut, smiling.

"The Islamic movement of Jebl Mukaber in Al-Kuds [Jerusalem] announces that the shahid [martyr] Ala Abu Dhaim has given his soul in a heroic act," the posters read.

The dusty gray roads that wind through the hills and valleys of the village are largely empty of people and heavier than usual with police jeeps. The schools, public organizations and many of the stores in this Muslim village of about 25,000, which at certain points sits very literally a stone's throw from the Jewish neighborhood of Armon Hanatziv (East Talpiot), are closed in mourning and solidarity with the murderer's family.

There are some strange sights: A white horse is trotting down the middle of an empty residential street, a boy leads a few goats across another one. A line of <u>women</u> in black robes and head scarves waits to pass through the IDF checkpoint that divides Jebl Mukaber's Jerusalem side and its West Bank side. Along a ridge of hills at the edge of the village, the high security barrier fortifies a different part of the Jerusalem-West Bank border. Across another hillside stretches the great anomaly of Jebl Mukaber: the sleek, 400-unit, Jewish-owned Nof Zion apartment project, all pink stone and dark glass, all empty.

On the Abu Dhaims' balcony, about 25 men, mostly in their 20s and 30s, are sitting on white plastic chairs. As the three of us - a photographer, a local "fixer" and translator for visiting journalists and I - walk past, the men stop talking. Their expressions show mainly suspicion, but also defiance, and under that, fear. As the photographer starts taking pictures, they all immediately turn their faces away.

Sitting barefoot against cushions on a row of mattresses is Ibrahim Abu Dhaim, the mukhtar, or elder, of the Abu Dhaim extended family, which numbers many hundreds in the village. In a white headdress and green cloak, the heavy-set mukhtar, 70, puts down his cigarette and hands me a printed statement from the family. It says that "what happened was a sudden shock for the family," that Ala Abu Dhaim had exhibited no "abnormal behavior" prior to the fatal Thursday night, that he was engaged to be married in the summer and that he was a "good person." I ask the mukhtar how he reacted when he heard the news.

"It was a shock," he says in Arabic, adding that he knew Ala Abu Dhaim as "a gentleman." One thing that made the act so unexpected, he says, was that the young man was "well-off economically." The extended family owns various businesses in Jebl Mukaber and elsewhere in Arab Jerusalem.

I ask why he thinks Abu Dhaim, a 25-year-old minibus driver in a family transport company, did what he did. Pointing upward, the mukhtar says, "It's in God's hands."

One doesn't have to be a cynic to know that this is a practiced ritual, that the mukhtar is telling an English- speaking journalist what he thinks will reassure people about the Abu Dhaim family and Jebl Mukaber, and that he's said the same things to any number of other journalists already. His message contradicts the sentiments on the memorial posters hanging over his head. It also contradicts the demonstrative shutdown of public life in the village since Ala Abu Dhaim walked into Mercaz Harav and, with a assault rifle and two handguns, fired more than 500 bullets at the cowering yeshiva boys, killing eight of them and wounding nine.

One of the main questions for Israelis now concerns the 250,000 Palestinians of east Jerusalem, a great many of whom work in Jewish Jerusalem's hospitals, hotels, restaurants and construction projects, and nearly all of whom are legal residents of the capital, although not citizens of Israel. Unlike Palestinians in Gaza, Palestinians in east Jerusalem did not hold any public celebrations over the slaughter. East Jerusalem newspapers, which go through the IDF censor, published the denunciations issued by Palestinian Authority leaders.

But in the segregated, generally poor Arab villages and neighborhoods of the capital, whose residents have resented Israel's high-handed authority for the last 41 years, what do they really think of the Mercaz Harav massacre?

IT'S VERY HARD to find anyone in Jebl Mukaber who will talk about it frankly, on or off the record, to a journalist for The Jerusalem Post. I ask a man who works for the Jerusalem Municipality about reactions in the village. "They go in different directions," he says. "But people's livelihoods are at stake, so it's better not to talk."

The fixer, however, found two residents who would. They are both middle-aged family men, born and raised in the village, college-educated professionals, conversant in English and Hebrew, very well-connected in the village, thoroughly tuned in to Arab media, and both are secular Palestinians who support a two-state solution. I'll call them Jamal and Taher.

Sitting in my car, Jamal says that from talking with "dozens and even hundreds" of Jerusalem Arabs in different homes, at work, at cafes, in the street and from reading and hearing comments in the local and foreign Arab media, he finds overwhelming support for Abu Dhaim's atrocity.

"Ala has become a hero," he says. "Not just in Jebl Mukaber, but throughout the Palestinian territories and the Arab world."

An acquaintance told him of hearing an Arabic radio show in which Arab girls called in and said that if Abu Dhaim had survived, they'd marry him. "I didn't hear that myself, but I believe it," says Jamal.

Typically, he says, Arabs see the yeshiva murders as payback for the recent IDF attacks in Gaza, which killed more than 120 Palestinians, including many civilians, in retaliation for rocket attacks on Israel.

"People are preoccupied with the idea that Israel committed a massacre, a 'holocaust' - you heard him [Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilna'i] say that? - so they feel this is a kind of reaction. Israel is using tanks and fighter planes and helicopters against people in Gaza, and we're weak, we don't have tanks and planes, so they feel this is our only way."

If not for the bloodshed in Gaza, if Palestinians weren't dying in large numbers at the hands of Israel, he says, "you would find some people here in favor of what he did but also people against it, especially since he did it to civilians."

But because of Gaza, because Palestinians feel they are being slaughtered by Israel, there are no dissenting voices now, says Jamal, adding that he can't even detect a silent opposition. "Even the people who are against violence will say that while they themselves wouldn't do such a thing, they won't condemn Abu Dhaim for doing it."

Most Arabs seem to feel outright pride over Abu Dhaim, Jamal observes. This was the boldest Palestinian attack on Israel in a long time. "Of course they won't say this publicly or on camera, but when they're sitting together, watching the news, you see in their reactions that they're really proud of it. I'm talking about ordinary people, and I'm sure it's the same with Palestinian academics and journalists - if they aren't proud, they aren't opposed, either.

"Revenge is very important to them. In Jerusalem I hear people saying, 'Olmert should know: We have someone who can take revenge. You kill our people in Gaza, we can kill your people in Jerusalem.' I hear it on the streets, in cafes, everywhere."

I ask how people can justify, even glorify, someone firing 500 bullets at teenage boys hiding under desks, how people can identify with an act of such sustained, face-to- face savagery against helpless adolescents - no matter what their fury and anguish over the deaths in Gaza, no matter what their feelings toward Israel.

Jamal replies that the media reports about the special character of the Mercaz Harav Yeshiva helped tremendously. Arabs learned that the site of the atrocity is the "heart of Zionism," that it "trains people to steal Palestinian land, kill Palestinians and build settlements," that it is the home of so many "fundamentalist, extremist leaders," he says. "This gave them the excuse to support such an act against civilians. This made it legitimate."

TAHER, HOWEVER, disagrees, at least with regard to the people of Jebl Mukaber. Sitting in his living room with three Palestinian guests, he says, "You can't put 25,000 people in the same basket with this murderer. Did you see any celebrations here? Did you see anybody here handing out candy? The expressions of happiness over this act came from other parts of the world."

He allows, however, that the public silence of some villagers might be due to "their self-interest. Some people may be happy inside, but they'll keep quiet not because they're Zionists, not because they love Israel, but because they work in Israel and have Israeli friends."

For example, says Jamal, the terrorist's father, Hisham Abu Dhaim, is a surveying engineer "who does a lot of work for the Jerusalem Municipality. I know him very well. He has about twice as many Israeli friends as Palestinian friends."

The municipality, however, denies the connection. "Hisham Abu Dhaim of Jebl Mukaber does not do work for the Jerusalem Municipality. He is a private building contractor," the city maintains.

With the possible exception of Beit Safafa, none of the Arab villages of Jerusalem has closer relations with Jewish Jerusalem than Jebl Mukaber, says Taher. "Ever since I was a child I would go to buy eshel [a once-popular Israeli dairy product] at Rafi's grocery store in Armon Hanatziv. I don't know if it's still there." he says.

He educates his son at a liberal, secular school. He doesn't even let the boy watch the news so he "won't ask me too many questions that I have no answers for." During the peak of the fighting in Gaza a couple of weeks ago, when Palestinians on Jerusalem's Salah a-Din Street stoned the car of a municipal inspector, he says, "I was there, and I tried to prevent it. Everybody here knows it."

As much as the mukhtar's words rang false, Taher's ring true. "Personally, I say that what happened at that school was murder, plain and simple, and there's nothing on Earth that can justify it."

IN JEBL MUKABER, as in Israel at large, there's a great deal of uncertainty about the origin of the yeshiva killings, mainly over whether Abu Dhaim acted on his own accord or was recruited by a terrorist organization. There have been news reports that he was arrested a few months ago, but the family says this isn't true, that he was never in jail.

The killer's father and several brothers and cousins were arrested the night of the murders, but most were released the following morning. The father reportedly was freed from jail after agreeing to take down the *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad flags from the mourning tent. At press time, the terrorist's corpse remained in Israeli custody, and authorities say it will not be released for burial until the family agrees to hold a low-key funeral without media coverage.

Credit for the attack has been claimed by a Lebanese group calling itself the "Galilee Freedom Battalions," saying it was vengeance for last month's assassination of Hizbullah master terrorist Imad Mughniyeh. Anonymous callers have taken credit in <u>Hamas</u>'s name, but <u>Hamas</u> officials say they had nothing to do with the killings, and Israeli intelligence hasn't pinned them on anyone beyond Abu Dhaim. If the mass murderer left a note or video behind, none has been made public.

"People here say they believe he acted on his own, but then they'll say, 'But who trained him? And where did he get the guns?'" says Jamal. Guns, though, can be purchased easily in nearby Bethlehem.

Since the intifada began in September 2000, there have been very few acts of terror by Jerusalem Arabs; the lone suicide bombing by a Jerusalemite killed nine people at a Hebrew University cafeteria in 2002. Four Jebl Mukaber men in their 20s were arrested in 2003 and later convicted of shooting at a police station and police patrols. (They hit no one.) In a few cases Jerusalem Arabs, whose Israeli ID cards give them freedom of movement, have been recruited by West Bank terrorists as accomplices. Two young Jebl Mukaber men were convicted of driving the Bethlehem suicide bomber who blew up a bus at the city's Patt junction in 2002, killing 19 people.

These six Jebl Mukaber gunmen and accomplices were members of Fatah terror cells. "During the second intifada, some of the leaders of the [Fatah] Tanzim in Jerusalem came from the village," says Hillel Cohen, author of The Rise and Fall of Arab Jerusalem, 1967-2007. Without mentioning their names, he says a senior Tanzim figure from Jebl Mukaber opposed attacks on civilians, while a less senior member "worked under [jailed Tanzim chief] Marwan Barghouti, who ordered attacks on civilians."

In the past, left-wing Palestinian national movements were especially popular in the village, says Cohen, a researcher at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies. But today, <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad and another Islamic party hold the greatest sway, followed by Fatah, says Jamal.

The name Jebl Mukaber means "the hill of the one who says Allahu akbar - God is great," says Cohen. The name comes from the traditional belief that Omar ibn el-Khattab, who conquered Jerusalem for Islam in the seventh century, uttered the words when he first saw Jerusalem from a hill where the village now stands.

In times of calm, says Cohen, most Jerusalem Arabs "tend to have reservations" about the use of terror, but these reservations recede and support for terror increases "emotionally if not operationally" when Palestinians are getting killed in large numbers, such as they were in Gaza on the eve of the bloodbath at Mercaz Harav.

"In Jebl Mukaber, just like in any part of Arab Jerusalem, anyone who wants to walk around there can do so safely," he says. "But on the other hand, there are also people living there who think they have to make war on the Jews."

Graphic

7 photos: The sleek, 400-unit, Jewish-owned Nof Zion apartment project, all pink stone and dark glass, all empty. Ibrahim Abu Dhaim, the mukhtar, or elder, of the Abu Dhaim extended family, which numbers many hundreds in the village. A village elder walks in Jebl Mukaber. Examining bullet holes from the Mercaz Harav massacre. A line of **women** in black robes and head scarves waits to pass through the IDF checkpoint that divides Jebl Mukaber's Jerusalem side and its West Bank side. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



OUR WOMAN IN PALESTINE..; EXCLUSIVE DIARIES OF MIRROR 1940S WAR REPORTER BARBARA

The Mirror
July 19, 2008 Saturday
3 Star Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 30

Length: 916 words

Byline: BY MATT ROPER

Body

SURROUNDED by the devastation of a bomb blast that had ripped through the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, Daily Mirror reporter Barbara Broad began pounding the keys of her typewriter.

Her report, published the next day in July 1946, read: "I owe my life, and the fact I am able to write this story of the bloodiest terrorist outrage, to the cool courage of a British military policeman.

"As a thunderous boom roared out and the building collapsed like a pack of cards, a military policeman threw me to the ground and shielded me with his body."

Fifty years later, hands shaking as she tried to take in what she was reading, Jacqueline Karp stared at the words her mother had written in the aftermath of an atrocity that had killed 91 people.

A box of yellowing cuttings hidden in a box under a bed was offering Jacqueline a glimpse into her mother's life as Fleet Street's only <u>female</u> war reporter - exploits that she knew nothing about until two decades after her Barbara's death.

For 10 years our woman in Palestine kept Mirror readers informed of events in the Middle East through vivid reports from the front line.

Arriving in the region aged just 20 in a wide-brimmed hat and floral dress, Barbara's fearless reporting ruffled the feathers of those in authority on both sides.

One report denounced the British government for detaining illegal immigrants in a Bethlehem <u>women</u>'s prison and, after a story in February 1946 which criticised the Egyptian premier Sidky Pasha, she was banned from the country for life.

OUR WOMAN IN PALESTINE .. EXCLUSIVE DIARIES OF MIRROR 1940S WAR REPORTER BARBARA

Jacqueline - who is publishing her mother's secret diaries in a new book, Reporting From Palestine - says: "My mother had never talked about her time as a journalist.

"It was fascinating to discover everything she had done as a <u>female</u> reporter in an almost entirely masculine world. She clearly she had a woman's eye for the world. For example, when the Italian airforce bombed Tel Aviv, she was the only reporter who noticed the <u>women</u> running for their lives with their children."

Born in Weymouth in 1916, Barbara learned typing and shorthand at her father's school, then went to work at Dorset's Southern Times newspaper group.

In 1936 her skillful report about an Exeter woman condemned to hang for poisoning her husband caught the eye of the Daily Sketch, which offered her a job. And, just three months later, Barbara - who later had Jacqueline with second husband Jack Karp, a British army officer - was sent to Palestine to cover growing Arab unrest.

During this time Barbara interviewed Emir Abdullah I of Jordan and future Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir as well as travelling to Egypt to cover 16-year-old King Farouk's coronation in 1936.

But it was during her second stint in Palestine, this time working for the Daily Mirror, that she found herself reporting on some of the Middle East's most dramatic events. By then Palestine's Jews, desperate to save Jews from Nazi Europe, were turning against the British, who had imposed quotas on the number of refugees they would let in. Barbara was soon covering the escalating violence between Jews and Arabs and Jews and the British.

But despite impressing her bosses and captivating Mirror readers, she was finally forced to leave Palestine at the end of 1946 after the British Army decided that non-essential personnel had to go. Jacqueline says: "My mother resented it terribly because many male reporters were allowed to stay.

"She never returned to Palestine. After the partition in August 1948, when two states were created for Arabs and Jews, she never wanted to go back and see the place she loved divided."

Sadly, it was also the end of her journalism career. After Jack was demobbed in 1947, they moved to Southport, Lancs - a long way from Fleet Street - where his family owned a textile business.

Once there Barbara applied for many jobs but a pile of rejection letters from newspapers including the Washington Post are a tragic reflection of how her talent was ignored.

She became a housewife and her Daily Mirror career faded into history. Barbara died in 1986 aged 70.

Jacqueline says: "The sad thing was she still carried her typewriter around with her everywhere, even when we went on holiday, in case she came across a story.

"But cut off in a small Lancashire town with a toddler, she was never published again. She'd dodged bullets in Palestine, but now she just spent pottered around the house.

"The first time I saw anything she'd written was after she died. Maybe now her story can finally be told and she will at long last get the recognition she deserved."

10 Number of years that Barbara Board worked as Daily Mirror's front line war correspondent in strife-torn Palestine

20 Age she was when she was sent on her first newspaper assignment to cover the dangerous events in the Middle East

CONFLICT IN MIDDLE EAST

1917

Balfour Declaration pledges a "national home" for the Jews in Palestine. Britain seizes the territory from Ottoman Turks.

1948

State of Israel declared as British leave.

1967

Six-Day War. Israel takes West Bank, Gaza Strip, Sinai and Golan Heights.

1973

Egypt and Syria start Yom Kippur war against Israel. Six years later Egyptian-Israeli peace treat is signed.

1982

Israel invades Lebanon to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

1995

First year of Palestinian selfrule. Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated.

2004

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat dies.

2006

Israel's war with Hizbollah in Lebanon. Hamas wins Palestinian elections.

2007

Hamas takes over Gaza Strip. Annapolis peace talks are launched.

Graphic

PASS TO DANGER Her ID card to report in war zone; PROUD Jacqueline with mum's typewriter; GLOWING PRAISE Telegram to her from the Mirror; HISTORIC With Emir Abdullah I, the future king of Jordan; VIOLENT CLASH Six-Day War; CARNAGE She survived hotel bombing; SCOOP A Barbara splash from Middle East; NATION MOURNS Rabin's funeral

Load-Date: July 19, 2008



Boring but important

MX (Australia)

May 21, 2008 Wednesday

1 - Melbourne Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 407 words

Body

UK'S LANDMARK ABORTION VOTE

BRITISH MPs are preparing to vote on lowering the time limit for <u>women</u> to terminate a pregnancy, in what would be the first major change to abortion laws there in almost 20 years.

Earlier, they voted to support giving lesbians easier access to IVF, rejecting an amendment that would have forced doctors to consider a child's need for a father.

`HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY' IN GAZA

EGYPT announced today that Israel has agreed in principle to a truce in and around Gaza and quoted calls by a top official for Palestinian militants to seize a ``historic opportunity".

The announcement came after a day of renewed bloodshed in the territory controlled by the Islamist *Hamas* movement since last June, with four people being killed in Israeli air raids, one of them a 13-year-old boy.

`Israeli leaders (have informed us) of their support for and understanding of the Egyptian proposals for a truce," Egypt's official MENA news agency quoted a senior official as saying.

GLAUCOMA COSTS ON THE RISE

THE progressive eye disease glaucoma costs Australia almost \$2 billion a year, and the bill is expected to double in the next two decades, a new report shows.

The study by Access Economics estimates that 50 per cent of Australians with the condition are undiagnosed and unaware their peripheral vision is slowly disappearing.

INDIA, PAKISTAN RESUME TALKS

TOP Indian and Pakistani officials are holding talks in Islamabad to review the two countries' peace process.

The meeting is the first since a new civilian government took over in Pakistan. Talks were postponed after political instability there last year.

They come a day after India said one of its soldiers had been killed in firing across the de facto border. Pakistan has denied any involvement.

Boring but important

PENTAGON REPLACING IRAQ TROOPS

THE Pentagon said today it planned to send 39,000 soldiers to Iraq to replace troops scheduled to leave the war zone, a move that could keep US troop levels steady over the next year.

The US has 155,000 troops in Iraq and is in the process of reducing that number to about 140,000 by mid-July, ending a ``surge'' ordered by President George W. Bush last year.

Meanwhile, Tareq Aziz, the international face of Saddam Hussein's regime, was back in the dock today on charges of crimes against humanity, but without any lawyers to defend him.

Aziz, 72, is on trial along with seven others over the execution in 1992 of 42 Baghdad merchants accused of racketeering.

Load-Date: May 21, 2008



HIL MAKES A MOUNTAIN OUT OF W. VA.; Bam thanks God for a country boy

Daily News (New York)

May 16, 2008 Friday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 31

Length: 374 words

Byline: BY JOSH GREENMAN Series: THE MEGA-MATCHUP

Body

- + HILLARY is West Virginia's mountain mama after a commanding win over Obama there. And it gets worse the deeper you go inside the numbers like the 50-point gap among white voters without a college degree.
- + iHil's double-bank shot is the party's 30-member rules committee, which will decide what to do about the Florida and Michigan delegates. Thirteen of those 30 have declared support for her just 8 (to date) are for Obama.
- For whom the polls toll: Hil is back behind the eight ball in national public opinion, with Obama ahead an average of 8 points. And he's doing slightly better against John McCain than she is. Should she try crying one final time?
- + iAlert the media. Hillary makes a classy move. Rather than dignify comments by McCain that made a big deal out of *Hamas*' support for Obama, she passes. Nor did she add, "Barack's no terrorist sympathizer, as far as I know."
- jThe call for a summer gas tax holiday was Hil's last chance to draw a sharp substantive distinction from Obama. It flops. According to a new poll, Americans reject it 49% to 41%. Officially now, she's running on fumes.
- + BARACK gets John Edwards' nod, which could be medicine for headaches he has been having with the white working class. There are two Americas: The one where Obama's the nominee and . . . um, maybe there's just one after all.
- + Nothing helps a Dem like an insult from a Hollywood nutjob. So congrats to Sean Penn for ripping Bam's "phenomenally inhuman and unconstitutional voting record." Penn doesn't play a moron; he just is one in real life.
- + In Israel, President Bush decries terrorist "appeasement." The Obama campaign interprets this as a direct shot at their man. True or not, it's smart to pick a fight against W, who Dems revile and has a 31% approval rate overall.
- + In a stunning congressional special election in Mississippi, Dems win what had been a safe GOP seat. The more party faithful are convinced this is a tidal wave Democratic year, the less Hil's swing state arguments will resonate.

HIL MAKES A MOUNTAIN OUT OF W. VA.; Bam thanks God for a country boy

-Two blips. Obama calls a <u>female</u> reporter "sweetie," then apologizes. And in Oregon, he speaks of campaigning in 57 states. Sly humor? Brain hiccup? And will the 7 imaginaries have their delegates counted? (Hil says it's only fair.)

Graphic

HILLARY CLINTON BARACK OBAMA

Load-Date: May 16, 2008



Guardian Weekly: Israelis are choosing a bubble existence: After 60 years the song of peace has been muffled by cynicism and distance

Guardian Weekly May 16, 2008 Friday

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The Guardian Weekly

Section: Pg. 24

Length: 984 words

Byline: Jonathan Freedland

Body

In the wee small hours on Israeli television they show reruns of what was once a staple form of mass entertainment: kibbutz choirs - the men in pressed work shirts, the <u>women</u> in peasant skirts - singing Hebrew folk melodies exalting the Land of Israel, while a smiling audience joins in. The pictures were black and white, the sets cardboard, and the programmes interminable - a socialist-realist tableau of a simple farming nation engaged in patriotic amusement.

Visiting Israel last month, I sat transfixed when I stumbled across the public service channel that replays those old shows. Last week the national celebrations were more up to date, as Israel marked its 60th anniversary with street parties and beach barbecues. Yet if the world was watching, trying to understand the place Israel was and what it has become, it could do worse than start with those cheesy TV specials.

For one thing, too many critics like to depict the establishment of Israel in May 1948 as little more than an act of western imperialism, inserting an alien, European enclave into the mainly Arab and Muslim Middle East. In this view, the Jewish Israelis of today, with their swimming pools and waterside restaurants, are no different from their counterparts in other settler societies - the whites of Australia or, more painfully, South Africa. A look at the faces of Jewish Israel is one easy rebuttal: the new nation that has formed by mixing Moroccan and Russian, Ethiopian and Kurd, is one of the most ethnically diverse in the world. But there is a more substantial counter-argument, one that can be picked up even on those old TV singalongs.

A favourite in the patriotic repertoire is "Ein Li Eretz Acheret" (I Have No Other Land). In a way, no other sentence conveys the tragedy of Israel and Palestine more concisely - because of course, and with good reason, the Palestinians feel exactly the same way. They, too, have nowhere else. Yet this Zionist anthem articulates something very deep in Israelis' sense of themselves: they are a nation formed by those who had no other place to live. The Holocaust, inevitably, looms large in this: the establishment of a Jewish state just three years after the liberation of Auschwitz was no coincidence. After 2,000 years the world was finally persuaded that the Jews deserved what every other people regarded as a basic right: a place of their own.

A poignant reminder that Jews really had no other place - because the rest of the world did not want them - came with the death last month of Yossi Harel, captain of the Exodus, the leaking, rusting ship that carried 4,500

Guardian Weekly: Israelis are choosing a bubble existence: After 60 years the song of peace has been muffled by cynicism and distance

Holocaust survivors from Europe to Palestine in 1947, only to be sent back - by the British - first to France and then, incredibly, to Germany.

This, surely, gives the Israeli experience a different texture to the founding of, say, New Zealand, Argentina or the US. Those enterprises were fuelled chiefly by ambition and appetite for material resources. Even if those who landed on Plymouth Rock were fleeing religious intolerance, the circumstances of America's pioneers were not those of the Jews in the 1940s. The moral difference between the Jews and the white settlers of America, Africa and Australasia is the difference between a homeless man who needs a roof over his head and the landowner who fancies a second home. Those who lazily brand Zionism as imperialism should be able to tell the difference - and to remember that those who boarded those battered ships felt less like imperialists than refugees desperate for shelter.

The old TV shows provide another, related corrective. Back in the 1970s, all Israeli floors looked the same: the tiles were mass-produced and there was only one style. Every toilet seat was made by a single kibbutz.

That collectivism is all but gone. Most of the kibbutzim have privatised: individual members now own their own houses and earn different wages from each other. The kibbutz was never Israel, but it stands as a metaphor for what is happening in the wider society.

Israel itself is privatising, as Israel's people withdraw from the collective sphere and retreat into their own individual lives. Many speak of the bu'ah they construct for themselves, the bubble in which they can hide away from the fears and angst of Israel's "situation". Polling reveals the dichotomy: while nearly 40% believe the country faces a "serious threat of destruction" from its neighbours, about 83% are "satisfied or very satisfied" with their own lives.

All of which has a bearing on the other meaning of last week's anniversary. The US administration has set the date as a deadline for Israelis and Palestinians to show some progress in the talks launched at Annapolis last November, ahead of President Bush's visit to the region this week.

Israel insists that it is straining every sinew seeking peace, just as it has insisted throughout the past 60 years. But when Jimmy Carter was in Jerusalem last month, carrying messages from Damascus and <u>Hamas</u>, no frontline Israeli minister would so much as meet him. In this, the government is doing no more than follow the national mood. Israelis have grown cynical about peacemaking. "We pulled out of Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza in 2005, and what did we get for our trouble? Katyushas from Hizbullah and Qassams from <u>Hamas</u>. No thanks." Besides, and few Israelis like to say this out loud, they believe they can get by without peace.

Thanks, they whisper, to the separation barrier or wall, terror attacks have dwindled: Palestinian violence is contained. As for the so-called demographic factor - the notion that soon Jews and Arabs in the entire land ruled by Israel will reach numerical parity - that feels abstract and far away.

Only a few Israeli insomniacs will watch the old shows and remember the long-ago melodies, including the one that sounds more passe now than ever. It's called "Shir L'shalom" - and it is the song for peace.

Load-Date: May 22, 2008



'Samaritans' caught in Gaza crossfire appeal for help

Irish Independent

February 7, 2008 Thursday

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Independent.ie

Section: NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 396 words

Body

Brian McDonald and Deirdre O'Shaughnessy

A Galway woman and her daughter who were last night caught in a bombing blitz in Gaza have appealed to the Irish Government to rescue them.

Treasa Ni Cheannabhain (56), her daughter Naisrin Elsafty (19) and her Egyptian niece Sehan (26) were attempting to return to Egypt after completing a 'Good Samaritan' visit during which they distributed thousands of euro in aid to hospitals and orphanages.

Ms Ni Cheannabhain, who is married to an Egyptian doctor and lives in Barna, just outside Galway city, had travelled to the Palestinian territory with her daughter and niece to distribute the money on behalf of the Galway-Palestinian Children's Fund.

Denied

But last night, after being denied re-entry to Egypt at the border crossing at Rafah, the three <u>women</u> found themselves surrounded by bombing and shooting, apparently being carried out by Israeli forces.

"We hadn't expected this -- it's certainly very scary and we are appealing to (Foreign Affairs Minister) Dermot Ahern and anyone else with any influence to use with the Egyptian authorities to let us go through the border to safety," Ms Ni Cheannabhain told the Irish Independent.

She had been offered shelter at the home of a cameraman working for a Palestinian TV crew with whom she had conducted an interview earlier yesterday.

"The cameraman has just been called out to film the aftermath of a bomb which has blown up a car. There's now shooting going on and I really feel that we are not very safe."

As she spoke by mobile phone from Rafah, yet another bomb exploded nearby and Ms Ni Cheannabhain expressed concern for her husband and family back in Ireland, whom she knew would be very worried about her.

Illegally

'Samaritans' caught in Gaza crossfire appeal for help

The three <u>women</u> had crossed from Egypt to Gaza last Thursday. Having been refused entry initially at the Egyptian side of Rafah, they hired a taxi driver to take them across the border illegally.

Wearing niquabs -- full length black robes with just a slit for their eyes -- the <u>women</u> pretended to be the family of the taxi driver as they made their way through the border.

They carried suitcases containing the 7,700 collected by the Galway-Palestinian Children's Fund. In Gaza, they met up with contacts and met a number of ministers from the <u>Hamas</u> government. They spent the rest of their time visiting hospitals and orphanages and distributing the money.

Load-Date: February 7, 2008



Scores killed in Gaza raids: Civilians and children die in Israeli attacks: Observer uncovers block on seriously ill patients being treated abroad

The Observer (London)
March 2, 2008

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The Observer

Section: OBSERVER FOREIGN PAGES; Pg. 37

Length: 997 words

Byline: Peter Beaumont, Foreign Affairs Editor

Body

ISRAEL'S MILITARY killed at least 60 Palestinians yesterday - almost half of them civilians, including four children - in its most violent assault on the Gaza Strip since the Islamic militant group *Hamas* seized power last June.

The latest deaths bring the number of Palestinians killed since a rocket fired from inside Gaza killed a 44-year-old Israeli in the town of Sderot last week to 80. Two Israeli soldiers also died in the fighting. Late last night, the office of the *Hamas* prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, was attacked by an Israeli aircraft, which hit the building with three missiles. Although no casualties were reported, witnesses said the building was destroyed.

The latest bloodshed comes as an Observer investigation revealed how Israel is again deliberately obstructing the transfer of urgent medical cases for treatment outside Gaza, in the latest extension of its policy of collective punishment of Palestinians.

The death toll climbed through yesterday as Israeli troops targeted Palestinian militants who fired rockets and mortar shells into Israel. The operation follows last week's warning by Israel's deputy defence minister, Matan Vilnai, that a 'holocaust' would be unleashed on Gaza if rocket fire was not halted.

One resident described heavy fighting around the Jabaliya camp and horrific conditions for civilians, as Israeli forces moved in. The incursion appeared to be a prelude to a possible Israeli invasion, and came just days before US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is due to arrive on her latest peacekeeping mission.

Last night, the US called for an end to the violence and said it regretted the loss of life in the Gaza Strip. 'There is a clear distinction between terrorist rocket attacks that target civilians and action in self defence,' White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said. As the number of fatalities rose, Palestinian leaders threatened to call off talks with Israel.

Meanwhile, Israel was accused of ratcheting up its policy of obstructing Palestinian patients requiring care outside Gaza - despite a ruling by Israel's high court 'that even total criminals have a right to medical care'.

Scores killed in Gaza raids: Civilians and children die in Israeli attacks: Observer uncovers block on seriously ill patients being treated abroad

Officially, Israel permits hundreds of Palestinians through each month for medical treatment. But beneath that fact, The Observer has established, lies a secretive and increasingly harsh system of judging who is allowed to pass through the main Erez checkpoint by the security officials of Israel's Shin Bet.

The system, Palestinian medical professionals claim, has already caused the premature deaths of a number of Palestinians. And, amid increasing criticism of Israel for its 'collective punishment' of Gazans, this issue has become emblematic of Israel's harsh attitude.

It is a time-consuming lottery where permits can take months and where a name that sounds too similar to that of a wanted militant is enough to block access to treatment - even for life-threatening conditions. Some claim that, during interviews with Shin Bet, they have been pressed to become informers. The allegations are backed by nine affidavits from patients in Gaza, collected by the joint Palestinian-Israeli group Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHR), who say they were pressured into becoming collaborators in exchange for treatment.

The consequences of Israeli's policy is most obviously visible in the desperate crush outside Dr Bassam al-Badri's office, where a crowd blocks the corridor and overwhelms his little room. On a good day, there are 100 people; on a bad day, the number doubles. There are <u>women</u> with breast cancer, men with broken legs, old men with eyes cloudy from cataracts.

Badri represents the only hope for treatment in Israel, Jordan or Egypt. His job is to process medical referrals for the Palestinian health ministry. 'We do 700 to 800 referrals every month. But not all of them can go across. In December, we had 669 patients accepted by the authorities inside Gaza for transfer. Of those, 156 were refused by Israel. Another 132 are under evaluation.

'A half or a third of those coming to see me end up with no answer from the Israeli side,' said Badri.

In Badri's office is Nariman Hamouda, a shy 28-year-old accompanied by her mother Kawkab. During the first intifada in the Eighties, Kawkab's sister was carrying Nariman and fell, badly damaging the child's elbow. Despite being treated in Israel, when she fell again last year the Israelis would not let Nariman in. Now she is applying once again.

'We don't know why they refused her,' said Badri. 'Sometimes there is a martyr in the family. Sometimes it is because her name sounds similar to someone else's name, or because she has a relative who is wanted.'

For those refused transit, the only hope is PHR, which petitions the high court over pressing cases. Shin Bet's evidence for refusing transit is heard without any representation of the petitioners' lawyers. Last month, the three-judge bench first refused to hear any cases, and then insisted on hearing only cases of people who would die if they did not receive treatment 'today'.

'Since the declaration of Gaza as a hostile entity in September,' said Miri Weingarten of PHR, 'the situation has become much worse. The definition of what is an urgent humanitarian case has become extremely cynical.' But even those allowed through - like Abdul Kader Munzir, 19, shot in the stomach while going to help his aunt during an Israeli incursion - claim they have been confronted with inhuman treatment.

'The first time he was given permission to cross Erez,' said his father Munzir, 'Abdul and his mother were kept waiting from eight in the morning until five. Then they were told to go away again. His mother said: "We have to go across today. If we are not allowed to cross, we'll have to wait another five months."' Despite being kept at an Israeli hospital for 20 days, he was not treated. Instead, he was sent back to Gaza and told to reapply. There are those who do not make it at all and die in the limbo of the referral system.

Load-Date: March 3, 2008

Scores killed in Gaza raids: Civilians and children die in Israeli attacks: Observer uncovers block on seriously ill patients being treated abroad



US policy vacuum on Pakistan

Canberra Times (Australia)
September 16, 2008 Tuesday
Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. 11

Length: 1147 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

'C overt action is frequently a substitute for policy," was an aphorism first coined by the former director of the CIA, Richard Helms.

Its truth is exemplified by the decision of President Bush in July to secretly give orders that US special forces will in future carry out raids against ground targets inside Pakistan, without getting the approval of the Pakistani Government.

Bush's order is fraught with peril for the US and NATO forces in Afghanistan. In one respect, it is a recognition at long last by Bush that the Taliban and their al-Qaeda allies could not stay in business without the backing of Pakistan. This is hardly surprising, since it was Pakistani military intelligence which largely created them in the first place.

It was always absurd for the White House and the Pentagon to pour praise on the former Pakistani leader General Pervez Musharraf as their greater ally against terrorism, despite the clearest evidence that it was the Pakistani army which had been keeping the Taliban going since 2001.

True to Helms's nostrum, Bush has not adopted a new policy, but is resorting to covert operations, the political disadvantages of which are obvious, and military benefits dubious. A good example of this is the first of these operations undertaken under the new dispensation. On September 3, two dozen US Navy Seals were helicoptered in to South Waziristan in Pakistan, where they attacked a compound, aided by an AC-130 gunship. When they retreated, they said they had killed many al-Qaeda fighters, though a senior Pakistani official later said that the true casualty figures were four Taliban and al-Qaeda "foot soldiers" and 16 civilians, including *women* and children.

It is a curious way to usher in democracy in Pakistan. Once Pakistan emerges from its preoccupation with the Ramadan fast, it will create nothing but anger among Pakistanis. It will alienate the Pakistani army, which has been humiliated and disregarded.

Politically, it only makes sense in terms of American politics, where it will be seen as a sign that the administration is doing something in Afghanistan. It also diverts attention from embarrassing questions about why the Taliban is such a potent force seven years after it had supposedly been destroyed in 2001.

Use of covert forces to achieve political ends with limited means has always held a fatal attraction for political leaders. CIA officials have become used to being dumped with insoluble problems, with peremptory orders to "Get

US policy vacuum on Pakistan

rid of Khomeini" or "Eliminate Saddam." Plots to do just that are the common theme of a thousand Hollywood movies, which revolve around sending elite forces into enemy territory, where they successfully dispatch some local demon. In reality, covert warfare seldom works. Up-to-date intelligence is hard to come by. Take, for instance, the repeated claims by the US Air Force that it had killed Saddam Hussein during the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. This was meant to be based on up-to-the- minute information, much of which turned out to be spurious. Of course Saddam had survived, though not the poor civilians who had the ill luck to live or work where the Iraqi leader was meant to be.

The media plays a particularly nasty role in all of this. Stories of the attempts to kill Saddam Hussein were given maximum publicity. Their total failure was hardly mentioned.

The reaction of the Pentagon to the killing of large numbers of civilians in Afghanistan, Iraq and now Pakistan has traditionally been first to deny that it ever happened. The denial is based on the old public relations principle that, "First you say something is no news and didn't happen. When it is proved some time later that it did happen, you yawn and say it is old news".

For some reason, the Israelis have a reputation for being good at undercover operations. This is hardly difficult in Gaza, where the enemy is so puny and vulnerable. But while I was stationed in Jerusalem for this newspaper, Israeli intelligence was involved in a series of ludicrous fiascos. My favourite was when the chief Mossad agent in Syria turned out not to exist, though his Israeli handler happily pocketed several million dollars that the spy was supposedly receiving for his treachery. The handler concocted the agent's reports and one of these, falsely claiming that Syria was plotting a surprise military offensive, even managed to get the Israeli army mobilised.

Israel also provides a classic example of a covert operation that will produce limited gains if it is successful, and a diplomatic disaster if it does not. In September, 1997, two Mossad agents carrying forged Canadian passports tried to assassinate Khaled Mashal in the centre of the capital Amman. He was the head of the political bureau of *Hamas* in Jordan. The ingenious method of assassination was to inject a slow-acting poison into his ear as he entered his office. In the event, the would-be poisoner was captured after a chase through the streets of Amman. Four other agents took refuge in the Israeli embassy.

The mission had been given the go-ahead by the Israeli prime minister of the day, Benjamin Netanyahu, who had simply ignored the idea that it might go wrong. King Hussein was reduced to threatening to storm the Israeli embassy unless Israel handed over an antidote to the poison. Israel was forced to release Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the head of <u>Hamas</u>, and other Palestinian prisoners from jail. Covert operations only really succeed when they have strong local allies who want outside support. There are two recent outstanding examples of this. In Afghanistan in 2001, US special forces reinforced the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance and, most importantly, gave them forward air controllers who could call in air strikes. Two years later, US special forces played a similar role in northern Iraq, when they provided air support to Kurdish troops attacking Saddam's retreating army.

But if covert forces are acting alone, they are very vulnerable. What will happen to them in Pakistan if they get in a fire fight with regular Pakistani forces? What will they do if they are ambushed by local tribesmen allied to the Taliban?

Usually, the first to flee in these circumstances are the local civil authorities and the civilian population, so the Taliban will be even more in control than they were before.

Helms's dictum was right. The Bush Administration got itself into a no-win situation in Afghanistan.

"The US attack on Iraq," writes the Pakistani expert Ahmed Rashid, in his newly-published Descent into Chaos, "was critical to convincing Musharraf that the United States was not serious about stabilising the region, and that it was safer for Pakistan to preserve its own national interest by clandestinely giving the Taliban refuge."

The covert action in Pakistan is merely an attempt to divert attention from the consequences of this bankrupt American policy.

Independent

Load-Date: September 15, 2008



Rice imposes new round of sanctions against Iran

The Australian (Australia)
October 26, 2007 Friday
All-round Metro Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 12

Length: 426 words

Body

AP, AFP

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration has imposed sweeping new sanctions against Iran's Defence Ministry, its Revolutionary Guard Corps and a number of banks to punish them for purported support for terrorist organisations in Iraq and the Middle East.

The measures, announced by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, cover some of the Iranian Government's largest military and financial institutions, which Washington blames for supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan and Shia insurgent groups in Iraq, along with the <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah organisations.

The sanctions will cut off more than 20 Iranian entities, including individuals and companies owned or controlled by the Revolutionary Guards, from the US financial system and are likely to have a ripple effect through the international banking community.

The Quds Force -- a part of the Revolutionary Guard Corps that Washington accuses of providing weapons, including powerful bomb-making material blamed for the deaths of soldiers in Iraq -- and banks will be identified as "specially designated global terrorist" groups for their activities in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East.

The sanctions are the toughest the US has levied against Tehran since the 1979 takeover of the US embassy in the Iranian capital.

"What this means is that no US citizen or a private organisation will be allowed to engage in financial transactions with these persons and entities," Dr Rice said last night.

"These actions will help to protect the international financial system from the illicit activities of the Iranian Government."

The announcement of the sanctions is likely to fuel speculation that the US is readying military action against Iran for its nuclear program. But a senior official said the action complemented diplomatic efforts.

The Secretary of State told the US Congress on Wednesday that Iran constituted "perhaps the single greatest challenge" for US security. President George W.Bush suggested last week a nuclear-armed Iran could trigger "World War III".

Rice imposes new round of sanctions against Iran

Dr Rice's comments followed a dramatic encounter with a <u>female</u> protester who confronted the Secretary of State and accused her of being a war criminal, before being hauled away by Capitol security.

Desiree Farooz accosted Dr Rice and waved her hands -- painted blood red -- just centimetres from the chief diplomat's face inside the committee meeting room as television cameras captured the confrontation.

"The blood of millions of Iraqis is on your hands," Ms Farooz shouted, before police wrestled her away.

Load-Date: October 25, 2007



You will be blown away by the Jewvenile humour

Cape Argus (South Africa)

August 01, 2008 Friday

e1 Edition

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Section: ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. 5

Length: 428 words **Byline:** Atiyyah Khan

Body

You Don't Mess with the Zohan

Director: Dennis Dugan

Cast: Adam Sandler, John Turturro, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Rob Schneider, Nick Swardson, Lainie Kazan

running time: 113 minutes

Classification: PG 13 LSN

Rating: HHHII

If Superman, Austin Powers and Borat were to have a threesome, their love-child would be the Zohan.

A slapstick Adam Sandler film about the Palestine-Israeli conflict? Oi vey!

Zohan Dvir (Sandler) is a sex-crazed Mossad agent who is a hero in Israel. Like Austin Powers, <u>women</u> want him and men (in Israel) want to be him. He gets hi-fives when he strolls on the beach, catches bullets with his teeth and can do push-ups without using his hands.

He has an obsession with hummus (uses it as toothpaste and to extinguish fires), floral shirts, disco-dancing, Mariah Carey and an Israeli drink called Fizzy Bubblech.

Zohan is disillusioned by war and, despite his heroic status in Israel, he harbours a secret fetish to become a hairdresser.

"I just want to make hair silky-smooth", he wails in a terrible accent that sounds more Mexican than the Hebrew/Arabic/Yiddish/Gibberish that Sandler is going for.

To pursue his dream, he fakes his death in a battle with a Palestinian fighter, the Phantom (Turturro), and moves to New York City. With an '80s Wham! hairstyle he changes his name to Scrappy-Coco and seeks a life as a hairdresser.

You will be blown away by the Jewvenile humour

He finds work in a Palestinian hair salon, run by the one-dimensional, but seriously sizzling, Dalia (Chriqui) in a neighbourhood where Israeli and Palestinian traders co-exist peacefully.

The Zohan soon becomes well-known, not only for his '80s hairstyles, but his popular post-cut shags to ageing clientele.

Yes, the Zohan wants to make a sexy time with you, and you.

Spliced into this are more controversial issues such as the dial-in <u>Hamas</u> Hotline and cameo appearances by Chris Rock and Mariah Carey.

Zohan see-saws between scenes that are hilarious and those that are just plain ridiculously silly (cooking a fish between his butt-cheeks). It deserves credit for making light of an issue that is taken seriously. It's offensive without being unfair to Palestinians or Israelis.

Sandler's attempt at political satire is ultimately harmless, with the message that if the Israelis and Palestinians ever made peace, together they'd be the world's greatest super-power.

It's kitsch, over-the-top, low-brow comedy filled with typical Sandler stereotypes, clichéd jokes and toilet humour, but it's the kind of brainless fun that had me laughing till the end.

If you liked ... Austin Powers, Borat and Happy Gilmore ... then you'll like this.

Load-Date: July 31, 2008



Digest

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 22, 2008 Sunday

FOURTH EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A14

Length: 400 words

Byline: From news Services

Body

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

U.S. beef is allowed back into South Korea

South Korea said it would resume imports of U.S. beef after American and South Korean suppliers agreed to block meat from older cattle, aiming to soothe health concerns that sparked weeks of demonstrations against new President Lee Myung-bak.

Protest leaders argued the plan doesn't go far enough and staged the latest of their daily candlelight rallies. Thousands of riot police prevented demonstrators from marching to the presidential Blue House.

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Journalist is suspect in murders he wrote about

Police arrested a Macedonian journalist on suspicion of murdering at least three elderly women, authorities said.

Vlado Taneski became a suspect because his articles included details of the crimes that had not been released.

JERUSALEM

Parents of seized soldier sue to block truce deal

The parents of an Israeli soldier held by <u>Hamas</u>-allied militants petitioned Israel's supreme court to block a truce deal with the militant group so long as their son remains in captivity.

Noam and Aviva Schalit petitioned on behalf of their son Gilad, claiming that part of the deal included opening the Gaza Strip's crossings. They said this would allow their son's captors to smuggle him out.

KATMANDU, NEPAL

Tibetan activists jailed as more are detained

Digest

Nepalese authorities have jailed Tibetan activists Kelsang Chung, Ngawang Sangmo and Tashi Dolma for three months for leading protests against China's crackdown in Tibet, an official said.

Hundreds of Tibetan exiles, meanwhile, were detained Saturday in a new protest in front of the Chinese Embassy's visa office, police said.

BRIEFLY

- Typhoon: Fengshen lashed the Philippines for a second day Sunday, killing at least 80 people as it submerged entire communities and capsized a passenger ferry carrying more than 740 passengers and crew.
- Incentive: Officials in Dundee, Scotland, will give people who quit smoking 12.50 pounds (\$25) a week on a card that can be redeemed for fresh food and groceries.
- War tribunal: Serb authorities turned over ex-Bosnian Serb police chief Stojan Zupljanin to the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in the Netherlands.
- Saudi arrests: Saudi religious police arrested 21 men, saying they were homosexual. It is a flogging offense.
- Nigerian breach: Chevron Corp. said that a breached Nigerian pipeline has prompted the company to shut down its onshore oil production.

Graphic

PHOTO

PHOTO - bosnia war victims reburied - Bosnian Muslim men carry a coffin of a victim exhumed from a mass grave site during a funeral Saturday for 55 Bosnian Muslim men, <u>women</u> and children killed by Bosnian Serbs at the start of the Bosnian war in 1992. The ceremony in the village of Zaklopaca was attended by 5,000 people. Amel Emric | The Associated Press

Load-Date: June 22, 2008



Comment & Debate: Promotion of clients and stooges will get us nowhere: If the aim is to reduce the terror threat and boost integration, boycotts of mainstream Muslim events are no help at all

The Guardian - Final Edition
July 17, 2008 Thursday

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Section: GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES; Pg. 33

Length: 1071 words **Byline:** Seumas Milne

Body

The political knives are out for Shahid Malik, Britain's first Muslim minister. For years poor Malik has bent over backwards to toe the New Labour line and be the epitome of an acceptable, moderate Muslim. But Malik also knows his own community and, when a ministerial edict went out to boycott the largest Islamic cultural and political event ever staged in Britain, he balked. By any reckoning, he argued, the IslamExpo extravaganza, which attracted 50,000 people over the weekend, was a mainstream gathering and an important opportunity to win hearts and minds. Only when his departmental boss, the international development secretary, Douglas Alexander, cracked the whip did Malik relent.

Now he is paying the price in time-honoured style. First, he was taken to task in the Times by Dean Godson, research director of the rightwing thinktank Policy Exchange, which was last year found to have relied on faked evidence for an inflammatory report into extremism in British mosques. Then, as if by magic, a knocking story appeared, complete with a withering comment from a "Whitehall source" about Malik's "seriously poor judgment", detailing the minister's failure to realise that a peace meeting he was due to address with his department's knowledge was linked to the Moonie cult.

Anyone who attended IslamExpo will know that it was, as Boris Johnson's champion Andrew Gilligan put it, an "impressive and serious" celebration

of the diversity of Muslim art and culture. The political debates brought together a broad range of voices - from the US Nixon Centre's Robert Leiken to Rached al-Ghannouchi, who played a key role in reconciling mainstream Islamism with democratic principles in the 1990s - as well as many more <u>women</u> than attend most mainstream British political events.

They would have been broader still if some of the harshest critics of British Muslim leaders had not joined the government and Tory frontbench boycott, which took in Stephen Timms, the employment minister, and Conservative community spokeswoman Sayeeda Warsi, as well as the unfortunate Malik.

Comment & Debate: Promotion of clients and stooges will get us nowhere: If the aim is to reduce the terror threat and boost integration, boycotts of mainstream

The trigger for their abandonment of a rare chance to engage with thousands of British Muslims seems to have been an article by the increasingly extreme anti-Islamist campaigner, Ed Husain, comparing the event to a British National party rally. His case for such a patently absurd claim was that some of the organisers had had links with <u>Hamas</u> or the Muslim Brotherhood, though the details are contested. But it was enough for Hazel Blears, whose communities department has been taking an ever-harder line against the most politically active sections of the Muslim community, to insist on a boycott.

Note that there is no suggestion of involvement in current terrorism in this controversy, in Britain or Israel. The issue is the government's growing hostility to dealing with anyone connected with the highly diverse movement that is Islamism. This is a political trend that has violent and non-violent, theocratic and democratic, reactionary and progressive strands, stretching from Turkey's pro-western ruling Justice and Development party through to the wildest shores of takfiri jihadism. But it's largely on the basis of this blinkered opposition that the government is now funding Husain's Quilliam Foundation, promoting other marginal groups such as the Sufi Muslim Council and turning its back on more representative bodies such as the Muslim Council of Britain.

This is a dangerous game, whether from the point of view of reducing the threat of terror attacks on the streets of London or narrowing the gulf between Muslims and non-Muslims in the country as a whole. As opinion polls show, most Muslims around the world are broadly sympathetic to <u>Hamas</u> as a movement resisting occupation of Palestinian land - and British Muslims are no exception. If such attitudes become a block on engagement with official Britain, or are ignorantly branded "Islamofascist", then the government and Tory opposition are going to end up talking to a very small minority indeed.

It's a risk well-recognised by some inside government. As one minister argues: "This cannot continue, it's completely counterproductive. You have to engage with those with influence over those you want to influence." Some Muslim activists trying to work with government blame Blears' Sufi Muslim advisers, Azhar Ali and Maqsood Ahmed; one sen ior local authority specialist despairs that by refusing to deal with Muslim organisations the advisers crudely brand Islamist, ministers are "isolating themselves from the majority".

Blaming advisers is too easy. The British government, which is taking part in the military occupation of two Muslim countries, is hardly in a position to throw up its hands in horror at sympathy with political violence abroad. But blurring the lines between support for those fighting foreign occupation and backing for violent attacks on civilians at home helps get the government off the hook of its own responsibility for the terror threat.

Part of the explanation given for pulling out of IslamExpo was that one of the organisers had expressed sympathy for suicide bombings in Israel. That was also the basis for banning the radical cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi from Britain. However, both David Cameron and the government-backed Quilliam Foundation have strongly praised another cleric, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Ali Gomaa, even though he is also on record as supporting Palestinian "martyrdom operations". The crucial difference is that al-Qaradawi is linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, the most popular opposition movement in the Arab world, while Gomaa is appointed by the pro-western Mubarak dictatorship.

This is also the key to official policy towards Muslim organisations in Britain. The groups currently regarded as beyond the pale - such as the organisers of IslamExpo - are those keenest to promote Muslim involvement in British society and politics. But they are also the most actively opposed to western policy in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine - an important point of common ground, incidentally, with most non-Muslim Britons. The organisations the government backs, on the other hand, are those who keep quiet about the wars the US and Britain are fighting in the Muslim world. If the priority is really community integration and prevention of terror attacks, this sponsorship of clients and stooges is going to have to stop.

s.milne@guardian.co.uk

Load-Date: July 17, 2008

Comment & Debate: Promotion of clients and stooges will get us nowhere: If the aim is to reduce the terror threat and boost integration, boycotts of mainstream



Digest

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 22, 2008 Sunday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A14

Length: 406 words

Byline: From news Services

Body

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KATMANDU, NEPAL

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Graphic

PHOTO

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Load-Date: June 22, 2008



News in brief

The Jerusalem Post April 18, 2008 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 444 words

Byline: Jerusalem Post staff, Hilary Leila Krieger

Body

Comptroller wants to hear PM on Pollard

State Comptroller Micha Lindenstrauss is seriously considering issuing a court order to compel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to testify before the comptroller regarding Jonathan Pollard and his continued incarceration in the United States for spying for Israel, Channel 2 reported on Thursday. Lindenstrauss began investigating the Pollard affair in January following a request from the State Control Committee.

* Jerusalem Post staff

Israel Prize upheld for Prof. Sternhall

The High Court of Justice rejected on Thursday a petition filed by the Legal Forum for the Land of Israel against awarding the Israel Prize to Prof. Ze'ev Sternhall because of his remarks about West Bank settlers.

In their petition, the Forum included quotes from an article in Ha'aretz from 2001 in which he recommended that the Palestinians restrict their attacks to the West Bank and those Jews who live there. It also cited an article he wrote in Davar in 1988 in which he said that only those who were willing to remove the Ofra settlement from Samaria with tanks would stop the fascism that threatens to drown Israeli democracy. * Jerusalem Post staff

Abbas cancels awards to terrorists

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas confirmed that plans to present two <u>women</u> terrorists with a medal of honor have been withdrawn. Abbas informed Knesset Speaker Dalia Itzik of the decision in a telephone call from Moscow late Wednesday.

The Al Kuds Mark of Honor, the PLO's highest medal, was to have been given in a ceremony Thursday to the two terrorists who helped kill Israelis. * Jerusalem Post staff

Mazuz closes file against Edri

Attorney-General Menachem Mazuz decided Thursday to close the file against Absorption Minister and Minister for the Development of the Negev and Galilee Ya'acov Edri (Kadima), due to lack of evidence.

News in brief

Edri allegedly worked, while serving as the assistant public security minister, to promote a police officer in exchange for receiving a large quantity of Rosh Hashana greeting cards - a deal which allegedly fell through. * Jerusalem Post staff

'Stop funds for Carter Center'

Following former US president Jimmy Carter's indication that he would be meeting with <u>Hamas</u> leaders during his current trip to the Middle East, a US Congressman has proposed a ban on federal funds to the Carter Center.

The center has received at least \$19 million in federal taxpayer funds since 2001, according to the office of Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Michigan), the bill's sponsor. He said it sent a "fundamentally troubling message" when an American dignitary met with a group designated as terrorist by the US government. * Hilary Leila Krieger

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Abbas accuses Israel of 'ethnic cleansing'

The Bismarck Tribune March 14, 2008 Friday

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Section: WIRE; Pg. 8A

Length: 444 words

Byline: HEIDI VOGT Associated Press Writer

Body

DAKAR, Senegal - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas accused Israel of implementing policies he claimed were part of an "ethnic cleansing" campaign in the Palestinian areas of Jerusalem.

Speaking at a summit of Islamic countries in the Senegalese capital Dakar, Abbas said Israel had carried out policies designed to force Palestinians out of the city.

"Our people in Jerusalem are under an ethnic cleansing campaign," Abbas said in a speech. "They are suffering from a series of decisions like tax hikes and construction prohibitions."

Abbas said Palestinians "are facing a campaign of annihilation" by the Israeli state.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said that "we would not use that term to describe the situation. I think it's probably an example of some overheated political rhetoric."

"We would urge both sides, both the Israelis and the Palestinians, to keep their focus on the political process," McCormack said.

At the summit of the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference, the world's largest Muslim organization, Abbas appealed to Muslim leaders for support during a difficult junction in the Mideast peace process.

Iran's hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told the conference that recent unrest in Gaza showed that Israel "just kills innocent **women** and children, but the U.N. Security Council stays silent."

Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, who is chairing the OCI, condemned Israeli attacks but also called for unity among feuding Palestinian factions.

U.S.-backed peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians have been strained by a recent surge in fighting. On Thursday, the militant Islamic Jihad group in Gaza fired dozen of rockets at southern Israel after Israeli undercover forces killed one of its West Bank leaders.

Abbas said Palestinians expect Israel to meet "commitments to put an end to its aggressions and settlements expansion ... Yet what is taking place on the ground today is totally in violation of that."

Palestinians are split between the moderate government led by Abbas in the West Bank and the militant <u>Hamas</u> group that has ruled Gaza since seizing the coastal strip by force last year.

Abbas accuses Israel of 'ethnic cleansing'

"I should like to tell our brothers and sisters of Palestine that your unity is the first priority of success ... Please unite," Wade said. He also called Israel "an occupying power" and urged its government to "immediately stop its disproportionate use of force."

The Middle East has long been a core issue for the conference, which was founded in 1969 in response to an arson attack on the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. The group aims to promote Islamic unity and serve as a voice for the Muslim world.

Load-Date: March 17, 2008



Magazine Stand

Ottawa Citizen

April 13, 2008 Sunday

Final Edition

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Section: BOOKS; Pg. B5; Magazine Stand

Length: 424 words

Byline: Bruce Deachman, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

The Walrus

The Big Read: Authors Janice Gross Stein and Eugene Lang examine Canada's oft-written about chief of defence staff, Gen. Rick Hillier, and the equally oft-asked questions: Do his public statements run counter to government protocol and should he be muzzled? In the end, however, they conclude that the opposite is true -- there are far too few Hilliers in government.

Inside: Part 2 of former Liberal MP Barry Campbell's series on Ottawa politics is, without naming nearly enough names, still refreshingly candid and at times quite humorous, whether he's describing the Cabinet hopes of every freshly minted MP, dealing with loony constituents who believe they're being followed by the RCMP (and who's to say?) or passing reference to sexual fantasies inspired by the disembodied voices translating House proceedings.

Plus: Jay Teitel, spurred on by his son's tales of how easily one could get through McGill University without breaking an educational sweat, looks at how and why Canadian universities never fail students. Also, a wonderful account by Christine Pountney of her experience hunting, killing, cleaning and, ultimately, eating a Newfoundland caribou.

Vanity Fair

The Big Read: Vanity Fair's cover story, examining the current lot of comediennes to answer the age-old question of whether <u>women</u> are funny, was presumably only assigned because they already had all these great talents lined up to be photographed by Annie Leibovitz. How else can you explain even thinking there's a dearth of funny <u>females</u> out there? Tina Fey? Sarah Silverman? Amy Poehler? Amy Sedaris? Why, Steve Carrell and Will Ferrell can't even carry their handbags. Alessandra Stanley's article has a few good lines (such as Nora Ephron blaming cable for the growth of <u>women</u> in television comedy: "There are so many hours to fill, and they ran out of men, so then there were <u>women</u>."). Otherwise, though, there's not much new here.

Inside: A bleaker type of humour plays out in the Middle East, as author David Rose looks at how the comedy of errors known as George W. Bush's administration pushed elections on Palestine in 2006 and, when the results -- an unanticipated <u>Hamas</u> victory over Fatah -- weren't to the U.S.'s liking, set about trying to bring democracy to the area in a more underhanded way.

Magazine Stand

Plus: In an excerpt from her new book, Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon -- And The Journey of a Generation, Sheila Weller writes of the friends and lovers who inspired these three musicians, and provides where-are-they-now updates.

Graphic

Photo: Vanity Fair;

Photo: The Walrus;

Load-Date: April 13, 2008



Readers Write

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

April 27, 2008 Sunday

Metro Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4OP; Opinion Exchange

Length: 1015 words

Body

MORE ECONOMIC UNKNOWNS

Jobs going to green

Just what is a "green collar job"?

I hear the term being thrown around a lot lately by DFL (and squishy Republican) policy- and lawmakers. The Minnesota House last week passed a preliminary cap-and-trade system bill. Freshman Rep. Kate Knuth, DFL-New Brighton, who never met a tree she didn't hug, said she wants to change current Minnesota jobs into "green jobs." Gov. Tim Pawlenty is working on a cap-and-trade regional system.

So I ask, what is a green job, and how do I tell if I have one?

I think all Minnesotans have the right to know if new legislation will target our jobs for elimination. Or are we not ready to talk about the dirty dark side of the "green movement" at a time of such economic uncertainty?

ANDY APLIKOWSKI, Blaine

CRASH IN WRIGHT COUNTY

Call them irresponsible

I guess it's front-page news when greed drives homeowners, realtors and mortgage companies not living within their means ("From boom to bust," April 20).

Dreams, dream homes in dream developments and dreams of a quick buck on the part of building speculators have all led to this disaster in Wright County. Have so many people forgotten the difference between dreams and reality?

My "dream" is that people who do live within their means won't have to bear the financial burden of those who don't.

KIRKE C. NORTHCUTT, MINNEAPOLIS

Valuation is suspect

Readers Write

It could be the homes mentioned in "From boom to bust" never really had the value the borrowers believed was there. Loan officers routinely put pressure on appraisers to meet whatever "value" they determine for a property or they will fail to send them more business.

In large developments, such as those described, it only takes one or two properties to sell to establish value by providing comparable properties for future sales. At the height of the "boom," some borrowers were encouraged to borrow up to 100 percent or more of their home's value and appraisers were told to do whatever they needed to do to make the loan work.

Until the appraisal function becomes completely separated from the loan function for mortgage brokers as well as federally regulated banks, it can be argued any valuation of a property is open to suspicion.

SUE ZUMBERGE, EDINA

So help the homeless

Regarding the April 24 story about suburban communities not knowing what to do with all of the vacant houses: We also have a problem of too many people without a place to sleep.

Can't something be done to match responsible people who happen to be down on their luck with the houses that are sitting vacant and not maintained? Perhaps in exchange for keeping a home clean, lawn mowed, neat in appearance, a family could have a roof over their heads.

DIANE SISKO, WOODBURY

IMPROVE AIDS PROGRAMMING

And save Africans

The new statistics on AIDS in Minnesota from the Centers for Disease Control underscore one crucial fact: AIDS is not over here. Nearly every day of the year -- there were 325 new cases last year -- someone discovered they were infected with HIV, and a life is drastically changed. Thanks to new drugs, they can survive, although they may face a host of potential health problems.

But in Nigeria, where I come from, only a small percentage of people who need treatment are receiving it. Children are still born every day with HIV, because only 11 percent of mothers in need have access to drugs that would prevent them from transmitting the virus to their babies.

With PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) reauthorization looming in the Senate, lawmakers have an opportunity to not only increase funding for lifesaving care, but also ensure that PEPFAR programming links HIV services to maternal health care, catching <u>women</u> early and preventing HIV in both mother and baby. For those already HIV positive, we will have more resources to provide powerful AIDS drugs to keep them alive. In the face of a catastrophic health worker shortage, Physicians for Human Rights is calling for the United States to train and retain 140,000 new health professionals under the new legislation -- as well as additional community health workers. If PEPFAR 2 achieves even these two goals, it can improve access to medical care and thereby save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Africans.

OMOBOSOLA AKINSETE, M.D., ROBBINSDALE; ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CLEVELAND'S MASCOT

It should stay home

Readers Write

Could we politely ask the Cleveland Indians not to wear uniforms featuring Chief Wahoo when they visit our new publicly financed stadium? In a state with a rich Native American tradition and population, I find the Wahoo imagery terribly disrespectful to my neighbors and ballpark co-owners.

MATTHEW ROBINSON, KASOTA, MINN.

LETTER OF THE DAY

Jimmy Carter: peacemaker or troublemaker?

With all due respect to former President Jimmy Carter, I believe he should return to Plains, Ga., reopen his deceased brother Billy's gas station and crank up the stills at the Billy beer brewery. His recent trip to meet with the terrorist group, *Hamas*, says it all.

RUSS PAUMEN, MAPLE LAKE

I fail to understand the criticism of Jimmy Carter's efforts to bring peace in the Middle East. Jimmy Carter is the only president we've had whose peace efforts in this troubled region have had lasting effect: peace between Egypt and Israel. Now in his 80s, our most-useful ex-president, instead of giving speeches for personal profit, is taking his time and energy to meet with the key obstacles to moving beyond violence in the region, <u>Hamas</u> and Syria. Carter comes away with promising hints of compromise on their part, and receives criticism for even seeking to find a peaceful solution to the region's generations-long conflicts?

In this "eye for an eye" region of the world, where historical grievances are avenged centuries later, it is time to recognize that there are despicable acts attributable to all parties. The failed Bush policy of talking only to whom you wish while vilifying others is a recipe for continued conflict and risk to our world. We cannot afford to criticize those bold enough to "take a risk for peace." Carter `08!

DON ARNOSTI, ST. PAUL

Graphic

PHOTO

Load-Date: May 4, 2008



'Ask Zawahri' web forum draws al-Qaeda-curious

Ottawa Citizen

January 26, 2008 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 444 words

Byline: Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

WASHINGTON - A woman frustrated by the lack of opportunities in al-Qaeda and a supporter wondering if Muslims should deal in gold instead of dollars are among hundreds who have submitted Internet questions to al-Qaeda deputy Ayman al-Zawahri.

"My question: What is the role of <u>women</u> in al-Qaeda? ... We are the ones who sit with broken hearts and we sit here with nothing to do," one woman asked, according to the U.S.-based terrorism monitoring service SITE Intelligence Group.

The questions were drawn by an offer last month by al-Qaeda-linked websites that carried an interview with Mr. Zawahri, Osama bin Laden's second-in-command.

The deadline was Jan. 16, and Mr. Zawahri's answers to selected questions are expected within the next several weeks, SITE said. It sampled about 500 questions of the more than 2,000 submitted. Most were in Arabic.

Although Mr. Zawahri and other top al-Qaeda leaders are believed to be holed up in remote Pakistan, analysts credit the group with being highly web-savvy. The semi-interactive forum with Mr. Zawahri lets him appear accessible, SITE senior analyst Adam Raisman said.

"It allows for a greater feeling of community on these al-Qaeda affiliated forums when members can voice their concerns to the leadership where there may be a possibility he can respond to them," he said.

Among the hot topics, questioners wanted to know whether al-Qaeda has a presence in Palestinian areas or plans one. It is believed the network wants to establish a foothold, but faces competition for turf from the well-established *Hamas*.

Many asked about ties between al- Qaeda and regional groups, how a local group can sign up with al-Qaeda, and the proper role for aspiring militants in their home countries.

"Is the British Muslim allowed to kill British civilians whether they are nonbelievers or Muslims who support the war against Afghanistan, Iraq and others?" asked one questioner.

'Ask Zawahri' web forum draws al-Qaeda-curious

U.S. intelligence agencies say al- Qaeda rebounded after being routed in Afghanistan in part by adopting a highly decentralized structure.

The role of <u>women</u> came up often. "Is the woman in the Maghreb obligated to do jihad, and if so, is it permitted to leave her sons with someone else and go to do jihad?" Mr. Zawahri was asked.

The web forums of Islamist groups often debate whether <u>women</u> should confine their roles to helping men, or carry out operations themselves, Mr. Raisman said. "It's a longstanding question that hasn't been addressed specifically."

Another popular question was about the duties of western Muslims."What should be the extent of strikes against western infidels in their countries and what result would be satisfying?" asked one person.

Load-Date: January 26, 2008



The Jerusalem Post July 29, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 13

Length: 2250 words

Byline: JOSH SCHEINERT

Highlight: Ten years after its founding statute was ratified, does the International Criminal Court have anything to

offer Israel?

Body

It is an image many Israelis would relish: Ismail Haniyeh, Gaza's <u>Hamas</u> prime minister, standing in the dock of an international court, charged with war crimes and possibly incitement to commit genocide. Whether it will happen is another matter altogether. To bring these charges against Haniyeh, he would have to stand trial in The Hague, and Israel would have to join the International Criminal Court. But neither appears to be on the horizon.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) came into being on July 1, 2002, after its July 1998 Rome Statute had been ratified by 60 nations. Today the treaty has been signed by 139 nations and 107 of them have ratified it and officially joined the ICC.

The ICC is the latest attempt by the international community to obtain justice for victims of horrific crimes. The statute's preamble notes the ICC is "mindful that during [the 20th] century millions of children, <u>women</u> and men have been victims of unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity." It adds that the ICC is "determined to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of these crimes and thus to contribute to the prevention of such crimes."

On July 14, 2008, ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo submitted a report requesting Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir be charged with genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. This, along with the ICC's other cases, would serve as an indicator of its attempts to achieve justice for voiceless victims - something that should resonate strongly with a Jewish state whose revival sprang partially from the Holocaust.

However, Israel voted against the Rome Statute and is therefore not a party to these attempts to punish today's perpetrators of genocide. Judge Eli Nathan, the head of Israel's delegation to the Rome Conference, said at its conclusion that the decision caused him "considerable pain, both personally as a victim of the Nazi persecution of the Jewish people and on behalf of the Israeli delegation."

At the time, the Israeli delegation expressed a number of concerns. The primary one was that the ability of the prosecutor to launch independent investigations into the possible commission of crimes meant the ICC could be used for political purposes - and specifically a witch-hunt against Israeli political and military leaders. Another objection was the last-minute inclusion, at the behest of Egypt, of a war crime of transfer of population from an occupying power into occupied territory, a direct attempt to criminalize Israeli settlement activity.

Furthermore, the fact that judges are elected based on UN regional groups, and Israel does not have appropriate membership of any such group, means that no Israeli is eligible to serve as a judge. Finally, terrorism was not included on the ICC's list of crimes - which include genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the yet undefined crime of aggression, which the ICC cannot prosecute until it is defined.

Israel did promise to continuously monitor the ICC's progress and reassess its decision. Ten years have elapsed since that statement and the ICC has been operating for six, giving Israel ample opportunity to make such an assessment. So how should Israel judge the ICC?

TODAY, THERE are more than 800 individuals working in The Hague at the ICC in an attempt to bring justice to parts of the world where there is none. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, more than 4.5 million people have died since 1998 in conflicts between rebel warlords and the government. The prosecution's charges, on crimes committed since the formation of the ICC in July 2002, have largely been about the use of child soldiers. When militia leader Thomas Lubanga was transferred to the ICC in March 2006, prosecutor Ocampo warned that "forcing children to be killers jeopardizes the future of mankind."

The other crimes the prosecution is looking into are equally horrific and their condemnation is near universal. In northern Uganda, the ICC's attempts to bring Joseph Kony and other leaders of the rebel group Lord's Resistance Army before the court would end the impunity of individuals who for 20 years have been at the forefront of a campaign that has killed 200,000, displaced 1.5 million and abducted tens of thousands of children to serve as soldiers or sex slaves.

The ICC's newest "situation" is in the Central African Republic. Already one suspect, rebel leader Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, is in detention. In announcing his decision to open an investigation, the prosecutor stated that information led him to believe that "rape of civilians was committed in numbers that cannot be ignored by international law."

The ICC is also looking into the situation in Darfur, regarded by many as the first genocide of the 21st century. Here, two arrest warrants have been issued. Ahmed Harun, who headed Sudan's Darfur Security Desk, and Ali Kushayb, a leader of the Janjaweed militia, have been charged with 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for their part in a campaign that has killed more than 300,000 and displaced 3 million. If an arrest warrant is issued against Bashir, it will be the first time the ICC has charged a head of state and the first time it has issued the charge of genocide.

ISRAEL'S TRIAL of Adolf Eichmann in 1961 highlighted its determination that, as the Rome Statute proclaims, accountability must trump impunity, and played a major role in the evolution of international criminal law. Yet the ICC presents Israel with a dilemma: How to approach a court that after six years has not directly addressed its initial concerns, yet also has not given any indication that an investigation into Israeli military conduct - which is possible under the Rome Statute even though Israel is not a party to the court - is on the horizon?

The biggest fear has always been that of an Israeli defendant. But according to Prof. William A. Schabas, director of the Irish Center for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland and an expert on the ICC, "Judging by the way the court has operated in the last five or six years, I think Israel should be reassured that its fears are not really well-founded." Schabas is referring to the fact that the prosecutor's attention has focused on non-state actors responsible for egregious human rights violations even in instances where government action is also guestionable.

For Yoram Shachar, a law professor at Herzliya's Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), this is proof that Israel should be placing more faith in the ICC to be a non-politicized institution focused on clear instances of violations of international law. "Has the prosecutor gone completely off or behaved irresponsibly in the way some have predicted? The answer is absolutely not," Shachar said.

Shachar believes Israel's reluctance to join the ICC places it at a disadvantage when combating terrorism. "We can behave strategically and wisely and use international law to our own advantage. <u>Hamas</u> is, by its own literature, committing international crimes," he said, referring to the crime of incitement to commit genocide, which the ICC recognizes.

There is also an argument that though the Rome Statute does not include the crime of terrorism, its provisions for war crimes can be made to apply. There are provisions for war crimes committed in the course of international and non-international armed conflict. Specific charges include willful killing, intentionally targeting civilian populations or individual civilians taking no active part in hostilities, and "murder of all kinds."

"Hamas has been committing classic war crimes, not terror, but war crimes. If Hamas carries out war crimes within the Green Line, then they come under jurisdiction of the court if Israel joins the treaty," Shachar said.

The fact that Israel refuses to employ the resources of the ICC to combat terror is, to Shachar, "a sign of weakness rather than a sign of wisdom."

Schabas notes that every country that joins the ICC accepts some risk, but for him the real question is what will be the effect on that country's enemies. In the case of Israel, he believes the answer is clear. "Will it do more for its enemies in terms of harm than it could do for Israel? I think the answer is yes."

However, a senior legal adviser in the Foreign Ministry indicated that the country's original concerns are still relevant and that a change of policy is not on the horizon. There is still concern over the issue of Israeli defendants. And there is dismay that terrorism, even large- scale terrorism, is still not recognized by the ICC as a crime. "Israelis can be arrested for defending themselves against acts of terror, but the terrorist cannot be charged," he said.

He also pointed to attempts to use international law against Israel as proof that the international legal arena is slanted against its interests. For instance, he cited the 2004 ruling against the security barrier by the International Court of Justice and repeated attempts to bring Israelis to trial in foreign countries under the auspices of universal jurisdiction for international crimes.

"This is not the environment where Israel's concerns about politicization have been assuaged," he said.

YET ADVOCATES for the ICC like Schabas and Shachar note that even if an environment is politically charged, and beside looking at the prosecutor's track record, the structure of the ICC is such that Israel's fears are unfounded.

First, a situation can only come to the attention of the ICC in one of three ways. The first is for a member state to refer a situation. Since Israel is highly unlikely, especially given the robust nature of its judiciary, to self-refer a situation, this is not a concern.

The second is for the prosecutor to initiate an investigation on his own. Again, as supporters of the ICC point out, the ICC's track record indicates this is not likely. (In another sign that Ocampo does not bow to political pressure, in February 2006 he released a statement to the effect that, contrary to the wishes of "numerous citizens and organizations," he would not be launching an investigation into potential abuses committed in Irag.)

The final way for a case to come before the ICC is for the UN Security Council to refer the matter - as was the case with Darfur. However, according to Shachar, "Israel faces no risk of referral" as long as the US maintains veto power over any such referral as a member of the Security Council.

Schabas and Shachar also point to the fact that the ICC is not a retroactive institution. This means that it has no jurisdiction to look into alleged crimes committed before July 1, 2002. Therefore, since events human rights advocates often cite as instances of war crimes, like Operation Defensive Shield or the IDF operation in Jenin, took place before that date, they could not be investigated by the ICC.

They also note that this effectively terminates any chance that an Israeli can be charged with the war crime of transfer of a population of an occupying power into occupied territory since the crime requires the act of "transferring" and the vast majority of settlement activity took place before the ICC came into effect.

However, the Foreign Ministry adviser pointed to continued construction in east Jerusalem, and the ability of Arab states to enact a "plain reading" of the clause outlawing "transfer of population," as potential "grounds for prosecution." Furthermore, the adviser said, the government's position is that Israel already has in place domestic

legal provisions to deal with the commission of war crimes by its nationals. The adviser asserted that this satisfies a core feature of the ICC, called "complementarity," which refers to the notion that the ICC is meant to be complementary to domestic judicial systems and only intervenes when a state is either unable or unwilling to bring a matter before its courts. (Supporters of the ICC, however, counter that the existence of Israel's own legal frameworks do not obviate the need for the international court, which would step in only when domestic legal avenues are unwilling or unable to provide adequate resort.)

The adviser reiterated the government's position that "the test is not whether Israel ratifies the statute [of the ICC]. The test, rather, is whether the crimes [covered] under the statute of the court are prosecuted [by Israel's domestic legal hierarchy] or not."

EVEN IF Israel's fears about joining the ICC are well- ground, and sufficient domestic judicial safeguards exist, some experts say there is a moral reason why the Jewish nation must join the ICC. Prof. Natan Lerner, also of IDC, for one, calls Israel's unwillingness to join "a moral lapse on our part."

"States cannot only take into account political expediency; they must take into account higher principles," said Lerner. "We might be taking a risk in joining, but it's a worthy risk. We want an international community that fights genocide and similar crimes. If we want it, we have to be a part of it," he added.

In 2005, Harvard professor and Darfur advocate Samantha Power visited Darfur. She asked many people she met if there was one place in the world they would go to if they could choose. Many answered The Hague.

Power explained, "I wouldn't say they knew about the ICC. What they knew was that there was this thing called 'The Hague,' a place where bad people were sent, and where over the course of recent years people [who had suffered like them] had had the ability to go and testify."

Graphic

2 photos: SEAT OF JUSTICE. ICC headquarters in The Hague. PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS in an ICC courtroom. (Credit: ICC-CPI/Max Koot. ICC-CPI/Marco Okhuizen)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



News Summary

The New York Times

January 20, 2008 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 436 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL 3-12

Jpn's Txt Best Sellers

Five of Japan's 10 best-selling novels last year were originally cellphone novels, mostly love stories written in the terse abbreviations characteristic of text messaging. 1

Iran's Radical Left

Political protest has been harshly suppressed under the current Iranian government, especially dissent linked to the West. But the radical left until now has been permitted relative freedom because, analysts say, it rejects the liberal reform movement and also attacks the West. 3

An Elephantine Problem

Elephants are not supposed to saunter down the streets of Bangkok. But each night, the giant gray beasts are driven into red-light districts and tourist areas by handlers who peddle novelty items, causing traffic jams and property damage. 4

15 Killed in Northern Iraq

A rocket attack and several bombings killed at least 15 people in central and northern Iraq and sporadic violence continued in the southern cities of Basra and Nasiriya, Iraqi officials said.9

Gaza Strikes Kill Two

An Israeli airstrike killed two members of <u>Hamas</u> in the northern Gaza Strip, and two Qassam rockets fired by militants from Gaza landed in an Israeli border town and a village, causing no casualties. 14

Hezbollah Leader Speaks

Hezbollah's leader made his first public appearance in Beirut since the end of the 2006 war with Israel . 14

Suharto Avoids an Accounting

News Summary

As former President Suharto of Indonesia ails in a Jakarta hospital, it seems that he will die without having to answer for crimes on a monumental scale that include severe human rights abuses and corruption. 10

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Wins for McCain and Clinton

Senator John McCain staved off a challenge by Mike Huckabee to win the South Carolina primary, exorcising the ghosts of the primary that derailed his presidential hopes eight years ago.1

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton won the vote in the Nevada caucuses, capturing strong support from <u>women</u> and injecting fresh momentum into her candidacy.1

Money Is Tight for Hopefuls

Just as the most expensive phase of the 2008 presidential race is about to begin, the three remaining Democrats and the five most viable Republicans all find their bank accounts depleted. 16

Insurer's Government Niche

When officers of the Central Intelligence Agency get in legal trouble, they often turn to a small Virginia insurance company to cover legal costs. 29

NEW YORK/REGION32-33

Flexibility on Tolls

Gov. Jon S. Corzine has signaled a willingness to negotiate with the Legislature over details of his plan to drastically raise New Jersey highway tolls. 33

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: January 20, 2008



Bush takes anti-Iran push to Saudis; Today's visit follows key speech in Abu Dhabi

USA TODAY

January 14, 2008 Monday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

Length: 432 words **Byline:** Richard Wolf

Body

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates -- President Bush is set to arrive in Saudi Arabia today to continue his push for Arab countries to confront Iran, which he described as "the world's leading state sponsor of terror."

Like many of the region's Sunni regimes, Saudi Arabia has expressed concerns over Iran's growing influence and its support for militant Shiite groups amid a growing rift between the two Islamic sects. During the signature speech of his eight-day trip to the Middle East, Bush declared Sunday that "Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere."

The Bush administration has announced plans to sell \$20 billion in weapons to Saudi Arabia and its other Arab allies amid a growing arms race in the region.

However, Saudi King Abdullah also has made diplomatic overtures to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, inviting him to the hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, and walking with him arm in arm at a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Saudis' pragmatic approach may reflect a broader reluctance in the region to confront Iran directly, despite Bush's pleas. Iran's neighbors realize "they have to live there in the long run," says Trita Parsi, author of a soon-to-be-released book on relations among Iran, Israel and the United States.

Along with efforts to broker a peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians, Iran has been a major focus of Bush's trip. He accuses the Islamic regime of seeking to build nuclear arms, a charge Iran denies.

In his speech Sunday, Bush said Iran's government was sending hundreds of millions of dollars to extremists -- including Hezbollah in Lebanon, <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Taliban in Afghanistan and Shiite militants in Iraq.

White House spokeswoman Dana Perino stood by the Pentagon's contention that Iranian boats threatened three U.S. Navy ships in the Strait of Hormuz a week ago, nearly prompting a battle. Iran has questioned the U.S. description of the incident.

Bush also is using the trip to re-energize his long-stated goal of promoting democracy in a part of the world run largely by authoritarian regimes.

Bush takes anti- Iran push to Saudis Today's visit follows key speech in Abu Dhabi

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

Bush's speech met with a polite but cool reception. The audience in Abu Dhabi -- a mix of Muslims in robes and headdresses and business-attired leaders of academia and the media -- applauded only twice, upon his introduction and conclusion.

Graphic

PHOTO, Color, Mandel Ngan, AFP/Getty Images

Load-Date: February 13, 2008



I'm an Iron Lady, Livni tells Israelis

The Sunday Telegraph (London)

August 3, 2008

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The Sunday Telegraph

Section: NEWS; International; Pg. 32

Length: 442 words

Byline: Carolynne Wheeler in Jerusalem

Body

THE WOMAN vying to become Israel's first <u>female</u> leader in nearly 40 years is going after the job by imitating the style of one of the country's most formidable men.

Tzipi Livni, the serving Israeli foreign minister, is the front-runner to replace Ehud Olmert, following his announcement last week that he is to step down as leader of the ruling Kadima party over corruption allegations. But in a macho political culture that has not anointed a *female* head of state since the 1969 election of Golda Meir the original "Iron Lady" long before Margaret Thatcher - Miss Livni is under pressure to prove that she can be as tough as, if not tougher than, any of her male rivals.

To that end, her campaign team has hired the aides of the man who more than anyone personified the image of the Israeli warrior-politician - Mr Olmert's predecessor, Ariel Sharon.

Mr Sharon, who fell into a coma in January 2006, was nicknamed "the Bulldozer" for his military record during the Six Day War in 1967, when he pushed Israeli forces all the way to the Suez Canal. He later softened his stance by leaving the right-wing Likud party to set up Kadima in 2005, extending an olive branch to the Palestinians.

Miss Livni's team is trying to portray her as Mr Sharon's natural heir, hoping to fend off the strong challenge for the leadership from the hardline former defence minister Shaul Mofaz, currently only a few points behind in opinion polls. "In terms of the vision and legacy of Sharon, she is his natural successor," said Eyal Arad, Miss Livni's campaign manager and a former senior adviser to Mr Sharon. "She was one of the first to join Ariel Sharon's new platform for peace, and one of the first to join Kadima."

Miss Livni has a squeaky clean image, a huge bonus with Israelis, who are disillusioned with leaders plagued by allegations of fraud, corruption and sexual misdeeds. But she also worked for four years as a spy for Mossad, lending her an air of mystery which helps reassure voters she has the stomach for a fight. Running her close is Mr Mofaz, whose uncompromising reputation has strengthened his support after fears that <u>Hamas</u>, Hizbollah and Iran are more powerful and hostile.

I'm an Iron Lady, Livni tells Israelis

Mr Mofaz, born in Iran as a member of the Persian Jewish minority, has been criticised for crushing the 2000 Palestinian uprising, but he has won strong support for pushing for military strikes on Iran to prevent it developing a nuclear bomb, following Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threat to "wipe Israel off the map".

But Zalman Shoval, a former adviser to Mr Sharon and once an ambassador to Washington, warned voters: "Neither of them is Ariel Sharon."

Load-Date: August 3, 2008



MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED Tour did little for Middle East peace or the isolation of Iran Bush leaves empty-handed

The Advertiser (Australia)

January 19, 2008 Saturday

2 - Metro Edition

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 60

Length: 1029 words

Byline: HANNAH ALAM, DUBAI

Body

UNITED STATES President George W. Bush has wrapped up his Middle East tour, leaving many political observers mystified about the purpose of the visit and doubtful he made inroads in his campaigns for Arab-Israeli peace and isolation for Iran.

Mr Bush has headed back to Washington mostly empty-handed, several analysts and politicians throughout the region said.

Arab critics deemed Mr Bush's peace efforts unrealistic, his anti-Iran tirades dangerous, his praise of authoritarian governments disappointing and his defence of civil liberties ironic.

"There is no credibility to his words after what the region saw during his presidency," said Mohamed Fayek, the Cairo-based director of the non-profit Arab Organisation for Human Rights. He pointed to the war in Iraq, the prison camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the Abu Ghraib detainee abuse scandal.

``American policy threw the region off-balance and destabilised it," he said. ``The visit caused deep disappointment. I don't see any results."

The challenges were evident. During the visit the Israeli military carried out an operation in Gaza that killed at least 18 Palestinians, including the 24-year-old son of <u>Hamas</u> leader Mahmoud Zahar, in the most violent day since the militant group seized control last year.

Nicholas Pelham, a Jerusalem-based senior analyst with the International Crisis Group, said: ``Scepticism on all sides is enormous."

In Lebanon, an explosion targeting an armoured U.S. Embassy vehicle in Beirut killed four Lebanese and injured others in the first assault on the U.S. diplomatic mission there since the 1980s. An American bystander was among the wounded. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called the incident ``a terrorist attack''.

In another potential setback, Mr Bush received a non-committal response from the Saudi Arabian government to his request for increased oil production to reduce prices. Saudi Arabia, where Mr Bush visited his close ally King Abdullah, boasts the world's largest oil supply.

MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED Tour did little for Middle East peace or the isolation of Iran Bush leaves empty-

Other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries typically fall in line with the kingdom in setting prices, which this month climbed past \$US100 a barrel.

"I would like them to realise that high energy prices affect the economies of consuming nations," Mr Bush said before meeting the king.

"My point to His Majesty is going to be, when consumers have less purchasing power because of high prices of gasoline - in other words, when it affects their families - it could cause this economy to slow down."

Mr Bush, meanwhile, did not back down on his warnings to Iran, which he had lambasted at nearly every stop on his eight-day journey.

He reiterated in Saudi Arabia a military option was not out of the question, though he emphasised he would like to find a diplomatic solution to Iran's defiant pursuit of a nuclear program and alleged funding of militants in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Palestinian territories. Many Gulf countries, however, appear to be moving closer to Iran over Washington's objections.

"I guess the visit was just about making sure the Gulf doesn't slip away toward Iran," said Ghanim al-Najjar, from the Centre for Strategic and Future Studies at Kuwait University.

The only time Mr Bush won kudos in the Arab press was with his call for Israel to end ``the occupation that began in 1967". He quickly lost favour by holding up Israel as a regional example and defending its embattled Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert.

The rest of the President's trip was tightly controlled and swathed in the opulence that is a hallmark of the oil-rich Arabian Peninsula.

He held a falcon during a night-time desert picnic in the United Arab Emirates. He chatted about democracy with a group of Kuwaiti <u>women</u> and smiled as a stream of Saudi military officers saluted him at a red-carpet welcome in Riyadh.

While Arab anger over the visit largely was confined to the pages of newspapers and on internet sites, modest demonstrations erupted in Bahrain, Egypt and the Palestinian territories.

"We reject his visit. His hands are tainted with the blood," said Fatima al-Wakeel, a recent university graduate who joined a protest in Cairo.

MIDDLE EAST TOUR

JANUARY 9: Mr Bush arrives in Israel amid heavy security to meet Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. He says he hopes for a peace deal to be reached before the end of the year.

JANUARY 11: Mr Bush meets <u>Hamas</u> President Mahmoud Abbas. At a press conference he again reiterates his belief that a peace "In order for there to be lasting peace . . . Abbas and Prime Minister together and make tough choices there's going to be a signed peace deal will be brokered soon saying: (Ehud) Olmert have to come and I'm convinced they will. I believe it's going to happen, that treaty by the time I leave office."

JANUARY 12: The second leg Of Mr Bush's tour begins in Kuwait. He attempts to rally U.S.-aligned Arab leaders against Iran at a time of mounting anxieties about rising U.S.-Iranian tensions and deep uncertainties about the direction of American policy in the region.

JANUARY 13: Mr Bush visits troops and again spreads the word on the danger of Iran. "Iranian agents are in our custody and we are learning more about how Iran has supported extremist groups with training and lethal aid," Mr Bush said at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait's biggest U.S. troop base.

MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED Tour did little for Middle East peace or the isolation of Iran Bush leaves empty-

JANUARY 14: The United Arab Emirates is the next stop and Mr Bush again pushes the Iran message describing the nation's actions as threatening world security. He said advancing democracy and freedom was the core of his Administration's foreign policy. "Democracy is the only system of government that yields lasting peace and stability," he declared.

JANUARY 15: In Saudi Arabia, Bush delivers a sophisticated weapons sale for Saudi Arabia and tries to muster support in King Abdullah's oil-rich kingdom for a long-stalled Middle East peace agreement.

JANUARY 16: Saudi Arabia says no to Mr Bush's plea for increased oil production despite him saying an oil shortage endangers the global economy. Mr Bush ends his trip in Egypt, a key U.S. ally. He says he will return to the region in May. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak pledges to work "hand-in-hand" with the U.S.

Load-Date: January 20, 2008



<u>Feature - Children of Gaza; As Israel threatens holocaust in Gaza, Felicity</u> Arbuthnot is left haunted by the brutal onslaught that has alreadytaken place

Morning Star March 6, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 1128 words

Byline: Felicity Arbuthnot

Body

The international community is being encouraged to celebrate and commemorate two occasions this year - Israel's theft of Palestine and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights.

As the government announced that the educational curriculum is now to include school visits to Auschwitz, lest we forget the horrors of the Holocaust and to learn that such inhumanity must never be repeated, Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Matan Vilnai was threatening a new "holocaust" in the Gaza Strip.

Surely, a far better education for the young would be to stay with their counterparts in Gaza and experience the real thing.

Rows of children's shoes and silent gas chambers are terrifyingly thought-provoking, but it can actually be lived - real human remains, real blood and even those reduced to real ashes. The real thing, in real time, at a Mediterranean venue near you. A learning experience never to be forgotten.

The 1.5 million souls to whom Gaza is home are imprisoned, with no place to hide, pounded from ground and air by tanks, F-16s and Apache attack helicopters, courtesy of the "land of the free," in a reign of terror unleashed by "the only democracy in the Middle East."

As little Gaza is set to become the next Sabra and Shatila massacre, with advance warning ringing round the globe, the world's governments deafen us with their shameful, craven silence.

Anthony Charles Lynton Blair QC, war criminal-turned-Middle East "peace envoy" in our Kafkaesque world, was apparently unconcerned, taking a break from his stressful life counting piles of ill-gotten gains to holiday at an African game park owned by Virgin Airways founder Richard Branson.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has seemingly borrowed his predecessor Kofi Annan's two-word lexicon - "concern" and "regret" - and announced his "concern" at the situation. And that was only after he had spoken of the threat to Israel from crude home-made rockets fired from Gaza, before verbally tiptoeing round the threat to Gaza from weapons of mass destruction fired by the land-baggers.

Jordan's King Addullah did better, citing Israel's "state terrorism, in violation of all international covenants," with his acting Foreign Minister Nasser Judah demanding a halt to the carnage and slamming Israel's violation of "international law."

Feature - Children of Gaza As Israel threatens holocaust in Gaza, Felicity Arbuthnot is left haunted by the brutal onslaught that has alreadytaken place

Rogue states such as Israel, the US and Britain, however, care nought for international law, the former two being countries that were stolen and settled on the blood and beloved land of others, while Britain, for centuries, plundered and culled with impunity across the globe.

As the bodies and the pathetic remains of humanity - a foot, a leg, a head, a hand, a torso - and the toll of the injured mount, Israel's Prime Minister Olmert stated that Israel was "taking an elementary step in self-defence."

One of his ministers told the BBC that the killing and the destruction of infrastructure would continue. While citizens find themselves in a court of law for running a red light, leaders - even in a country which has announced an intended holocaust - ignore international laws enshrined in the Geneva, Hague and Nuremberg rulings without a thought.

Of course, Olmert and his shameful excuse for governmental lawmakers are not ending the fragile lives of human beings. They are targeting "terrorists" and "*Hamas*."

Should not those suspected of crime be brought before the law rather than summarily executed? Israel's actions in Gaza are indeed "state terrorism," while <u>Hamas</u> is a democratically elected government, fully entitled to its followers.

Under the new world disorder, sovereignty of elected government also means nothing. Not for nothing did Neil Mackay call his towering book embracing the pack of lies fed the populace on the Middle East in recent history A War on Truth.

And, in the new world language, the untried executed are declared "insurgents," "Taliban" or "terrorists," statements that are almost never questioned.

There are no mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, no toddlers, teenagers, children or infants. The names and ages of countless dead are the silent scream which addresses this monumental, murderous lie.

A family breakfast as the sun's rays spread, dispersing the night's cool, turns to carnage. Kids playing football become seared flesh against the dusty pitch, shouts and laughter forever silenced, in an instant.

A source with considerable expertise also believes that "the devilish weapons (in Israel's) most extensive armoury (include those) I think designed to disfigure and amputate, so that the loved ones are terrorised."

A third of the victims of this declared holocaust are children. There is no kindertransport, no child evacuees sent to safety for the duration. Babies are being buried.

Normal people nurture the young. They wake numerous times in the night, for years, to creep and check that the sleeping miracle that they have created is still safe and warm. Their heart swells at the waking smile. They wash, cream, dress this new being in special clothes, dream up treats, carry him or her, hugged close, breathing in the special scent of hair and skin. They clutch a small hand in a fledgling walk and speed up to catch them when they run, should they be in danger of tripping, falling. Normal people do not kill kids.

"Uncle, I do not want to die, I want my dad," a toddler screamed as doctors tried to treat burn wounds across her body in Gaza's main Shifa Hospital. The girl was injured in a house which the Israeli army said was used to store and make weapons.

One image speaks for all the child victims and those left behind as a result of Israel's criminal actions. It is a father, bent low, laying a small, wrapped child in a grave hewn in hardened earth of burned ochre, the sides tooled with care.

The little figure looks utterly lost, unbearably vulnerable, searingly alone, the grave seemingly so large. The father, the family, will have watched as it was covered and filled in, leaving that mite for ever alone, in rain, shine, cold,

Feature - Children of Gaza As Israel threatens holocaust in Gaza, Felicity Arbuthnot is left haunted by the brutal onslaught that has alreadytaken place

heat, unable to ever again wake in the night to stroke the hair, comfort a fear. No faith could ever ease such pain, replicated again and again by Washington's client state.

"Shame on the Arabs, shame on the Muslims, shame on humanity," cried Tawfek Shaban, a 44-year-old schoolteacher, of Israel's actions. Shame on humanity indeed.

A friend currently in Palestine compares the world's shocking indifference to the remarkable Amira Hass's allusion "to what her mother Hanna saw when <u>women</u> were being taken to the death camps as German <u>women</u> looked on in silence." Hass wrote: "The vortex is sucking louder and the world looks on from the side."

My friend concluded: "Palestine is the hinge of humanity. If the world's people turn away, look from the side, the vortex will become a typhoon."

Load-Date: March 6, 2008



The first thing leaders need to do

The Jerusalem Post January 22, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 15

Length: 1137 words **Byline:** ISI LEIBLER

Highlight: The inclination to avoid IDF casualties and resist preemptive military action has become institutionalized.

This needs to change

Body

The preliminary Winograd Report failed to review the increasing reluctance of IDF commanders and political leaders to embark on military initiatives out of fear of incurring casualties. It is, of course, mandatory for military leaders to take all possible measures to minimize losses, especially today, when the potential for this is much greater than it was 20 years ago. However, taking this to an extreme could become the IDF's Achilles heel.

It's a heart-breaking issue. All the more so because, aside from haredim, the IDF is truly a people's army, with hardly a family in Israel remaining untouched by casualties of war. Each loss impacts not only on the immediate family but on the entire nation. The pain and fatigue is augmented by the media, which displays no restraint and zooms in, brutally exposing the bitter agony of bereaved families in a manner inconceivable elsewhere.

The subject is insightfully analyzed in an essay by Assaf Sagiv, in the current (Winter 2008) issue of Azure. Sagiv concludes that despite the principal obligation of the IDF to defend civilians, Israeli leaders today appear to be more concerned about the public fallout from IDF casualties than about civilian losses. He attributes this largely to a natural inclination to idolize youngsters serving in the IDF as the cream of our society. Yet he warns that if such a trend becomes ingrained, it could have devastating repercussions on the security of the state and society as a whole.

A BY-PRODUCT of this has been a less than robust response to terrorist incursions from our neighbors, severely eroding our deterrent ability. Until recently, Israel was renowned for responding vigorously to all acts of aggression. Interpreting our apparent overriding concern with avoiding casualties as a weakening of resolve, our enemies have become emboldened.

Today, despite possessing the most powerful military force in the region, Israel has increasingly developed a reputation as a nation that repeatedly responds to aggression with empty threats. In fact, over the past decade, with the exception of the disastrous Second Lebanon War, terrorists have become reassured that beyond limited targeted assassinations, subject to review by the High Court, broader Israeli reprisals will no longer be implemented.

The mood has also been absorbed by the Israeli public. It was primarily the impact of agitation by the Four Mothers that led to the precipitate withdrawal from Lebanon, providing an enormous boost to Hizbullah and undermining security on our northern border. The inclination to resist preemptive actions or reprisals has become institutionalized beyond the IDF to the political leadership.

The first thing leaders need to do

It included even prime minister Ariel Sharon, who sat with folded arms as Hizbullah built up an infrastructure and missile capacity which paved the way for the debacle of the Lebanon War.

It is also clear that a principal factor inhibiting a more concerted military effort on the ground at the outset of the Second Lebanon War was fear of a public backlash in the wake of casualties.

NOR DO we seem to have learned the lesson. <u>Hamas</u> is currently constructing an offensive infrastructure in Gaza that is virtually certain to culminate in a war. The concern for casualties is apparently once again a major factor dissuading us from taking the necessary preemptive military action to stop the current build-up, despite the realization that the inevitable confrontation at a later date will, in all likelihood, exact a far greater toll in lives.

Of course, this is compounded today by the fact that our premier has become traumatized by the calamity he inflicted upon the nation when he impulsively launched the Second Lebanon War without foresight.

Israel was created as a haven for Jews in distress and as a means to overcome 2,000 years of Jewish powerlessness. Yet, paradoxically, today, despite having one of the most formidable armies in the world, the Jewish state has become transformed into one of the most dangerous locations in the world for Jews.

Israel is unique in being the only country in the world in which a neighboring entity openly launches missiles against its citizens. Our abysmal failure to defend our civilians descended to a level of madness when, immediately following a 72-hour period during which 200 missiles and mortars were launched at us, our government, on "humanitarian" grounds, resumed servicing the electricity and water requirements of Gaza's inhabitants. It is inconceivable that any other country would behave in such a manner and fail to take more drastic military action to bring an end to such outrageous attacks.

THIS PROBLEM extends to kidnapped soldiers. Our doing the utmost to rescue any Israeli in captivity is a commendable extension of a long-standing Jewish tradition. The Entebbe rescue was an uplifting example of this. But as with military casualties, there is an obligation to rationally weigh the long-term repercussions of such a policy.

No one would dispute that even one Israeli soldier is worth infinitely more than all the imprisoned terrorists combined. However, the issue to be considered is: How many Israelis are likely to die as a consequence of a prisoner exchange? Many of the terrorists released return to their vocation, emboldened in the knowledge that after killing Israeli <u>women</u> and children, even if captured, they will not be executed, but will in all likelihood be released in an exchange.

The most disconcerting aspect of mass prisoner releases is that they create enormous incentives for future kidnapping efforts.

THE BOTTOM line is that the prime responsibility of leadership is to defend the state and safeguard civilian life and limb. Our political and military leadership must avoid policies based on short-term gut reactions; they must avoid becoming unduly influenced by public opinion. Despite the agony, they must assume the obligation of determining how the long-term strategic requirements and national interest can best be served. Once such a policy has been determined, it must be explained and promoted to the public.

The adoption of such strategies will have immediate implications for Sderot, where Israelis forced to endure unbearable ongoing missile attacks have become transformed into refugees in their own land. Once the final Winograd Report is been released, we must bite the bullet. The nation cannot afford to delay until missiles penetrate deeper into Israel, ultimately even reaching Tel Aviv.

The longer we postpone confronting the issue, the more damage <u>Hamas</u> and Hizbullah, supported by the Iranians and Syrians, will be able to inflict on us when we ultimately have to take decisive action.

A nation under threat must rationally confront such challenges, or the fanatical resolve of our enemies will bring about greater disasters.

Graphic

Photo: IDF TANKS on the northern border. Does public opinion influence policymakers to make short-sighted decisions? (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait, meets leaders

The Daily Star (Lebanon)
January 12, 2008 Saturday

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Length: 1042 words **Byline:** Daily Star Staff

Body

US President George W. Bush met Kuwait's emir on Friday after arriving in the emirate to start a Gulf tour aimed at rallying the support of Arab allies against what Bush calls the Iranian "threat." Bush flew into Kuwait from Israel after his first presidential trip to the Holy Land, where he said he believed a Middle East peace.

US President George W. Bush met Kuwait's emir on Friday after arriving in the emirate to start a Gulf tour aimed at rallying the support of Arab allies against what Bush calls the Iranian "threat." Bush flew into Kuwait from Israel after his first presidential trip to the Holy Land, where he said he believed a Middle East peace treaty would be signed within a year and called on Arab nations to reach out to Israel.

His tour of Washington's closest friends in the oil-rich Gulf region comes amid escalating tensions between the United States and Iran over a naval confrontation in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said talks would now turn to "the threats that we've seen in the Gulf, the problem of extremism, whether it be extremism from Al-Qaeda, Sunni extremism, or whether it be Iran and its tentacles, like Hizbullah and the part of *Hamas* that Iran supports."

But several commentators in the region have voiced strong misgivings about his intentions, amid fears Washington could resort to military action to halt Iran's disputed nuclear drive.

Although Kuwait is welcoming Bush as a friend, officials have said the emirate will not allow the United States to use its territory as a launching pad for any strike against Iran.

"Mr. president, the region needs smart initiatives, not smart bombs," Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai said in a front-page editorial.

Kuwait was a springboard for the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq that toppled then president Saddam Hussein, whose forces had invaded his tiny neighbor in 1990 before the emirate was liberated by a US-led coalition in early 1991.

Kuwait's state KUNA news agency said Bush's talks with emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah focused on "bilateral issues and the latest political developments in the Middle East." The Kuwaiti ruler, who led a red-carpet welcome for Bush when he flew into the country, hosted a banquet for the US leader.

The Gulf monarchies all have close military ties with the United States and are major buyers of American weaponry.

About 15,000 US troops are stationed in Kuwait, which hosts one of Washington's largest military bases in the region, Camp Arifjan, and other smaller camps used as a transit point for US-led forces in Iraq.

Security was tight for the visit, which will see Bush address troops on Saturday and hold a meeting with Kuwaiti **women** activists.

Meanwhile, a group representing relatives of Kuwaiti detainees at the US military facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, called in a statement for the release of the four remaining Kuwaiti prisoners so they could be tried in the emirate.

From Kuwait, Bush will make the first visit by a sitting US president to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates before going to Saudi Arabia, the regional Sunni Arab powerhouse and world's top oil exporter.

In Israel on Wednesday, he warned that Iran posed "a threat to world peace" and should not be allowed to develop the know-how to build a nuclear weapon. Iran denies seeking nuclear arms.

A US intelligence report made public last month said Tehran halted a covert nuclear weapons program in 2003, but Bush insisted: "A country that once had a secret program can easily restart a secret program."

Bush also warned Tehran of "serious consequences" if it attacked US warships following a face-off in the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran accuses Washington of using the incident in the waterway - a vital conduit for energy supplies - as a propaganda stunt to paint Iran in a bad light during Bush's Middle East trip.

Bush's Gulf trip coincided with a rare visit to Tehran by UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei, who is seeking more answers over its atomic program.

After two days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Bush predicted they could sign a peace treaty within a year, a deal that would give him a foreign policy triumph. Sending a symbolic message, Bush ended the first leg of his weeklong Middle East tour by visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus is believed to have intoned "blessed are the peacemakers," and the ruins of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee.

On Thursday, he called on both sides to make "difficult choices" to enable the creation of a Palestinian state and end Israel's 40-year occupation. He also urged Arab countries "to reach out to Israel."

Negotiations were revived amid great fanfare in November after a near seven-year freeze but have faltered over settlement expansion and escalating Israeli-Palestinian violence, underlining the tough task ahead.

Bush said he planned to re-turn to Israel for its 60th anniversary in May and to help advance the peace talks.

He has voiced support for an Arab plan revived in March last year that offered full normalization of ties with Israel in return for its withdrawal from all Arab land.

Meanwhile, Israel's government spokesman said the two sides would start talks next week on the core issues at the heart of their decades-old conflict - borders, settlements, refugees and Occupied Jerusalem.

But further complicating peacemaking is <u>Hamas'</u> bloody takeover in June of the Gaza Strip, a move that split Palestinian society and left President Mahmoud Abbas with authority over only part of a future state.

"There isn't going to be a blinding flash in any of this, not on this trip, not on the next trip, but this is a process of moving forward," Rice said. "You will see that as the bilateral process continues to move forward the Arabs will do more."

Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait , meets leaders

Many in the Arab world are skeptical that Bush can be an honest broker, with Dubai's Gulf News launching a stinging attack on his administration's Middle East policy, chiefly its support for Israel despite the "oppression" of the Palestinians.

"We realize that containing Iran, selling more weapons and securing cheap oil supplies are the main issues on your mind as you tour the region," the paper said, dismissing Bush's "claim" to want to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. - *AFP, Reuters*

Load-Date: October 22, 2008



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The Daily Star (Lebanon)
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Bush said he planned to re-turn to Israel for its 60th anniversary in May and to help advance the peace talks.

He has voiced support for an Arab plan revived in March last year that offered full normalization of ties with Israel in return for its withdrawal from all Arab land.

Meanwhile, Israel's government spokesman said the two sides would start talks next week on the core issues at the heart of their decades-old conflict - borders, settlements, refugees and Occupied Jerusalem.

But further complicating peacemaking is <u>Hamas'</u> bloody takeover in June of the Gaza Strip, a move that split Palestinian society and left President Mahmoud Abbas with authority over only part of a future state.

"There isn't going to be a blinding flash in any of this, not on this trip, not on the next trip, but this is a process of moving forward," Rice said. "You will see that as the bilateral process continues to move forward the Arabs will do more."

Iran tops discussion as Bush lands in Kuwait , meets leaders

Many in the Arab world are skeptical that Bush can be an honest broker, with Dubai's Gulf News launching a stinging attack on his administration's Middle East policy, chiefly its support for Israel despite the "oppression" of the Palestinians.

"We realize that containing Iran, selling more weapons and securing cheap oil supplies are the main issues on your mind as you tour the region," the paper said, dismissing Bush's "claim" to want to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. - *AFP, Reuters*

Load-Date: June 30, 2008



Israeli novelist, journalist to speak here

Chicago Daily Herald November 9, 2007 Friday

C4 EditionC2 EditionC6 EditionC7 EditionC9 EditionC11 EditionL4 Edition

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Section: NEIGHBOR; Pg. 1

Length: 422 words

Byline: Ruth Gesmer Silverman, Daily Herald Correspondent

Body

The challenges facing Israel today fascinate Naomi Ragen, a renowned Israeli novelist, playwright and journalist who will make a stop in the suburbs next week.

Ragen, who is American-born but has lived in Jerusalem since 1971, will speak Nov. 13 at Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook. Her talk begins at 8 p.m.

She is coming as part of the Conservative congregation's Distinguished Speaker's program. Her talk about Israel today is called, "An Orthodox Woman's Views, expressed in her novels, her political writings and in her life."

Ragen has published seven internationally best-selling novels, and is the author of a hit play. Her newest book, "The Saturday Wife," is a satirical look at modern synagogue and rabbinical life in America.

She also writes a regular e-mail column that deals with Jewish subjects. Many of her columns have appeared in the Jerusalem Post, and other Israel newspapers.

Ragen tackles subjects that she feels need to be addressed, even if her point of view is not necessarily popular among others in the Orthodox community, rabbis, or politicians.

"Why not?" she replied bluntly, when asked how she can level criticism with such ease. "So many of them deserve it."

Most of her novels and columns share her personal experiences.

She incorporates elements of daily life into her columns and her play, "*Women*'s Minyan," which recently closed at Israel's National Theater after a five-year run.

Sometimes, she must include the unexpected.

In 2002, she and her family were enjoying a Passover seder, at the Park Hotel in the coastal city of Netanya, when the hotel was attacked by a suicide bomber. Thirty people were killed, 140 injured-20 seriously. *Hamas* claimed responsibility for the attack.

"We barely escaped with our lives," she said. She said she was furious that security was so lax and she wrote about it in a scathing column.

Israeli novelist, journalist to speak here

Tami Rokni, of Northbrook, arranged for Ragen to speak at Beth Shalom. "We selected her for her political journalism," Rokni said. "She speaks her mind, pulls no punches, is an interesting voice."

There is also interest in Ragen as a novelist, Rokni added. Members of area book clubs have read, "The Saturday Wife," and many of their members plan to attend.

In Northbrook, she will share how she develops her writings from the chaos that frequently surrounds her and everyone she knows.

Generally, the speaker's programs draw 200 to 300 people. Those who plan to attend are urged to make reservations. For details call (847) 498-4100; or go to www.BethShalomNB.org.

Graphic

Naomi Ragen

Load-Date: February 11, 2008



FIRST INDO-AFGHAN MUSIC ALBUM SHOT IN AMRITSAR

The Pioneer (India)

June 22, 2008 Sunday 5:52 PM EST

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Byline: Report from The Pioneer brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Amritsar

Body

Amritsar, June 22 --The first Indo-Afghani fusion music album was shot in Amritsar on Friday with two Afghani singers, London-based *female* Ariana Sayeed and Germany-based male singer Javed Sharief. Talking to The Pioneer, Ariana (24) who left Afghanistan for London when she was only eight-year-old, said she was not afraid of the repercussions in her home country over her skimpy wear and love scenes in the music video being shot. Arian would be wearing a short silver skirt with tights in the video.

"There are four songs in the album and two are duets with Javed who is already a rage in Afghanistan along with Punjabi singer from Holland Balli Kalsi, a Sikh. Our message in these 'Farsi- Punjabi' songs is for change and peace in Afghanistan, and, to all those who believe in violence: live and let live," she said Ariana whose father had a dry fruit business in Afghanistan before they left for London when trouble started in the war-torn country, asserted that the album would come as a "big surprise" to her home country Afghanistan. Like 'Hamas Kohistani', an Afghan beauty who defied all to participate in an international beauty pageant in London and was even threatened, she too was strong to take on all criticism from her countrymen, Ariana said. Her singing partner Javed would go with her to the country of their origin in the near future and Ariana expressed the confidence that Javed would support her if she faced flak from her countrymen.

The young singer said she loved the recent movie 'The Kite Runner' made from a book by Afghani writer Khalid Hossini, and said it represents the true picture of Afghanistan and of the travails of those who left the country to escape the wrath of the Talibans. "I hate being forced wearing a 'burkha' and 'hijab' and the fact that <u>women</u> in Afghanistan are denied education and medical help", she said. Echoing the concern of Ariana, Javed said that music erased all man-made and cultural boundaries and made a global appeal that his countrymen should be freed from taboos on listening to music. Having similar cultures, culinary tastes and in many other ways, Afghanis felt more closer to Indians and Pakistanis than to Europeans, British, Americans or people of other countries.

Kalsi, music director and producer, said the album was a true cohesion of cultures as it started with instrument 'Rabab', popular in Farsi songs, and was joined by 'Tumbi', a Punjabi music instrument.

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FIRST INDO- AFGHAN MUSIC ALBUM SHOT IN AMRITSAR

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The New York Times
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Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 2359 words

Body

International

RUSSIA FLEXES MUSCLES

In Victory Day Parade

The Victory Day parade in Moscow, which commemorates the anniversary of the nation's victory over Nazi Germany, was a blend of Russia's new wealth and old Soviet-style muscle-flexing. Soldiers goose-stepped in front of shops selling the wares of Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior. The parade was a tribute to surviving veterans, but also an attempt to show that Russia's armed forces had bounced back from the hard times that they endured after the Soviet Union's collapse. PAGE A9

HOPING TO CRASH THE PARLIAMENT

J. B. Jeyaretnam was the only opposition member in Singapore's Parliament, and was probably the noisiest. But that was before he was convicted in 2001 of defaming members of the ruling party and kicked out of the body -- for the second time. But Mr. Jeyaretnam, 82, does not quit, and has started a new opposition party to challenge the government. "We are just beginning," he said at a news conference. PAGE A6

IS THE END NEAR FOR OLMERT?

Though Prime Minister Ehud Olmert won himself time by vowing to resign if he was charged in a continuing bribery investigation, most people in Israel felt that he was already finished. People of different ideological stripes wanted Mr. Olmert out, as many have simply lost patience with a man who has been embroiled in similar controversies in the past. PAGE A7

MEXICO MOURNS POLICE OFFICERS

President Felipe Calderon attended the funeral of the chief of the federal police, a day after his assassination, even as investigators focused on the possibility that someone inside the police force had tipped off the killers to his location. The services for the federal police chief, Commander Edgar Millan Gomez, and two other agents killed started a half-hour after four armed men shot and killed a commander in Mexico City's police force. PAGE A10

SOUTH AFRICAN VISITS ZIMBABWE

When President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa visited Harare four weeks ago, he was criticized at home for declaring that there was no political crisis in Zimbabwe. He returned to Zimbabwe yesterday as the chief mediator in the country's political crisis, which has raged since disputed political elections in late March, which are worsening with violent attacks on the country's opposition. PAGE A9

National

BUSH SAY HE WILL USE VETO POWER,

And Some Democrats Hope So

President Bush is planning to veto a number of Democratic initiatives: a housing foreclosure bill approved by the House, the emergency war spending bill set for a House vote and a farm bill produced in bipartisan negotiations. He is calling for House Republicans to stand by him, even though they must face voters again in November, and Democrats could use the vetoes to their advantage. PAGE A14

CALMING POLYGAMIST FEARS

The issue of the raid on the polygamist sect in Eldorado, Tex., was not supposed to be part of an agenda at a meeting between top law enforcement officials from Arizona and Utah and fundamentalist polygamists in St. George, Utah. But the meeting was dominated by the raid and its aftermath, and the officials spent the session trying to assuage the fears of the packed audience who were concerned about a possible crackdown on other polygamist groups. PAGE A13

LIFE AFTER THE WHITE HOUSE

President Bush has been using the coming nuptials of his daughter Jenna as an applause line in his speeches. But the decision to have the wedding out of the spotlight in Crawford, Tex., could hint at Mr. Bush's adjusting to the impending conclusion of his presidency. "To me, that's the reason they chose to have the wedding in Crawford, rather than the White House," a presidential biographer said. "Symbolically, it marks the beginning of the countdown until they are able to move there for good." PAGE A11

CANDIDATES CLASH ON HAMAS

John McCain said Barack Obama was the preferred political candidate of <u>Hamas</u>, the militant Palestinian group, in an indication of how he intends to confront Mr. Obama on foreign policy issues in the general election. He said a <u>Hamas</u> leader's complimentary comments toward Mr. Obama were "a legitimate point of discussion." Mr. Obama responded by saying that he and Mr. McCain share identical positions regarding **Hamas**. PAGE A12

METRO

QUEENS SHOOTING EXPOSES

Rifts in Black Officers' Groups

The Sean Bell shooting exposed divisions in the city, but especially among groups that speak for black police officers. Two of the three indicted detectives are black, and while one black officers' group supported Detective Marc Cooper, others denounced the officers' eventual acquittal. Even within the organizations, there was disagreement about which tack to take. PAGE B3

A PROMISING CAREER, POSSIBLY OVER

A scion of a noted political family on Staten Island, Vito J. Fossella Jr. was almost preordained to go into politics. Until his admission this week that he fathered a child during an extramarital affair, the five-term congressman's political career seemed like a bright one. "I felt very bad for him personally," a former Republican congressman said. "I also said, 'My God, he had such a bright future ahead of him.' " PAGE B1

Business

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Good. Fix Your Credit Fast!

Sorry, that text message is not from an attractive stranger you can not remember -- it's just spam. That singularly annoying feature of modern life, spam is moving from e-mail increasingly to cellphones. Americans are expected to receive an estimated 1.5 billion unsolicited text messages this year, made all the more grating by the fact that text messages cost money. PAGE C1

OPEC MAY STEP IN AS PRICES CLIMB

The price of oil climbed still higher, reaching \$126 a barrel, prompting one OPEC official to suggest that the oil cartel could prick the price bubble. The cartel has held that the prices are not a result of market factors and are being driven up by speculators, but some analysts say oil-producing countries are becoming uneasy with the runaway prices. "They are playing with fire," one analyst said. "Every time the price goes up, and we break a new psychological mark, they risk killing the goose that lays the golden egg." PAGE C2

THE BAILING HOMEOWNER MYTH

The blogosphere is ripe with tales of people who mail in their house keys to their banks rather than hold on to their depreciating homes, but there is not a lot of evidence that it is actually happening very often. "Those types of stories garner a lot of attention," an official at Freddie Mac said, but added that they were "isolated occurrences." PAGE C1

CHINA'S GROWING PERFUME MARKET

Perfume sales in much of the world are sluggish, but not in China. The country has a small market for scents, but sales are rising exponentially and perfume makers are trying to navigate the vagaries of the Chinese marketplace. Some experts say that Chinese are not buying perfume -- which has no cultural roots in the country -- but instead the brand to which the bottle is attached. PAGE C1

ARTS

LEAKED TEST SCREENINGS BRING

Pans of New Indiana Jones Film

A handful of Web critics have struck at "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," despite an intense effort by the director Steven Spielberg, the executive producer George Lucas and Paramount Pictures to keep the sequel out of sight until its official release this Sunday. The leaks appear to have come from one or more exhibitors' screenings, at which Paramount showed the movie to a handful of theater company executives. PAGE B7

THE NEW 'NO, NO, NANETTE'

Though it is sumptuously produced -- with glittering flapper costumes, sorbet-colored lighting and tap-happy choreography carried out beneath crystal chandeliers -- the new revival of the 1920s musical "No, No, Nanette" has a sweet, sanitized slickness that evokes not the Jazz Age but 1920s-theme nights from the last days of variety shows on American television four decades ago. A review by Ben Brantley. PAGE B7

GETTING MILEAGE OUT OF AN OLD ROLE

Peter Fernandez, the 81-year-old who has voiced Speed Racer since 1967, is treated like royalty at comic book and anime conventions. He makes a cameo appearance as a racetrack announcer in the big-screen live-action adaptation of "Speed Racer," and lends his voice to "Speed Racer: The Next Generation," a new animated series on Nick Toons Network, which had its premiere last week. PAGE B9

Gallery Rebrands Itself B7

Edward Rothstein: Discovering Rastafari! B7

Stephen Holden: Feinstein and Bergman B15

Obituaries

GEORGE CRESSMAN, 88

A pioneer and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, he helped usher in the use of computers in meteorology and was the former director of the National Weather Service. PAGE B17

ELAINE DUNDY, 86

The author of the best-selling novel "The Dud Avocado," which chronicled the Parisian adventures of Sally Jay Gorce, who carried on the Daisy Miller tradition of ardent, questing American <u>women</u> exemplified more recently by the characters Isadora Wing and Carrie Bradshaw. PAGE B17

SPORTS

GIANTS ROOKIE TAKES NUMBER

In Tribute to Slain Star

On the New York Giants, the No. 21 is associated with Tiki Barber, the team's talented and telegenic running back who retired in 2006. Kenny Phillips, the team's most recent first-round pick, was lobbying team officials for the number, but as a tribute to Sean Taylor, the slain Washington Redskins player who preceded him at safety at the University of Miami to whom he was often compared. PAGE D2

GALAXY'S SPLIT PERSONALITY

The Los Angeles Galaxy finds itself astraddle two soccer cultures these days. It has one foot in the egalitarian Major League Soccer, with its American characteristics like a salary cap and postseason playoffs; with the other trying to jump forward on the backs of David Beckham, Ruud Gullit and the American star Landon Donovan into being a world player. PAGE D8

THIS WEEKEND

TRAVEL

The inspiration struck Tom Stockfisch after happening upon a hotel housing participants for the annual Strings Conference in San Diego: he would take up the cello. At age 50-ish. "It's my new religion," he now says, one of more and more adults who are becoming swept up in the celebratory world of summer music camps. PAGE 6

For some of us Sweden will forever be linked with Abba and Bjorn Borg. (Or Abba and Stefan Edberg. Or Abba and. ...) But today it's home to a diverse array of musical performers, many of them starting to earn international acclaim. PAGE 7

THE MAGAZINE

The goal of Title IX is for girls to have as many opportunities in sports as boys do. But the question is whether people can live with the greater rate of injuries girls suffer. For that matter, can the girls? PAGE 54

The United States government relied on Vang Pao to battle communism in the jungles of Laos. Why is the Justice Department now calling him a terrorist? PAGE 48

SUNDAY STYLES

Its members do not always agree on specific aims and purposes, but what movement's members do. Their common ground is the belief that they should be heard, that people see that their conditions don't preclude their having productive lives. They proudly call themselves mad -- and they don't mean angry. PAGE 1

Inspa World, in College Point, Queens, is a copy of a jimjilbang, a traditional Korean 24-hour bathhouse where families soak, steam and eat together. It bills itself as a "spa and water park." But that might not be the most apt description. Call it an aquarium for humans. insta PAGE 1

WEEK IN REVIEW

After decades of Republican gains in the South, Democrats have been inching back lately in a section of the country once theirs almost exclusively. The trends suggest a region in transformation with, among other things, dynamic economic growth, an expanded black middle class and an emerging native white generation with little or no memory of racial segregation. PAGE 4

If classical musicians are so attached, literally and figuratively, to their sometimes million-dollar instruments, why is it we seem so frequently to read about their losing them? Explanations aside, one company is focusing on a solution: tracking devices for instrument cases. PAGE 7

BOOK REVIEW

In "Nixonland," George F. Will writes, Rick Perlstein assigns to Richard Nixon a role akin to God, not for his goodness, but because "Nixon is the explanation for everything." Mr. Will calls the book "compulsively readable." But it's also clear he does not rate Nixon as that influential. PAGE 1

ARTS & LEISURE

He professed himself the "baddest man on the planet," perhaps unwittingly inviting interpretations of the definition of "bad." In any event Mike Tyson, his fighting days (we hope) and addictions (he says) behind him, is re-emerging as the subject of a documentary that will have its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. "I don't know who I am," he said in an interview. Will anyone care? PAGE 1

EDITORIAL

RACIAL INEQUALITY AND DRUG TESTS

The United States prison system keeps marking shameful milestones: 1 in 100 American adults are presently behind bars. Law enforcement's misguided focus on drug use in low-income areas is driving those shameful numbers. PAGE A18

MR. HU'S PEACEABLE VISIT TO TOKYO

President Hu Jintao's trip to Japan this week was the first by a Chinese leader in a decade. Luckily, everyone got along. PAGE A18

GAMBLING IS NEVER ENOUGH

New York State is betting that expanding gambling is part of the answer to the budget deficit. It would be better off finding a source of revenue that doesn't prey upon its own people. PAGE A18

OP-ED

BOB HERBERT

There are seeds of real destruction in the Clintons' graceless endgame. PAGE A19

GAIL COLLINS

It's hard to imagine that a love child or two poses any actual threat to a congressman's constituents. The same cannot be said about having a local lawmaker who is prepared to get behind the wheel of a car when he's too drunk to remember the rule about not mentioning the extra daughter to authority figures brandishing pencil and pad. PAGE A19

MAUREEN DOWD

To veep or not to veep: That is the question for Obama. PAGE A19

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTOS

Load-Date: May 10, 2008



Whither Israeli Arabs?

The Jerusalem Post March 11, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 15

Length: 1687 words

Byline: CAROLINE B. GLICK

Highlight: The government is neglecting the Arab sector, but there may still be time to salvage the situation. OUR

WORLD

Body

Last Thursday, a 28-year-old IDF non-commissioned officer was killed by a roadside bomb along the border with Gaza. A Beduin from the South, he served as a combat tracker. At his funeral, his cousin said, "He did everything he could to convince [Beduin] youth to enlist in the army to serve the state. He said his service was hard, but he chose to defend his country." Another cousin noted that almost all the men in their family serve in the IDF.

At his family's request, his name was not released to the public. He was buried in a non-military funeral.

The family's request stemmed from fear that the Israeli Arab leadership or terrorists from the Palestinian Authority would take revenge on its members for their service to the State of Israel. Their fear of violent attack outweighed their desire to have their hero receive the public honors he so richly deserved for sacrificing his life for his country.

Contrast the fortunes of this family to those of an Arab family in Jerusalem who also lost a son last Thursday.

Last Friday, hundreds visited a traditional Muslim mourning tent in Jerusalem's Jabel Mukaber neighborhood to pay their respects to the family. The tent was adorned by hundreds of posters of the dead man's face. It also was also decorated with Hizbullah and *Hamas* banners.

The tent was erected to honor Alaa Abu D'heim. In a scene taken from a Russian pogrom, Thursday night D'heim entered Mercaz Harav Yeshiva and massacred eight boys and young men as they studied Torah.

D'heim's family did not fear retribution from their fellow Arabs. His neighbors did not demonstrate against his crime. The Israeli Arab leadership did not credibly condemn it.

Yet the lack of protests did not necessarily mean that his crime is supported by all Arabs in Israel. Sunday night, Channel 2's Suleiman Ashafi interviewed a young man outside the tent who said, "If I had known that he was planning to attack people, that he was planning to carry out a terrorist attack, I would have shot him in the head myself." The young man, like the Beduin soldier's family, requested not to be named. He used his hand to hide his face from the camera. He too, was intimidated. He too feared he would be attacked for voicing his condemnation of D'heim and his implied support for Israel.

WHAT IS going on in Israeli Arab society? What are the implications of the tangible fear among those Arabs who support Israel and the unabashed willingness of the Israeli Arab leadership to defend the likes of <u>Hamas</u>, Fatah and D'heim in their terror war against Israel? Is Israel's Arab minority - which comprises 20 percent of the population -

Whither Israeli Arabs?

lost? In the 1996 electoral campaign which pitted Binyamin Netanyahu against Shimon Peres, Netanyahu appointed former foreign and defense minister Moshe Arens to run the party's campaign for the Arab vote. Arens succeeded in bringing the Likud candidate five percent of the overall Arab vote. His labors were credited with bringing victory to the party in that photo-finish race.

In the aftermath of Thursday's massacre, Arens warns that it is wrong to view Israeli Arabs as a monolithic block. Indeed they are an ethnically and religiously diverse population.

To start with, Israel's 100,000 Druse, who accepted compulsory military service for their young men in 1949, are fully integrated in Israeli society. Indeed, the rate of Druse military service is higher than it is among Jews. Another sign of Druse societal integration is their birthrate. Whereas in 1948, the Druse birthrate was higher than the Muslim birthrate, today it is equal to the Jewish birthrate.

Like the Druse, Arens notes that the Circassians also accepted obligatory military service for their sons and they too are integrated into Israeli society. Many of the members of the Israel-allied South Lebanese Army who fled to Israel in the aftermath of Israel's precipitous withdrawal from south Lebanon in 2000, have been welcomed in Circassian villages in the North even as they were blackballed in Muslim Arab villages.

Then there are the Israeli Beduin. Although Beduin are Muslims, due to their unique cultural traditions, Beduin have historically perceived themselves as distinct from the other Arab Muslims in Israel.

Their unique traditions are in the process of disappearing however. Arens recalls that 20 years ago, most Beduin encampments had no mosques. But today, every encampment has at least one mosque. And they are all run by the pro-<u>Hamas</u> Israeli Islamic movement. Similarly, the teachers in Beduin schools are overwhelmingly non-Beduin Israeli Arabs. Like the preachers in the mosques, they educate the youngsters to view themselves as Palestinian Arabs and to abandon their Israeli identity and loyalty to the state.

Although the Beduin have never been obligated to serve in the IDF, traditionally, the majority of their male youths volunteered for service, both as trackers and as regular combat soldiers. Due mainly to the indoctrination of the Islamic movement, the number of Beduin youth volunteering for military service has been decreasing drastically in recent years. Radical imams and teachers bar IDF recruiters from speaking to the youth.

Numbering 200,000, Beduin comprise some 25 percent of Israel's Muslim population. Most live in the South but some 70,000 live in the North and they have been less affected by the Islamic indoctrination campaign. In the North, traditional levels of Beduin enlistment in the IDF have been maintained.

Then there are the Christian Arabs. As one Israeli Arab colleague, (who also asked not to be identified), notes, Israel's Christian Arab population is the only flourishing Christian community in the Middle East. From Iraq to Syria to Jordan to Egypt to the Palestinian Authority, Christians find themselves under assault by authorities and Islamic gangs. In Israel, in contrast, the Christian population has grown steadily in recent years.

FINALLY THERE are the Israeli Arab Muslims. Since the 1994 establishment of the PA, the Israeli Muslim leadership has been radicalized. That leadership currently consists of Arab members of Knesset, the Israeli Arab Higher Follow-up Committee, the Islamic Movement and so-called Arab human rights organizations. All of these leaders and organizations have worked steadily to undermine the Israeli Arab Muslims' sense of attachment to the State of Israel and to intimidate dissenting voices into silence.

While their intimidation efforts have been successful, it is far from clear that their indoctrination efforts have won over the Israeli Arabs. Recently, the government announced its intention to encourage Israeli Arabs who don't serve in the military to perform national service. The organized Israeli Arab leadership has worked studiously to undermine the program.

Yet a poll carried out by University of Haifa last month revealed that 75 percent of Israeli Arabs between the ages of 16 and 22 support voluntary national service. The poll also found that the vast majority of the Arab public is unaware of the national service. 77.4 percent overall and 79.6 percent of youth said they know little or nothing

Whither Israeli Arabs?

about the program. Moreover, the poll found that once given basic information about conditions in the national service and its goals, not only were Israeli Arab youth supportive of the idea, but so were 71.9 percent of all Arab men and 83.8 percent of all Arab <u>women</u>. In contrast, some 80 percent of members of Arab political parties opposed national service.

Arens believes strongly that the government must launch a serious, directed hearts and minds campaign among Israeli Arabs. The very fact that nearly 80 percent of Israeli Arabs know nothing about the government's national service initiative is proof that the government is neglecting the Arab sector.

Arens contends that the place to direct such a campaign, at least in the short term, is among the Beduin. Israeli Beduin are the most impoverished ethnic group in Israel. Particularly in the South, they lack basic sanitation services. Their education system is appalling. And economic and academic opportunities for advancement are largely absent. Beduin who serve in the army receive no post-army assistance from the government.

Arens spearheaded a private initiative with Ben-Gurion University in the Negev to provide them with post-army educational opportunities, but the program was cancelled. In short, demobilized Beduin soldiers come home with nothing to show for their service to the country and so have no way of countering the Israeli Arabs who indoctrinate the youth to pan-Arabism and jihad. Indeed, often their only choice is to join Beduin crime rings that run smuggling and protection networks throughout the South.

Arens suggests that at a minimum, the IDF should set up day care centers and kindergartens for Beduin children staffed by soldiers from the IDF's soldier-teacher's unit which works in underprivileged communities. As defense minister, Arens sought to make military service compulsory for Beduin and he believes that such an initiative would still meet with success among the northern tribes. But his successors, bowing to the Arab political leadership, scuttled his initiative.

Obviously, for Arabs loyal to Israel to feel comfortable expressing their support for the state, the current atmosphere of intimidation must end. The Knesset must pass laws outlawing the openly treasonous Islamic Movement and Arab political parties that reject the authority and legitimacy of Israel. Arab leaders who incite violence must be dealt with harshly by the legal system.

As Arens notes, the natural pull of Israeli Arabs is towards the Palestinians. But that doesn't mean that their loyalty to Israel has been lost. It has not. To stem the tide, Israel must launch a twin campaign to help those Israeli Arabs who support the state and to encourage them to intensify their integration into Israeli society. And it must take concerted action against those radical leaders and organizations that work to undermine those bonds.

The current situation, in which Israeli Arab heroes fear attack, and Israeli Arab traitors are extolled must be turned on its head.

Graphic

Photo: BEDUIN WHO serve in the Israel Defense Forces receive no post-army assistance from the government. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



A story of an unlikely friendship

The Jerusalem Post January 11, 2008 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 22

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Highlight: A story written by captured soldier Gilad Schalit as a child, about the relationship between a fish and a

shark, has been illustrated by leading artists and is now on tour

Body

It's a simple fairy tale, a story of a shark and a fish that overcome their mothers' mutual suspicions and fears to become friends. But what makes the story even more powerful is the all-too-real and painful fact that IDF Cpl. Gilad Schalit, who was captured by *Hamas* terrorists in Gaza in June 2006, is the author.

Schalit wrote "When the Shark and the Fish First Met" when he was 11 years old for a fifth-grade school assignment. The story lay forgotten in his teacher's house until she found it last spring, while cleaning her house for Pessah.

Now, in a volunteer endeavor, "When the Shark and the Fish First Met" has been illustrated by well-known Israeli artists such as David Gerstein and Michele Kishka and turned into an exhibit scheduled to travel around the country this year. The illustrated version, put out by Kinneret Publishing House, went on sale on January 6. All proceeds from the book will go to the Habanim organization (www.habanim.org), dedicated to freeing Schalit as well as kidnapped reservists Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

In stark, simple language, the story is about a "small and gentle fish" swimming in the ocean who sees a shark about to devour it. The fish entreats the shark to play with him instead of eating him. They play together happily, but at home, the fish's mother warns him not to play with the shark because "it devoured your father and your brother." The shark's mother also tells the shark that fish are to be eaten, not played with. After a long time, the two meet again and the shark tells the fish, "You are my enemy, but maybe we can make peace." The two continue to meet secretly and eventually reveal their deep and abiding friendship to their mothers.

"This is a universal story," explains Lee Rimon de Lange, who co-owns the Edge Gallery in Nahariya with her husband, Itschak, and who conceived the exhibit. She discovered the tale some six months ago and was touched by its message. "The story appeals to people all over the world. It's not just Israelis and Arabs. It's a story about two people who want to be friends," she says.

De Lange says she then appealed to Noga Schimmel, chairwoman of the Israeli Illustrators Society, to see if any of its artists would be interested in volunteering to illustrate the story and be part of the exhibit. (The original version was illustrated by Schalit's mother, Aviva Schalit, who could not be reached for comment).

Schimmel sent letters to the IIS's members, asking them if they would donate their time and talent to illustrate the story. She didn't know what their response would be, and was delighted that so many agreed to pitch in.

A story of an unlikely friendship

Schimmel and De Lange worked with Aviva Schalit and Miri Krymolowski, an art critic for Israel Radio who served as curator. The four <u>women</u> divided the story into frames, and then each artist chose which one he or she wanted to illustrate. Schimmel, who has illustrated children's books, agreed to illustrate a frame that no other artist wanted.

"It's the frame when the fish and the shark didn't meet," she confides. "It's a painting of an empty sea."

The illustrators all worked on the story with a lot of love, Schimmel says. "They worked with a goal in mind." Krymolowski added that she had hoped the exhibit's art would be of a high enough quality to attract national, if not international attention, and that she was very pleased with the results.

Once the artists finished, the next challenge was getting the illustrations (now valuable works of art in and of themselves) to the gallery in Nahariya. Volunteers agreed to drive the work to the north, all without taking out an insurance policy. "On principle, we don't have insurance on this art, because the soldiers have no insurance," de Lange says.

The story is reminiscent, says de Lange, of the Biblical story in the book of Isaiah of the wolf who dwells with the lamb - and "a little boy will lead them." De Lange says that Schalit is like that little boy, and his story is an appeal for peace. "It's clear from this tale Schalit understood how to 'conquer' with love," she says. "I'm sure wherever he is being held by <u>Hamas</u>, he is talking to his captors. He must be talking to them," she believes.

Krymolowski says that while art can't bring back Schalit and the other soldiers, she hopes the story will help keep the public aware of the soldiers' predicament. "We don't want the captured soldiers to simply fade away," she explains.

"When the Shark and the Fish First Met" is included on the Habanim Web site and De Lange hopes that children around the world will log on, download the story and color it themselves. The coloring books can then be sent in and included in the exhibit. The story already appears online in Hebrew, Arabic and English and has been translated into Russian, French, Italian, and Spanish. De Lange hopes translations will be available in as many languages as possible.

The show is currently running at the Edge Gallery in Nahariya. From February 10, it will be at the Monart Museum in Ashdod. From Ashdod, it will travel to Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva and Jerusalem, among other cities.

For further information and to download the story, visit habanim.org. The Edge Gallery is located at 34 Lochamei HaGettaot Street in Nahariya. The book will be launched at the gallery on January 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Graphic

3 photos: 'When the Shark and the Fish First Met' was written when Schalit was 11 years old for a fifth-grade school assignment. The fish is asking the shark: 'Why would you want to eat me?'THE STORY has been illustrated by well- known Israeli artists such as David Gerstein and Michele Kishka.IT'S HOPED that the exhibit's art will be of a high enough quality to attract national, if not international attention.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



'Honour killings' escalate in West Bank

thespec.com

November 21, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A12

Length: 1041 words

Byline: Ilene R. Prusher, The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: QALQILYA, WEST BANK

Body

All the women in the family say Wafa Wahdan was wonderful.

But her sisters-in-law add that they noticed a few little things. She had changed the way she dressed in the past year to a less conservative style and she sometimes went out for a drive without saying where she was going.

A few weeks ago, the body of the young mother of four was found in a garbage dump east of town. Police arrested two of the woman's male cousins for having trapped Wahdan and shot her to death, committing the third "honour killing" in Qalqilya last month.

Wahdan's brutal murder devastated her husband and immediate family, who say that the rumour mill's tales of Wahdan having an affair were untrue. But regardless of their veracity, suspicion alone can be enough to get a woman killed by distant relatives looking to "cleanse" the family honour when there is talk of an illicit relationship.

According to local organizations, such murders have risen in the Palestinian territories to nearly 50 this year - a fact that many here blame on the absence of any true law and order, which allows individuals to enforce their own version of justice. Palestinians here say the image of an ever-weaker Palestinian Authority has increased after *Hamas*'s violent takeover of the Gaza Strip in June, making this local vigilantism harder to combat.

Particularly galling to many here is the fact that a man who admits to murdering a <u>female</u> relative for reasons of honour can be sentenced to as little as six months in jail. Palestinians say that policy is based on an old Jordanian law, which still holds in the West Bank: Article 341 considers murder a legitimate act of defence when the killer acts "in defence of his life or his honour."

Saed Taha, dean of Qalqilya's College of Islamic Law, says that honour killings in the Palestinian territories are never carried out according to proper Muslim stipulations and thus are unacceptable according to sharia, or Islamic law. In Islam, an unmarried woman found guilty of having an affair can be sentenced to 100 lashes; for a married woman, the sentence is death by stoning. But first, four witnesses must say they saw the illicit act with their own eyes.

"When the sentence is only six months, the consequence is that (perpetrators) encourage others to do the same," says Taha. "Islam does not allow anyone to take the law into his own hands. And for a woman to be sentenced (for

'Honour killings' escalate in West Bank

illicit affairs), it would have to take place in a system that operates under Islamic law, which we don't have right now."

But ancient tribal mores, not Islam, are usually what drive family members to demand that their honour be restored. In this case, according to several of Wahdan's relatives interviewed for this story, the men of the family met and came to a joint decision that Wahdan should be killed.

"These men have no fear of God," says Wahdan's mother, Umm el-Walid. She pulls out a photograph of her daughter, big-eyed and pretty, sitting with some of Walid's now-motherless grandchildren.

"Had my daughter had an extramarital relationship, her husband would have been the first to notice and do something," says Wahdan's mother, stopping to squint out tears. "They charged her, sentenced her, and executed her all in one fell swoop."

Hala Wahdan, a sister-in-law, says the other <u>women</u> in the family, who are now trying to take care of the late woman's children, are devastated. The oldest kids, aged 9 and 12, are being harassed in school about the matter, for some reason.

"Her children are extremely affected by this, especially with people gossiping and saying things that aren't true," she says. "They tell her 9-year-old girl, Noura, 'You're the daughter whose mother was killed because of honour.' And to the 12-year-old son, 'Your mother was killed because she was messing around.' "

Just days after Wahdan's murder, two other young <u>women</u> - sisters Sima and Eman el-Adel - were killed. Under questioning, police say, their brother confessed to having killed both of them in defence of the family honour. The word around this town of 60,000, however, is that they were having an inheritance dispute.

<u>Women</u>'s rights activists say that nearly any perpetrator of a <u>female</u> relative's murder can make an "honour killing" claim, when in fact quite different motives may be present.

"We consider the law here to be permitting these crimes, and whoever commits these crimes knows that he will only be punished with six months in jail," says Margaret Ir-Rai, spokeswoman for Qalqilya's Jafra Center for <u>Women</u>. "Therefore, our battle is with the law, which we need to change. Many people ... hide behind the killing by saying it had an 'honour motive,' and (are) exonerated."

Ir-Rai says that while it is possible for victims' survivors to press charges in a civil court, they rarely do so because of the fear it will unleash a cycle of continued vengeance-taking and bloodshed.

The Jafra Center has launched a new awareness campaign on this issue and holds workshops throughout the West Bank for <u>women</u>, who often contribute to the phenomena. They place ultrastrict expectations on other <u>women</u> and accuse others of unchaste behaviour, sometimes assisting in and even committing honour crimes as well. That's why the law needs to push ahead, she says, pulling societal norms with it.

"The only way for <u>women</u> here to get their rights is through a change in the law, not through societal pressure," she says. "We started a petition all over the West Bank to have people condemn this." The <u>women</u>'s groups are also lobbying members of the Palestinian Legislative Council to pass legislation that would carry much heavier sentences for men who commit honour crimes. "Unfortunately, the political situation is not helping us to make this happen," Ir-Rai says.

The Palestinian parliament rarely meets these days, its functionality in doubt since the violent Fatah-<u>Hamas</u> split. She points to the uncertainty as a reason for the increase in killings.

Jafra counts 21 such murders in the West Bank this year. There have been 25 similar killings in Gaza in the same period says Maryam Abu Dagga, the head of the Union of *Women*'s Committees.

"During these hard times Gaza is going through, it is difficult for <u>women</u>'s organizations to do anything more than condemn," she says.

Graphic

Photo: Abed Omar, Reuters , <u>Women</u> are being murdered by family members just for being suspected of unfaithful behaviour.

Load-Date: January 30, 2008



Bush upbeat on Mideast prospects

Financial Times (London, England)

May 19, 2008 Monday

USA Edition 1

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 448 words

Byline: Heba Saleh in Sharm El Sheikh

Body

George W. Bush said yesterday he still believed Israel and the Palestinians could reach a peace deal by the end of the year.

The US president, who was in Egypt at the end of a Middle East tour, also lectured Arab leaders about political and economic reform and told oil-rich states to "invest aggressively" in the Palestinian territories and "move past their old resentments against Israel".

There is widespread scepticism that a peace deal is possible soon because of Palestinian divisions and the perception that the US is unwilling to put enough pressure on Israel to stop expanding settlements.

"Palestinians must fight terror and continue to build the institutions of a free and peaceful society," Mr Bush said. "Israel must make sacrifices for peace and ease restrictions on Palestinians . . . And all nations in the region must stand together in confronting *Hamas*."

Mr Bush had drawn sharp criticism in the Arab world for a speech before the Israeli Knesset last week in which he barely mentioned the Palestinians and lavished praise on Israel, assuring it of an "unbreakable" relationship with the US.

Egyptian officials said Hosni Mubarak, the president, had raised the Knesset speech with Mr Bush during bilateral talks on Saturday.

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian leader who also met Mr Bush in Egypt, said that all he wanted from the US was a "minimum level of neutrality".

On other regional issues, Mr Bush said Iran must never be allowed to own nuclear weapons and that Hizbollah, the Lebanese militant group backed by Tehran, had to be opposed.

The bulk of his speech, however, was a forceful exhortation to Arab leaders to open their societies, reform education, empower **women**, reduce restrictions on business and allow democracy to take root.

In a swipe at religious intolerance, Mr Bush said no one in the US would be punished for owning the Koran or face a death sentence for converting to Islam.

Bush upbeat on Mideast prospects

An Arab diplomat said of Mr Bush: "He was good on the Palestinians but patronising on reform. And where was all that urgency seven years ago?"

The US president praised Egypt's economic progress but said political reforms were also necessary.

"Too often in the Middle East, politics has consisted of one leader in power and the opposition in jail," said Mr Bush. "America is deeply concerned about the plight of political prisoners in this region, as well as democratic activists who are intimidated or repressed."

The tone of his speech is expected to cause resentment, but with less than a year in office it is unlikely that Arab leaders will feel under any real pressure. The US president gave up an earlier drive to press for change in the Arab world when the US ran into trouble in Iraq.

Load-Date: May 18, 2008



Foreign attaches come within Kassam range at Yad Mordechai Holocaust museum

The Jerusalem Post April 30, 2008 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 438 words

Byline: YAAKOV KATZ

Body

While Kassams rockets rained down on the western Negev on Tuesday, a group of foreign military officers defied the danger and strolled solemnly through the paths of Kibbutz Yad Mordechai and its Holocaust museum.

The field trip, attended by some 30 military attaches from around the globe, was organized by the IDF's Foreign Liaison Department ahead of Holocaust Remembrance Day, to be commemorated starting Wednesday night.

The attaches - including officers from the US, Italy, Ecuador, Portugal, China, Brazil and Germany - toured the battlefields surrounding the kibbutz where outnumbered and outgunned Israeli forces staved off an Egyptian army invasion for five days during the War of Independence. The kibbutz is named for Mordechai Anilewicz, leader of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

"We brought the attaches to Yad Mordechai since the kibbutz symbolizes three different monumental periods in Israeli history," Col. Dan Hefetz, head of the Foreign Liaison Department, said during the tour. "There is the Holocaust museum, the battlefields from 1948 and the current threat today - the Kassam rocket attacks from Gaza."

The visit to Yad Mordechai is part of a series of events the Foreign Liaison Department is planning for the attaches as part of Israeli 60th anniversary celebrations. On Remembrance Day for those who fell in Israel wars, the officers will be invited to an air force ceremony; they will be hosted on Independence Day for a celebratory toast at Beit Hanassi (the President's Residence); and will meet several days later with IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi and other military brass.

Hefetz, who spent a year-and-a-half at the French National Defense College before taking up his current post, said the attaches were an important link for Israel to militaries around the world. In recent months, the IDF has held several conferences for the attaches, including on the role of <u>women</u> in the IDF and on Israel's missing soldiers.

"Today's conflicts are of a low-intensity nature, spanning sometimes several years, and international relations are a key element needed when managing them," he said, giving as an example the current conflict with <u>Hamas</u> in the Gaza Strip, located just under the kibbutz's hills.

Standing under a statue of Anilewicz, Italian Brig.- Gen. Nicola Gelao, dean of the military attaches in Israel, said the foreign officers had much to learn about Israel's history.

Foreign attaches come within Kassam range at Yad Mordechai Holocaust museum

"It is a great privilege to be involved in these events and it is not so common to know the stories," Gelao said. "There are many points of view and positive experiences to learn from and to share with one another."

Graphic

Photo: COL. DAN HEFETZ, head of the IDF's Foreign Liaison Department, listens to Italian Military Attache to Israel Brig.-Gen. Nicola Gelao at the Holocaust Museum in Kibbutz Yad Mordechai, on Tuesday. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Supporter of suicide bombs backs Red Ken

Daily Mail (London)

April 17, 2008 Thursday

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Section: 2ND; Pg. 20 **Length:** 447 words

Byline: Michael Lea

Body

AN Islamic extremist who advocates suicide bombings has been linked to a group backing Ken Livingstone's efforts to be reelected London mayor.

Azzam Tamimi, who supports terror group *Hamas*, has lent his name to a campaign targeting the capital's 400,000 Muslim voters.

He once claimed that he would 'sacrifice' himself for Palestine and shared a stage with radical preacher Yusuf al-Qaradawi - now banned from Britain as a threat to 'security and peace'.

Dr Tamimi supports the Muslims 4 Ken group. Many Londoners with memories of the 7/7 bombs fresh in their minds will be disgusted at his involvement.

'For us Muslims martyrdom is not the end of things, but the beginning of the most wonderful things,' Dr Tamimi has said. 'If I can go to Palestine and sacrifice myself I would do it. Why not?' Mr Livingstone has been criticised for openly courting the Muslim vote and making anti- Jewish remarks, despite widespread praise for his response to the Tube and bus suicide attacks..

Last night mayoral rival Boris Johnson said: 'The mayor has form. He invites people who are preachers of hate to London - radicals who are homophobic and sexist. Now its been revealed that supporters of suicide bombers support his campaign.

The Tory candidate added: 'I promise Londoners that I will not court these people when I am mayor. We must lead by example and promote diversity, not division.' LibDem candidate Brian Paddick added: 'We have seen in the past how Ken Livingstone has invited the likes of Yusuf al-Qaradawi to City Hall, someone who holds abhorrent views, including treating <u>women</u> as second-class citizens, the murdering of gay people and hatred towards Jews.

This does nothing to support the overwhelming majority of law-abiding Muslims who are an asset to London.

'We need a mayor who will unite all communities of London, not one who associates with people who promote hatred and division.' Muslims 4 Ken is run by 39- year-old lecturer Anas Altikriti.

He admitted that Dr Tamimi has been 'vociferous in his support' for Mr Livingstone and is 'fully behind' his reelection.

'He supports our campaign, but has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with it,' said Mr Altikriti.

Supporter of suicide bombs backs Red Ken

'We needed him for a couple of talks in mosques, but he was out of the country and not available.

He has lent his name as have dozens of others, that's as far as it goes.' Dr Tamimi heads the Institute of Islamic Political Thought in London and has campaigned throughout his life against the Israeli occupation in Palestine.

Mr Livingstone's spokesman said reports of Dr Tamimi's backing were a 'smear'. 'Ken has made it clear that he opposes suicide bombing,' he said.

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'Vociferous in his support'

Graphic

Courting Muslim support: Ken Livingstone with hardline preacher Yusuf al-Qaradawi in 2004

Load-Date: April 17, 2008



<u>Tibi calls Holocaust 'the worst crime against humanity' as politicians read</u> out names of dead

The Jerusalem Post May 2, 2008 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 458 words

Byline: REBECCA ANNA STOIL

Body

While <u>Hamas</u>'s TV station recently accused Jewish leaders of creating the Holocaust to kill disabled Jews, Arab MK Ahmed Tibi Thursday called the murder of six million Jews by the Nazis "the worst crime against humanity."

"I am full of empathy for the bereaved families who lost their loved ones at the hands of the Nazi monster, which planted seeds of death, hatred and racism," said Tibi, the only one of the MKs from Arab parties to participate in the Knesset's annual ceremony commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Ministers, MKs and President Shimon Peres took the stand in the Knesset's Chagall Hall, and read the names of family members and others murdered in the Holocaust.

The ceremony opened with the song "Every Person Has a Name," played by the youth harmonica orchestra founded by Shimon Gogol, a Holocaust survivor who was forced to play in a death camp's musical ensemble.

Six people were called upon to light six remembrance candles, each representing one million of the Nazi's Jewish victims. The choice of candle-lighters emphasized the theme of generations following the Holocaust, with two candles lit by grandchildren of Holocaust survivors.

Peres read out the names of his grandparents, aunts and uncles who parted with the young Peres when he and his family immigrated to Palestine before the war, and was followed by a number of ministers and MKs, who read out names of family members.

Others commemorated entire groups, with MK Moshe Kahalon (Likud) reading out the names of the children who were among the 700 Libyan Jews killed and MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) reading out the names of Iraqi Jews who were killed.

Former Shinui head Yosef Lapid, himself a Holocaust survivor, read out the names of his family members, but also commemorated hundreds of Jewish residents of his home town of Novisad, Hungary, who were forced by local Hungarian Nazis to march to the frozen Danube River, and were then shot to death.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni chose to commemorate the names of <u>women</u> partisans who were killed "with their weapons in their hands" fighting against the Nazis in ghetto uprisings and as partisans in the French resistance movement.

Tibi calls Holocaust 'the worst crime against humanity' as politicians read out names of dead

With the emphasis again on generational continuity, the ceremony concluded with a poem written by Malka Rosenthal, whose mother sacrificed herself and was shot to death in order to save Malka and her father who witnessed the whole scene from mere meters away.

Malka survived the war, hidden by non-Jewish farmers for another two years in a barrel. Following the reading of the poem, Rosenthal and her children and grandchildren rose and stood at attention - three generations of a family that the Nazis tried to erase from memory - and sang, together with the rest of the assembly, "Hatikva."

Graphic

Photo: Ahmed Tibi (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Sunday - Pay TV

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

March 20, 2008 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: GREEN GUIDE; Preview; Pg. 34

Length: 459 words

Byline: Brad Newsome

Body

The Ten Commandments

Hallmark, 7.30pm

In London in years gone by, whenever literary editors gave starving book reviewers a choice of tomes to review, they tended to pounce on the biggest, heaviest ones regardless of author or subject matter, simply because they'd fetch a few more pence at the second-hand bookshop the following week. Now, though, I get paid the same for watching a 23-minute cooking show as I do for watching an entire miniseries. So why did I wind up watching all 248 minutes of this 2006 telemovie instead of, say, 47 minutes or so of Nanny 911 (W, 6.05pm)?

Was it some sort of atavistic guilt for not having given up beer and ciggies for Lent? No, I just decided to give it a few minutes out of curiosity and then got sucked in. The story of Moses/Moshe/Moussa - from his narrow escape from the pharaoh's massacre of newborn Jewish children to his death in sight of the Promised Land - is a ripper, but I'd forgotten just how bloody it was. Within 25 minutes of the opening credits rolling here, Moses (Dougray Scott, pictured, centre, from Desperate Housewives) has bludgeoned three other blokes in the head with rocks, killing one of them. There are some impressive computer-generated miracles, Paul Rhys (The Cazalets) is great as the cowardly, impotent pharaoh Ramses, and the many other recognisable cast members include Naveen Andrews (Lost), Claire Bloom, Padma Lakshmi and Omar Sharif. Worth a look.

Inside: Bethlehem Under Fire

National Geographic, 7.30pm

A look at the sad state of affairs in Bethlehem, which Christians are fleeing in droves. Soon, it seems, the only Christians left in the city will be the priests at the Church of the Nativity. This sober documentary looks back at the siege of the church in 2002 after dozens of Palestinians wanted by Israeli authorities took refuge there, how the Israeli Government¿s security wall has strangled the city, and how with five members of *Hamas* and one of Islamic Jihad having being elected to the city council, Bethlehem is now listed as a ¿terrorist municipality.

Extreme Makeover Home Edition

W, 11.30pm

Sunday - Pay TV

The show that's synonymous with gap-toothed <u>women</u> going in for expensive dentistry, along with a nose job, tummy tuck and whatever else the surgeon is up for, has turned its attention to building houses for needy Americans. Tonight's house, which is to accommodate New Jersey woman Beverly Turner and the 14 or so special-needs children she has adopted, is enormous. It's a three-storey, purpose-designed monster of a building that comes with high-end furniture and appliances, including a lift. The big reveal in a street full of hundreds of cheering neighbours and volunteers is nice, and it's good to see such a tawdry television franchise repaying its debt to society.

Load-Date: March 19, 2008



The Daily Star (Lebanon)
March 4, 2008 Tuesday

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Length: 490 words

Byline: Tamara Qiblawi

Body

Several hundred schoolchildren took part in a Hizbullah-organized demonstration outside UN headquarters in the Lebanese capital on Monday to protest against Israel's deadly offensive in Gaza. Twenty schools participated in the rally, organizers said. The children presented a letter to a UN representative calling on the world body to take action.

BEIRUT: Several hundred schoolchildren took part in a Hizbullah-organized demonstration outside UN headquarters in the Lebanese capital on Monday to protest against Israel's deadly offensive in Gaza. Twenty schools participated in the rally, organizers said. The children presented a letter to a UN representative calling on the world body to take action.

The pupils held aloft pictures of Hizbullah's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and of some of the children killed in Gaza during Israeli land and air strikes over the weekend.

"Where are children's rights?" asked one banner carried by the demonstrators, some of whom wore Palestinianstyle checkered headscarves.

"USA and Israel, the same face of terror," read another.

The demonstration came after more than 100 people, including dozens of <u>women</u> and children, died in Israeli military raids since last Wednesday.

"I came here to encourage the kids in Gaza," said 8-year-old Rawan.

Dozens of demonstrations also took place in Palestinian refugee camps throughout southern Lebanon on Monday.

Hundreds of Palestinian students took part in <u>Hamas</u>-organized demonstrations in the Rashidiyeh, Bourj al-Shemali and Al-Bass camps, near the southern port city of Tyre.

Demonstrators in the Bass camp set ablaze portraits of US President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, while others burned US and Israeli flags.

"Ban Ki-moon, do you feel with Gaza's children?" one banner asked, referring to the UN chief.

Meanwhile, members of the American University of Beirut (AUB) community staged a "die-in" Monday afternoon to protest attacks on Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

More than 30 students, members of faculty and staff lay in the Main Gate area of the college campus draped in Palestinian flags and checkered traditional keffiyeh headdresses, emulating the Gazans killed in the Israeli onslaught.

"We are here not here under the name of a nationality or a [political] club or any kind of political identity," event organizer Bahaa al-Kayyali told the crowd. "We are here as students, staff and faculty members standing in solidarity with the people of Gaza who are dying everyday."

Event coordinators included senior members of nine student clubs at AUB.

"We are in AUB [but] we are still in an Arab country," said the president of AUB's Syrian Cultural Club, Sara Ajlyakin, "It's very important that we speak out against the atrocities done against our people in Gaza."

"This is a very disturbing period in our history," said Sharif Abdunnur, who teaches performing arts. "It's now or never. You either speak or you cease to exist."

Load-Date: June 30, 2008



The Daily Star (Lebanon)
March 4, 2008 Tuesday

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Length: 490 words

Byline: Tamara Qiblawi

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Load-Date: October 22, 2008



News in brief

The Jerusalem Post September 10, 2008 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 501 words

Byline: Jerusalem Post staff, Yaakov Lappin and Tovah Lazaroff

Body

Ramle man held for Niv murder

A Ramle resident has been arrested on suspicion of involvement in the murder of Prof. David Niv, director of the pain clinic at Tel Aviv's Sourasky Medical Center, police said Tuesday. It was the second arrest in the case, following the detention of Kafr Kassem resident Salim El- Buz earlier this week. Niv was shot to death on February 6, 2007, while driving home on the Aluf Sadeh Highway in Ramat Gan. His car was riddled with bullets and investigators said it looked like the work of professional hit men. In May of that year, Fatah's Aksa Martyrs Brigades posted information on its Web site taking responsibility for the attack, saying they had been targeting an MK and had killed Niv by mistake. * Jerusalem Post staff

Suspected 'honor killing' near Afula

The body of a 30-year-old woman was found in a house in Shibli, near Afula, on Tuesday, in a suspected 'honor killing.' Police suspected murder, and arrested her brother. Their identities were not released for publication. * Jerusalem Post staff

Three suspected of human trafficking

A 47-year-old man, his 23-year-old girlfriend and a 34-year-old-man - all from Tel Aviv and suspected of operating a human trafficking ring - were arraigned in the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Tuesday. The three allegedly brought in <u>women</u> from Ukraine to be prostitutes.

Two <u>women</u> in their 20s said that for months, they were employed as prostitutes. Their pimps would allegedly call them and arrange meetings with clients in hotels in Tel Aviv. Out of the NIS 800 paid by the client, the pimp would pay the young woman NIS 50, pocketing the rest, the <u>women</u> told police. Each woman was reportedly forced to pay \$1,000 for her travel to Israel. * Jerusalem Post staff

Woman nabbed for beating daughter

A 34-year-old Bat Yam woman was arrested overnight Monday for allegedly attacking her nine-year-old daughter, police said Tuesday morning. Police were called by neighbors who heard screams coming from the home. The daughter told police that her mother beat her while screaming and laughing simultaneously. * Jerusalem Post staff

'Cave of Patriarchs not vandalized'

News in brief

Police denied Tuesday that any incident of vandalism has occurred at the Cave of the Patriarchs. They reached this conclusion after dispatching an officer to the scene following claims of vandalism that were published on-line.

No formal complaint had been lodged and despite appeals by the police to the settler community heads in the area, no one spoke with the police about the alleged incident. Hebron's Jewish community sent out a press release on Saturday night alleging that Palestinians had urinated next to an ark with Torah scrolls and had tossed <u>Hamas</u> flags in the area next to the memorials of the the biblical matriarch and patriarchs. They asked that Muslims be barred from praying there, including on Fridays. For the month of Ramadan, the cave is open only to Muslims on Fridays. Jews are prohibited from being there at that time. * Yaakov Lappin and Tovah Lazaroff

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Democracy: fragile seeds that fall on stony ground

The Times (London)

January 14, 2008, Monday

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Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 35

Length: 456 words

Byline: Richard Beeston Foreign Editor

Body

Halfway through his eight-nation tour of the Arab world, President Bush delivered yesterday what his hosts had long expected: a call for democracy to flower in the arid political climate of the Middle East.

Three years ago, when he made the drive for democracy in the region the central pillar of US foreign policy for his second term in office, the impact caused political shockwaves among friends and foes in a part of the world where rulers and dictators have long resisted change.

Yesterday the Bush message was far less strident, in large part because the experiment is widely regarded to have failed and the Administration is seen as too weak to apply any meaningful pressure in its dying months in office.

Egypt, the largest and most influential Arab state, was supposed to have been the test bed for America's experiment. The pressure on the regime of Hosni Mubarak forced the country to loosen restrictions on political opponents and hold multicandidate presidential elections. The Cairo spring was short-lived. Mr Mubarak won a fifth term, his chief rival for the presidency languishes in jail, the main Islamist opposition is banned and the authorities have once again stifled political debate.

Saudi Arabia, an absolute monarchy ruled by King Abdullah, never even pretended to buy into the American experiment. It has introduced modest democratic reforms, but change is so sluggish that there is no threat to the existing political establishment, a partnership between the House of Saud and the clergy.

One place that Mr Bush wanted to visit was Lebanon. Unique among nations in the region, its street protests in 2005 led to the removal of Syrian troops and the election of a pro-Western government.

However, the dreams of the "Cedar Revolution", as it was known, have all but evaporated. The country's infrastructure was devastated during the 2006 war with Israel, which America and Britain supported. The Government has since been unable to function properly because of blocking tactics from the pro Syrian opposition and assassinations of key figures, for which Syria is widely blamed.

Democracy has also caused as many problems as it was supposed to solve. The election victory of *Hamas*, which won Palestinian parliamentary polls in 2006, has divided Palestinians and complicated peace efforts.

Even Iraq, a country that has had more elections and referendums than most Western democracies, still has little to show for it. Until violence is halted and real reconciliation can begin between rival sects and ethnic groups, democracy will remain a slogan.

Democracy: fragile seeds that fall on stony ground

If there is any modest achievement in the region, it lies in the Gulf, where countries such as Kuwait and Bahrain have held multiparty elections and encouraged *women* to take part.

Load-Date: January 14, 2008



THEN & NOW: THE STORY SO FAR; It was created from the ashes of the Holocaust, and grew into one of the most confident (and controversial) nations in history. Today, as Israel turns 60, its people's hopes for a peaceful future are as delicately poised as ever

Independent Extra
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First Edition

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Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE

Body

You get the clearest sense of it in Tel Aviv. Swinging in on the Ayalon highway past the 50-floor Azrieli towers, joining the entrepreneurs in their open-necked shirts and jeans tapping at their laptops at a cafe off the Rothschild Boulevard, lunching among the families and fashionistas at the beachside Manta Ray, or wandering through the elegantly renovated lanes of Neve Tzedek, where Jews in the 1880s first started spreading north along the coast from Jaffa, the still-mixed neighbouring Arab port town that secular, hedonistic, Tel Aviv grew out of, you quickly begin to see how much Israel has achieved in the last 60 years.

And certainly there will be much for the country to celebrate on Independence Day today, the holiday that begins a week of high-profile anniversary events, reaching their climax with President George W Bush's traffic-stopping, TV network clogging, second visit of the year next Tuesday. It was here, on a Friday afternoon in mid-May in the main hall of the Tel Aviv Museum, that David Ben-Gurion, with the other signatories, to the accompaniment of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra, put their names to the Declaration of Independence which marked the end of the British mandate and the beginning of the state of Israel. Since then, it has built a formidably strong economy, world-class science and medicine, some of the world's most advanced agriculture - making, in the words of the old Zionist mantra "the desert bloom" - and revived, to an astonishing extent admired even by the state's most strident critics, the Hebrew language. It absorbed with remarkable success one million Russian-speaking immigrants after the fall of the Soviet Union; it has a vibrant cultural scene, a vigorous and often highly critical press, and, with all its faults, a viable parliamentary democracy.

Yet amid the celebrations - from a Jewish astronaut sending greetings from space to Israel, to an attempt to set a world record for the number of people singing the national anthem, Hatikva - Israel approaches its 60th birthday with some ambivalence. More, perhaps, than it did its 50th - and more even that it expected to, a few weeks ago. Having survived an excoriating inquiry into a war in which, unlike the many others Israel has fought from 1948 on, it failed to be victorious, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert might have expected to bask in the attentions of world leaders over the next week with a relative sense of political security. Instead, he finds himself the focus of a new police investigation over corruption allegations. Some commentators are dancing around a temporary gagging order to imply that it may be the most serious yet, triggering fresh speculation about how long he can last in office.

THEN & NOW: THE STORY SO FAR It was created from the ashes of the Holocaust, and grew into one of the most confident (and controversial) nations in history. Tod....

But the sense of uncertainty has its roots in something more fundamental than that. Olmert is not, to coin a phrase often used by both Jews and Arabs in the Middle East, a prophet. And even if he were, he would probably not be believed by an increasingly cynical public. But however long he lasts, one of his abiding legacies may well be the stark observation that the state would be "finished" if prospects of a two-state solution collapsed and Israel was to remain in control of the occupied Palestinian territories. His argument, more familiar in the past from Palestinians themselves and the Israeli left, was that the demise would trigger a demand from Palestinians for equal votes in all the territory now controlled by Israel, a demand that the international community could not long ignore and would mean the end of the Jewish state. If Olmert is to be believed, therefore, at a time when it is natural to think ahead to the next 60 years, the fate of the state itself may yet be nearing a decisive turning point.

Certainly, it is a sobering thought that, 60 years after Ben Gurion signed the declaration, Israel remains a state without agreed or defined borders. The declaration itself came in the midst of a bloody war - on both sides - of course. Or, rather, two wars, the first between the Jews and Arabs of the Holy Land, and the second between Israeli forces and the Arab national armies. In the non-Jewish calendar, 15 May is the actual date - the day after Ben-Gurion signed the declaration - of the end of the British mandate, and it is that which will be marked by most Palestinians as the anniversary of the Nakba, or disaster which saw 700,000 forced out or flee their homes in what is now Israel. A month earlier, 250 mostly non-combatant Arabs, including many women and children in the mainly peaceful village of Deir Yassin on the outskirts of Jerusalem had been murdered in a massacre carried out jointly by the Etzel and Lehi militias. It is a reminder of the savagery of warfare on both sides that the counter killings in the wake of Deir Yassin took the lives, six days later, of 77 Jewish doctors, nurses and patients travelling in armoured buses to the Hadassah Hospital in Mount Scopus. But that did not diminish the role of the Deir Yassin massacre as having "probably the single most lasting effect of any single event of the war in precipitating the flight of Arabs from Palestine". These are the words of Benny Morris, who said the massacre was accompanied by cases of "mutilation and rape" and was one of the first Israeli (as opposed to Arab) historians - 20 years ago - to challenge the myth that Palestinians left merely because they were ordered to do so by Arab leaders. Morris documented expulsions by Jewish military forces in many parts of the country.

Ben-Gurion's Declaration of Independence had not specified the borders of the new Israel. And, as the historian Avi Shlaim has pointed out, the March 1948 "Plan D" of the Haganah - the mainstream military under Ben-Gurion which became the Israel Defence Force - was to secure all the areas allocated to Israel by the UN partition plan as well as Jewish settlements outside them, along with the corridors leading to them. Shlaim says that while the wording was vague, its objective "was to clear the interior of the country of hostile and potentially hostile Arab elements and in this sense it provided a warrant for expelling civilians". Either way, by the time of the armistice in 1949, Israel had greatly expanded what it had been given under the partition plan. West Jerusalem, Ramle, Lod, Beer Sheva and what had been intended as the isolated Arab enclave of Jaffa, were all among the urban centres now firmly in Israel's hands.

It is logical, in retrospect, to see this as the price paid by the Palestinians and Arab leaders for their rejection of the UN November 1947 partition plan - easily the best offer they would get. But in any case, it was the 1949 Armistice lines that remained the de facto borders until the Six Day War in June 1967, when Israel's victory left it in control of the West Bank and Gaza. And 60 years later it is those same lines - more often known as the 1967 borders or the green line - and precisely how near them would be the borders of a future Palestinian state, that are at the heart of discussions between Olmert and the Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas.

It is a truism that the contours of an agreement that Abbas could accept aren't that difficult to define. The various freelance joint Israeli-Palestinian variations on the 2000 Clinton parameters have them all - maybe a one-to-one land swap to compensate for settlement blocs on the Palestinian side of the green line that would stay in Israeli hands, and the division of Jerusalem with the Arab Eastern sector as the Palestinian capital. Even on the one issue that still flows directly from the war of 1948 - and remains the most neuralgic for many Israelis - that of the right of return for the families of refugees, some form of compromise, built on serious international compensation, some third-country resettlement and some Israeli recognition of what happened in 1948, is not beyond the bounds of possibility. Earlier this week in the Balata refugee camp in Nablus, long seen as a hot-bed of West Bank militancy, memories of 1948 seemed as fresh as ever, the rhetoric as resounding. A frightened Ahmad Khamis was just 12

THEN & NOW: THE STORY SO FAR It was created from the ashes of the Holocaust, and grew into one of the most confident (and controversial) nations in history. Tod....

when he put his younger brother and sister on his bicycle after the mortars started to hit his village of Kfar Ana. He pedalled furiously to the - very temporary - safety of Lod, while his parents feverishly gathered blankets and food to follow them, hours later, from a home they would never enter again. Khamis, now a retired contractor, began with the standard reply. "We want our return," he insisted, "I may not see it, but my grandchildren will."

Yet by the end of the conversation, Khamis was agreeing that if there was a real and contiguous Palestinian state - "There are 20 checkpoints between here and Ramallah," he claimed - with easy access to Jordan over the Allenby Bridge, then things would be different. His brother, he admitted, now in a refugee camp in Jordan, had told him he would accept compensation.

Khamis's problem, like that of many Palestinians - and, for that matter, many Israelis - is precisely that he doesn't see a Palestinian state happening. And certainly the difficulties with the current negotiations are all too easy to enumerate. The first is the idea - in some ways reminiscent of the failed Oslo agreement - that any deal between Olmert and Abbas, if by some miracle there is one, would be a "shelf agreement" implemented only when Israel, and presumably the international community, judges that a Palestinian Authority can guarantee Israeli security. It would be difficult enough for Abbas to agree a compromise on the right of return in a deal that immediately ushered in a Palestinian state; much more so if there is no state nearer than on some distant horizon. Secondly, there are Olmert's internal political problems with an Israeli right that either sees no urgency for a negotiated solution or doesn't believe in one. Thirdly, there is a guite widespread international consensus that, while the Palestinian Prime Minister, Salam Fayad, has made some strides towards managing Ramallah's money and slowly improving security, as envisaged in Annapolis, Israel has taken few of the also envisaged parallel steps to free Palestinian movement - Khamis's checkpoints - and improve the economy, even in the West Bank. Tony Blair, as the international Middle East envoy, correctly believes that a negotiating process can only be credible to deeply sceptical Palestinians if there are tangible improvements on the ground. This is hardly surprising, given that the settlements, the roads that serve them and the military presence that protects them (covering some 40 percent of the West Bank and far more deeply embedded than anything that existed in Gaza before disengagement in 2005), make it increasingly difficult to imagine to what a viable Palestinian state would now look like. Blair has suggested several modest steps to Israel, including the removal of some (real) checkpoints within the West Bank and letting American-trained Palestinian forces in Jenin take over security from Israel. It remains to be seen whether he will succeed before President Bush arrives next week.

And finally, there is the total exclusion and continued Israeli international isolation of an increasingly devastated and impoverished Gaza and its de facto rulers, <u>Hamas</u>. You don't have to be an admirer of <u>Hamas</u> - much less of its murderous attacks on Israeli civilians over the past decade - to see, first, that it is not simply going to disappear and secondly, as diplomats increasingly agree in semi-public, the isolation strategy has simply not worked. Last week in Gaza, a prominent businessman told me that he had to lay off all but 15 of his previous 200-strong workforce because of the bar on imports and exports. He estimated that perhaps 80 per cent had since joined <u>Hamas</u>-affiliated organisations - ranging from its internal police force to the militant Izzedine al Qassam brigades. If anything, the blockade has cheapened the price in wages <u>Hamas</u> has to pay for its recruits.

It is common to see obstacles in the way of a two-state solution as simply the Palestinians' problem. But supposing it is Israel's problem, too? What, for example, if Olmert is right and Israel faces a long-term existential threat that cannot be dealt with by military means, but only at the negotiating table with a genuine, rather than a virtual, offer? And what if the crippling paralysis of a Bush-led international community is now actively helping the powerful forces on both sides, Israeli and Palestinian, that do not want a negotiated solution to advance their cause?

For the paradox is that, bleak as most Israelis and Palestinians believe the prospect of peace to be with its neighbours, opportunities for hope certainly exist. Talks with Syria are being openly advocated by some in the Israeli security establishment; a ceasefire with *Hamas*, which might turn a vicious circle in Gaza into a virtuous one, appears to be on offer. But Israel continues to hesitate over Syria and to contemplate a big and bloody incursion, or incursions, into Gaza - with no-one-knows how many more Palestinian civilian casualties - that might just well take such a ceasefire off the table.

THEN & NOW: THE STORY SO FAR It was created from the ashes of the Holocaust, and grew into one of the most confident (and controversial) nations in history. Tod....

There are, of course, risks in what former foreign minister Shlomo Ben-Ami described this week as "the radical change in strategy" Israel now needs as an alternative "to the traditional tendency of its leaders to make decisions only on the basis of the worst scenario". But if Israel makes no such change, the risks may be even greater.

Citing Anwar Sadat's insistence that Jimmy Carter broker an Egyptian peace agreement, and the role of the first intifada in prompting Israel to move towards the Oslo process, Ben-Ami pointed out that historic moves towards peace had actually been as a result of Arab actions rather than Israeli ones.

"The Jews did not survive all the horrors of the Holocaust just to entrench themselves in the bastions of their beliefs and to remain in the right but stuck," he concluded. "They survived in order to create an answer to what appeared for too long to be an insoluble problem: how to make the Jewish state legitimate in the eyes of those who regard themselves as its victims."

THE STATE WE'RE IN

STEVEN BERKOFF

actor and author

The establishment of Israel was one of the greatest miracles of the 20th century. It is tragic that Palestinians have been displaced, and that has never been the intention of the Jewish population or the immigrants. It is rather more tragic that Arabic leaders declared war at its birth.

THE STATE WE'RE IN

JESSICA TRUMAN,

22, from London is chair of Union of Jewish Students

Israel has been instrumental in creating my Jewish identity. I went to Israel at 16 on a tour, and have been very active in the Jewish community. However, I am very British and love British culture and how it's very multicultural.

THE STATE WE'RE IN

MALCOLM RIFKIND MP

I think the 60th anniversary of the creation of Israel is an occasion to celebrate. I don't agree with everything the Israeli government does, but the state has been a success in providing a stable democratic society and is the first realisation of the concept of a Jewish state.

THE STATE WE'RE IN

NICKY WOOLF 21, student, from York

I've never really felt a need to have a homeland other than the UK - especially not a religious one. So I find it hard to identify with Israel. While I can understand the mindset behind it, I've always thought that it stemmed from attitudes that belong to an older, post-war world; times have since moved on.

THE STATE WE'RE IN

BELLA FREUD

fashion designer & writer

THEN & NOW: THE STORY SO FAR It was created from the ashes of the Holocaust, and grew into one of the most confident (and controversial) nations in history. Tod....

I wouldn't celebrate the anniversary, not while Israel is occupying Palestine. It's an illegal occupation. Its everything I stand up against. Everyone's critical about China's occupation of Tibet but they're more reluctant to condemn the same thing in Palestine - but with much more violence.

THE STATE WE'RE IN

DAVID BADDIEL

comedian and author

The thing about Israelis is that they're not really Jews. Jews are nebbish, self-doubting, indoorsy, bookish, ironic, keen to blend in with their neighbours and, most importantly, not hard. Israelis are basically spaghetti-western banditos in yarmulkes. Thus I have always found the state slightly difficult to relate to.

THE STATE WE'RE IN

TIFFANY GIFF

student from London

The land of Israel, the homeland of the Jewish people, is a significant and remarkable thing. It symbolises the hope that the Jews have carried in their hearts for thousands of years; it is the pinnacle of the Jewish existence, bringing together our displaced peoples into one land, where we are free to practice our religion.

THE STATE WE'RE IN

ABE HAYEEM

founder member of Architects and Planners

for Justice in Palestine

A lot of Jewish people, people who know what's going on, are not confused by the myth and PR from the Israeli embassy. We feel this anniversary is not a cause for celebration, given the treatment of the Palestinian people, but more a time for reflection.

23 October 1998

Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu signs Wye River Memorandum outlining further Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

25 May 2000

Israeli troops conclude three-day withdrawal from the occupied zone of southern Lebanon.

11 july 2000

President Bill Clinton hosts Camp David summit at which Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat fail to agree on a "historic compromise".

September 2000

Second intifada begins, after Ariel Sharon visits the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The following year, Sharon is elected prime minister.

16-17 April 2001

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THEN & NOW: THE STORY SO FAR It was created from the ashes of the Holocaust, and grew into one of the most confident (and controversial) nations in history. Tod....

After Palestinian mortar bombs hit the southern Israeli town of Sderot, Israel launches a fierce naval, air and land assault on Palestinian targets, regaining territory in Gaza that had been previously ceded to the Palestinians.

24 June 2002

President George W Bush announces his initiative on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, outlining a vision of a two-state solution. "For too long, the citizens of the Middle East have lived in the midst of death and fear," he says. He calls for the removal of PLO leader Yasser Arafat in elections to be held by the end of the year.

How Israel's borders have changed

UN Partition plan

UN General Assembly votes to partition British Mandate Palestine into Jewish and Arab sectors. Soon after the adoption of the resolution on 29 November 1947, fighting breaks out and civil

war spreads.

Declares independence

Independence declaration recognised internationally but conflict spreads and five Arab armies invade. By the 1949 armistice, Jordan has captured the West Bank, Egypt has Gaza and

Jerusalem is divided.

Six Day War

Israel in preemptive strike against three Arab states, capturing Gaza and Sinai peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank from Jordan, the Golan Heights from Syria and Arab East Jerusalem.

Gaza withdrawal

Israel withdraws unilaterally from Gaza and part of the West Bank, but further withdrawals from Arab land tied to implementation of Annapolis peace plan, providing for two-state

solution.

Load-Date: May 8, 2008



The Obama-Bush presidency

The Jerusalem Post July 25, 2008 Friday

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Byline: CAROLINE B. GLICK Highlight: COLUMN ONE

Body

US Democratic presidential candidate Senator Barak Obama's trip to the Middle East has been a boon for his campaign's photo archive. The past week has seen the presumptive Democratic nominee feted by the leaders of Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Obama's foreign policy pronouncements have been a source of concern in the region, particularly in Iraq and in Israel. As The Washington Post noted Wednesday, Obama's announced timeline calling for the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq within 16 months is opposed by the US commander in the country, Gen. David Petreaus, as well as by Sunni tribal leaders. Moreover, although Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki seemed to support Obama's withdrawal timeline when he told Der Spiegel Saturday that he supports a withdrawal of US forces from Iraq by 2010, he later backtracked on that statement, telling Obama that the date needs to be flexible and based on conditions on the ground.

While visiting Israel, Obama said that he is willing to use military force to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. But he undercut his own message by continuing to insist that he favors direct US negotiations with Iran.

As for the Palestinian conflict with Israel, Obama says that he views the peace plan laid out by former president Bill Clinton as a reasonable "starting point" for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The Clinton plan calls for an Israeli withdrawal from some 95 percent of Judea and Samaria, and the division of Jerusalem, with Palestinian sovereignty over the Temple Mount.

If that is the "starting point" for negotiations, it is worth considering what the "endpoint" would be.

Then, too, as Israel's withdrawals from Gaza and Lebanon demonstrated, all areas transferred to the control of terror forces become active bases for terror and jihad. Given the jihadist state of Palestinian society, how can Obama think that the reenactment of that same failed policy in Jerusalem and the outskirts of Tel Aviv will bring different results than it has in Gaza and Lebanon?

Obama presents his foreign policy plans as a way to "fix the damage" that he claims has been caused by the Bush administration's foreign policy mistakes. But the plain truth is that there is little difference between the policies he espouses and those of the Bush administration.

Indeed, any residual disparities between the Bush administration's policies and those Obama recommends were erased over the past month. As Obama works to project the image of a centrist pragmatist in foreign affairs ahead

The Obama -Bush presidency

of the US general election, over the past few weeks President George W. Bush has moved sharply to the left, feverishly implementing all of Obama's most radical preferred policies.

On Wednesday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held a meeting with her North Korean counterpart, Ro Tong II, in Singapore. The meeting followed North Korea's recent submission of an 18,000 page "declaration" of its nuclear activities.

North Korea was supposed to submit that document 16 months ago. As if tipping their hat to their own brazen mendacity, the North Korean report was printed on paper contaminated with enriched uranium that the North Koreans claim they do not possess.

Yet in spite of its lateness and its obvious mendacity, the Bush administration wasted no time announcing that Pyongyang's radioactive declaration was the major breakthrough Washington had been waiting for.

Immediately upon receiving the North Korean declaration, and while refusing to release its contents to the public, Bush announced that he is removing North Korea from the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. As far as Bush is concerned, Pyongyang - which has been actively involved in Iran's nuclear program and built a clone of its Yongbyon nuclear reactor in Syria - is no longer a US enemy.

As former US ambassador to the UN John Bolton wrote in The Wall Street Journal, "the administration has accepted a North Korean 'declaration' about its nuclear program that is narrowly limited, incomplete, and almost certainly dishonest in material respects."

For his part, Obama applauded Bush's about-face on North Korea. In his view, the only thing wrong with Bush's policy is that Bush hasn't yet met face-to-face with North Korean dictator Kim Jung II.

BUSH'S DECISION to abandon even the pretense of seriousness in his handling of North Korea's nuclear program and its proliferation activities in exchange for a few photo opportunities is just one capitulation among many. Over the past week, it has been matched by a near- identical capitulation on Iran's nuclear weapons program - a capitulation backed up by a US nod to Teheran's quest for hegemony over Irag.

Last Saturday, Bush broke his last remaining red line for dealing with Iran's nuclear weapons program by dispatching his No. 3 diplomat, Undersecretary of State William Burns, to Geneva to meet with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili in spite of the fact that Iran refuses to suspend its uranium enrichment.

From media reports of Burns' encounter with Jalili, it is fairly clear that Iran used the opportunity of American knee buckling to humiliate Uncle Sam for its gesture of good faith. Jalili presented Burns and his colleagues with an Iranian "none-paper."

A "none-paper" is a misspelled "non-paper" or a nonbinding position paper. Apparently, the misspelled title was just a prelude to the syntactically and grammatically incoherent Iranian essay whose content essentially boiled down to a longwinded Iranian call for the US to shove it.

Rice reacted to Iran's display of contempt with angry words this week. Rice said that Iran's paper was "not serious" and that if Teheran doesn't accept the US-European "carrots," within two weeks, the US will move to impose stronger sanctions on Iran for its nuclear weapons program.

It is far from clear though that stronger sanctions are even a remote possibility. Moscow apparently interpreted Bush's decision to dispatch Burns to kowtow to Jalili as a sign of American weakness. In the wake of Saturday's embarrassing exchange, senior Israeli defense sources told Reuters that Russia is planning to begin shipping its advanced S-300 anti-aircraft systems to Iran in September. The S-300 batteries can track 100 targets simultaneously and fire on planes 120 km. away. Once they are operational, it will be far more difficult for Israel or another military force to attack Iran's scattered, hardened nuclear installations from the air. It is hard to imagine Russia would go through with the controversial deal if Moscow believed that the US would do anything to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The Obama -Bush presidency

The day before Jalili embarrassed Burns, Bush made a move that calls into question the viability of his most hard-won foreign policy accomplishment - the independence of post-Saddam Iraq. Until last Friday, Bush had been clear that US combat forces will remain in Iraq for as long as necessary to prevent Iran from taking control of Iraq and to protect the oil-rich Gulf state from jihadists who share Iran's plan to transform Iraq into the next Lebanon.

Then last Friday, Bush signaled that perhaps staying the course is no longer his preferred policy. In a joint statement with Maliki, Bush announced that the two leaders have set a "time horizon" for transferring security responsibility over the country to the Iraqi government. While Bush and his surrogates have been quick to make a distinction between his "time horizon" and Obama's "timeline" for withdrawal, it is undeniable that by introducing a "time horizon" for withdrawal he has made it more difficult to argue against Obama's planned withdrawal "timeline."

Obviously US forces shouldn't remain in Iraq longer than necessary. But to ensure Iraq's continued independence and viability as a terror-fighting, pro-Western state, US forces will have to stay there for a considerable period. If the US commits to a "timeline" or "horizon" for leaving Iraq, it will induce Iraqis to begin cutting deals with Iran. This is the lesson of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

IN THE months leading up to the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000, more and more soldiers and officers from the IDF-allied South Lebanese Army began defecting to Hizbullah. They saw the writing on the walls. They knew they would be no match for Iran's foreign legion in Lebanon without IDF support. And so they did what they needed to do to stay alive.

And if the US goes ahead with its withdrawal, it will find itself presented in the future with the same unenviable options that Israel faces with today's Hizbullah-dominated Lebanon.

It will either have to turn its back on Iraq - and on the memory of the 4,100 US servicemen and <u>women</u> who have given their lives in the Iraqi campaign - and allow Iran to take over, or it will have to reinvade the country - at much higher cost in blood and treasure than maintaining the current force in place. And like Israel's 2006 war with Hizbullah, a renewed US invasion will be carried out with far less leadership commitment and national resolve than is necessary to see that next round of war through to victory.

Then there is Bush's recent mania for the swift establishment of a Palestinian state despite the obvious fact that such a state would be a jihadist-run, Iranian- allied terror state. Here, too, there is no light between Bush's policies and Obama's policies. Like Bush, Obama is perfectly capable of visiting bombed-out Sderot and failing to notice that Sderot's fate is the consequence of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza. While loudly proclaiming his commitment to Israel's security, Obama calls for an Israeli withdrawal from Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem, and due sensitivity to the "plight" of the Palestinians who democratically elected <u>Hamas</u> to govern them.

This of course, is no different from Rice's repeated calls for Israel to curtail its counterterror operations in Judea and Samaria and to allow <u>Hamas</u> to remain in power in Gaza in the interests of "strengthening" <u>Hamas</u>-allied, terror supporting PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

When Bush entered office in 2001, he was faced with a raging Palestinian terror war against Israel. That war was the direct consequence of his immediate predecessor's decision in his waning days in power to throw caution to the wind in a vain attempt to leave a diplomatic legacy of peace treaties that would perhaps earn him a Nobel peace prize.

Yet in fairness to Bill Clinton, his intellectual collapse, which occurred on only one front, was nowhere near as radical or as strategically dangerous as Bush's abandonment of prudence on all fronts. Moreover, unlike Bush's behavior, which contravenes any possible political logic, Clinton's actions were more or less aligned with the interests of his party. In contrast, Bush is personally legitimizing all of Obama's radical foreign policies and doing so to the direct detriment of Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain's campaign.

Bolton wrote that Bush's policies have brought about "the early start of the Obama administration." Just imagine where we will be in the second, third and fourth year of the Obama era.

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The US strategy for Afghanistan won't work

The Independent (London)
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Section: COMMENT; Pg. 26

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Byline: Patrick Cockburn

Body

"COVERT ACTION is frequently a substitute for policy," was an aphorism first coined by the former director of the CIA Richard Helms. Its truth is exemplified by the decision of President Bush in July to secretly give orders that US special forces will in future carry out raids against ground targets inside Pakistan, without getting the approval of the Pakistani government.

Mr Bush's order is fraught with peril for the US and Nato forces in Afghanistan. In one respect, it is a recognition at long last by Mr Bush that the Taliban and their al-Qa'ida allies could not stay in business without the backing of Pakistan. This is hardly surprising, since it was Pakistani military intelligence which largely created them in the first place.

It was always absurd for the White House and the Pentagon to pour praise on the former Pakistani leader General Pervez Musharraf as their greater ally against terrorism, despite the clearest evidence that it was the Pakistani army which has been keeping the Taliban going since 2001.

True to Helms's nostrum, Mr Bush has not adopted a new policy, but is resorting to covert operations, the political disadvantages of which are obvious, and military benefits dubious. A good example of this is the first of these operations undertaken under the new dispensation. On 3 September, two dozen US Navy Seals were helicoptered in to South Waziristan in Pakistan, where they attacked a compound, aided by an AC-130 gunship. When they retreated, they said they had killed many al-Qa'ida fighters, though a senior Pakistani official later said that the true casualty figures were four Taliban and al-Qa'ida "foot soldiers" and 16 civilians, including *women* and children.

It is a curious way to usher in democracy in Pakistan. Once Pakistan emerges from its preoccupation with the Ramadan fast, it will create nothing but anger among Pakistanis. It will alienate the Pakistani army, which has been humiliated and disregarded. Politically, it only makes sense in terms of American politics, where it will be seen as a sign that the administration is doing something in Afghanistan. It also diverts attention from embarrassing questions about why the Taliban is such a potent force seven years after it had supposedly been destroyed in 2001.

Use of covert forces to achieve political ends with limited means has always held a fatal attraction for political leaders. CIA officials have become used to being dumped with insoluble problems, with peremptory orders to "Get

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rid of Khomeini" or "Eliminate Saddam." Plots to do just that are the common theme of a thousand Hollywood movies, which revolve around the dispatch of elite forces into enemy territory, where they successfully dispatch some local demon.

In reality, covert warfare seldom works. Up-to-date intelligence is hard to come by. Take, for instance, the repeated claims by the US Air Force that it had killed Saddam Hussein during the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. This was meant to be based on up-to-the minute information, much of which turned out to be spurious. Of course Saddam had survived, though not the poor civilians who had the ill luck to live or work where the Iraqi leader was meant to be.

The media plays a particularly nasty role in all of this. Stories of the attempts to kill Saddam Hussein were given maximum publicity. Their total failure was hardly mentioned. The reaction of the Pentagon to the killing of large numbers of civilians in Afghanistan, Iraq and now Pakistan has traditionally been first to deny that it ever happened. The denial is based on the old public relations principle that "first you say something is no news and didn't happen. When it is proved some time late, that it did happen, you yawn and say it is old news."

For some reason, the Israelis have a reputation for being good at undercover operations. This is hardly difficult in Gaza, where the enemy is so puny and vulnerable. But while I was stationed in Jerusalem for this newspaper, Israeli intelligence was involved in a series of ludicrous fiascos. My favourite was when the chief Mossad agent in Syria turned out not to exist, though his Israeli handler happily pocketed several million dollars that the spy was supposedly receiving for his treachery. The handler concocted the agent's reports and one of these, falsely claiming that Syria was plotting a surprise military offensive, even managed to get the Israeli army mobilised.

Israel also provides a classic example of a covert operation that will produce limited gains if it is successful, and a diplomatic disaster if it does not. In September 1997, two Mossad agents carrying forged Canadian passports tried to assassinate Khaled Mashal, a Jordanian citizen, in the centre of the capital Amman. He was the head of the political bureau of <u>Hamas</u> in Jordan. The ingenious method of assassination was to inject a slow-acting poison into his ear as he entered his office. In the event, the would-be poisoner was captured after a chase through the streets of Amman. Four other agents took refuge in the Israeli embassy.

The mission had been given the go-ahead by the Israeli prime minister of the day, Benjamin Netanyahu, who had simply ignored the idea that it might go wrong. King Hussein was reduced to threatening to storm the Israeli embassy unless Israel handed over an antidote to the poison. Israel was forced to release Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the head of *Hamas*, and other Palestinian prisoners from jail.

Covert operations only really succeed when they have strong local allies who want outside support. There are two recent outstanding examples of this. In Afghanistan in 2001, US special forces reinforced the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance and, most importantly, gave them forward air controllers who could call in air strikes. Two years later, US special forces played a similar role in northern Iraq, when they provided air support to Kurdish troops attacking Saddam's retreating army.

But if covert forces are acting alone, they are very vulnerable. What will happen to them in Pakistan if they get in a fire fight with regular Pakistani forces? What will they do if they are ambushed by local tribesmen allied to the Taliban? Usually, the first to flee in these circumstances are the local civil authorities and the civilian population, so the Taliban will be even more in control than they were before.

Helms's dictum was right. The Bush administration got itself into a no-win situation in Afghanistan. "The US attack on Iraq," writes the Pakistani expert Ahmed Rashid, in his newly-published Descent into Chaos, "was critical to convincing Musharraf that the United States was not serious about stabilising the region, and that it was safer for Pakistan to preserve its own national interest by clandestinely giving the Taliban refuge."

The covert action in Pakistan is merely an attempt to divert attention from the consequences of this bankrupt American policy.

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On NYTimes.com

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 4

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Body

A Weekend in Palermo

After decades of postwar neglect, the Sicilian capital is poised for a comeback. Crumbling roads are being repaved and landmarks are being scrubbed clean. A slide show of some of Palermo's best, including the statues in the Oratorio del Rosario di Santa Cita, far left, and the banyan trees in Piazza Marina, left.

nytimes.com/travel

Baghdad Bureau

The Road to Anbar

Alissa J. Rubin blogs about a recent reporting trip to Anbar Province in Iraq, and how the visit brought back vivid memories of previous journeys for her and her Iraqi interpreter.

nytimes.com/baghdadbureau

SLIDESHOW: A MUSEUM IN GAZA

The first museum of archaeology in Gaza opens this month. Gaza was once a thriving multicultural crossroads, and is now isolated and ruled by *Hamas*.

nytimes.com/world

Times Topics

After the Karadzic Arrest

Legal experts discuss the arrest of Radovan Karadzic and what it means for the International Criminal Court, war crimes prosecutions and the future of President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan.

nytimes.com/topics

AUDIO: THE FAMILY BUSINESS

On NYTimes.com

The Duplass brothers, directors of the documentary-style fiction horror/comedy "Baghead," interview each other, discussing their film and their fears.

nytimes.com/movies

Well

AUDIO: Does Dieting Work?

In her weekly podcast, Tara Parker-Pope talks with Gina Kolata about a recent study that casts doubt on whether dieting can help people lose weight.

nytimes.com/well

City Room

AUDIO: 'Only in New York'

In his weekly podcast, Sam Roberts goes back 30 years to when one of New York City's most monumental laws was passed: Curb your dog!

nytimes.com/cityroom

AUDIO: ANOTHER STRIKE

Even though Yiskar Caceres, 19, was arrested three times last year for selling drugs, a judge gave him another chance. But Mr. Caceres was arrested again in April and could face up to nine years in state prison. From Rikers, he talks about his fate.

nytimes.com/nyregion

SLIDESHOW: 'PRETTY UGLY' SLIDESHOW: 'HOW SOON IS NOW?'

Slide shows of two current New York City art shows. "Pretty Ugly" is an everyone-into-the-pool group exhibition featuring about 75 artists, Holland Cotter writes. And at the Bronx Museum of Art, "How Soon Is Now?" featuring the work of 36 emerging artists, is a cacophony of mediums, materials and styles, Roberta Smith writes.

nytimes.com/design

Opinion

JUDITH WARNER: THE OTHER HOME EQUITY CRISIS

<u>Women</u> who have lost their jobs in the economic downturn -- or who have left them out of necessity -- should be considered unemployed. They should not be thought of as having chosen to stay home with their children.

nytimes.com/judithwarner

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

On NYTimes.com

PHOTO: A Weekend in Palermo: After decades of postwar neglect, the Sicilian capital is poised for a comeback. Crumbling roads are being repaved and landmarks are being scrubbed clean. A slide show of some of Palermo's best, including the statues in the Oratorio del Rosario di Santa Cita, far left, and the banyan trees in Piazza Marina, left. nytimes.com/travel

Load-Date: July 25, 2008



Palestinian plows into traffic with earthmover

The International Herald Tribune
July 23, 2008 Wednesday

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Byline: Isabel Kershner and Graham Bowley - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Graham Bowley reported from New York. Myra Noveck contributed reporting from Jerusalem.

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For the second time in a month, a Palestinian driving a large construction vehicle plowed into traffic on a busy Jerusalem street Tuesday, hitting a bus and mangling cars before being shot to death.

The driver wounded about 16 people before being shot by a passerby and a border police officer, officials said. On July 2, another Palestinian drove a construction vehicle on a rampage in central Jerusalem before an off-duty soldier and a police officer clambered up to the cabin and shot him to death. At least three people were killed and more than 40 wounded in the earlier attack, Israeli officials said.

There were no fatalities Tuesday besides the driver of the construction vehicle, the authorities said, although at least one person was badly wounded. Yonatan Yagadovsky, director of the international department of the rescue organization Magen David Adom, said that person had lost a leg.

The police identified the driver as Ghassan Abu Tir, 22, of Umm Tuba, an Arab village in the southeast of the city with a strong *Hamas* presence. Relatives and neighbors said he was not affiliated with any militant group.

He was stopped when the off-duty soldier shot into the vehicle. A border police officer who arrived soon afterward also shot him, the police said, "to confirm his death."

Minutes after Tuesday's attack, many of those wounded were still being led away from the scene by the emergency services and the area was closed off.

The attack took place in Jerusalem's upscale hotel district, where the local media reported that Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee for U.S. president, planned to stay overnight while on a weeklong overseas tour.

"Today's bulldozer attack is a reminder of what Israelis have courageously lived with on a daily basis for far too long," Obama said at a news conference in Amman. "I strongly condemn this attack and will always support Israel in confronting terrorism and pursuing lasting peace and security."

After the attack, witnesses said the construction vehicle, which they described as a large digger, had been riddled with bullets.

Palestinian plows into traffic with earthmover

Witnesses said the vehicle was driven from a construction site behind the YMCA building opposite the King David Hotel.

When the vehicle emerged onto King David Street, it first hit a bus, whose driver reacted quickly and drove off the road, according to Bentzi Gottesman, 24, who was working in a nearby gallery. The construction vehicle then proceeded slowly along the main street, deliberately hitting cars along the way, Gottesman said.

Another witness, Moshe Feiglin, said: "The first thing he tried was to lower the shovel on a *female* pedestrian right near me. I jumped when there was a boom as the shovel hit the street. He missed by centimeters, thank God.

"In the first second I thought it was some kind of accident, confusion, but then he continued in a zigzag on King David Street, hitting cars, turning over cars."

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