

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:31:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223447000

### Documents (100)

#### 1. Turkey is turning away from the West

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 2. A suffocating consensus of self-congratulation

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 3. Stories from the other side

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 4. Q&A session with consul general of Israel at San Jose State U. cut short by protests, rowdy crowd

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 5. The savaging of humanitarian law Mobilizing the UN II

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 6. The savaging of humanitarian law Mobilizing the UN II

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 7. Stories from the other side

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 8. Talking Softly About Democracy Promotion

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 9. The savaging of humanitarian law Mobilizing the UN II

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 10. The savaging of humanitarian law Mobilizing the UN II

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

11. War, from a distance

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

12. Dev Nadkarni: Pakistan unrest world's flashpoint

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

13. The savaging of humanitarian law Mobilizing the UN II

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

14. Rights column sparks discussion

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

15. Locals embrace vision of future - CAIRO ADDRESS: A NEW BEGINNING

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

16. Why Israel is slated

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

17. Situation: Hope-less?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

18. Elections still a display of democracy other countries dream of

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

19. <u>International: The US and Islam: Obama woos Muslim world with call for a new understanding: President</u> urges 'mutual respect' in landmark address, and strongly backs two-state solution to Palestinian conflict

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

20. Books

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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#### 21. Zionism and the global anti-Semitic frenzy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 22. Kerre Woodham: Trouble brewing over coffee shop refusal

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

# 23. Rockets, economics and miracles shape voting patterns in South. Cities targeted in recent fighting show support for wide range of parties

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 24. FG rejects criticism of stance on Gaza as Kenny prepares to visit the region

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 25. Obama

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

# 26. A speech that might change the world OBAMA'S DREAM: President lays out path for Muslim world and West to find peace

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 27. Pope's lack of specifics on Gaza, Holocaust disappoint Muslims and Jews

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 28. WITH POMP, ARCHBISHOP IS INSTALLED

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 29. Feature - View from Israel - Hunt for the war criminals

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 30. Feature - View from Israel - Hunt for the war criminals

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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#### 31. Israeli soldiers admit Gaza abuses



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 32. We cannot ban the freedom to be objectionable

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 33. The IDF fog machine at work

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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#### 34. Old fashioned censorship

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 35. Israeli rivals claim election victory; Voting closes with political uncertainty

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 36. Huge JI women rally demands Israel 's war crime trial

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

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Jun 30, 2009

37. THE AFTERLIFE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

38. Shushan and Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

39. 50/50

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

40. YOUR LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

41. YOUR LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

42. INSIDE: Villagers tell of Israeli 'war crimes' in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

43. Growing demand to investigate charges of war crimes committed by Israel POLITICS: Gaza Killings Trigger

Call for War Crimes Probe

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

44. A tough test for `smart power'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

45. International: Iraq: Tamil Tiger teenage girl led the way with the slaying of Rajiv Gandhi: Female suicide

**bombers** 

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

46. Female suicide bombers: Tamil Tiger teenage girl led the way

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

47. Peace activists barred from Gaza Canadians in Egypt hoping to deliver medical supplies, toys

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

48. OBAMA IN CAIRO THE PRESIDENT'S FRESH START WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

49. WORLD DIGEST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

50. Obama calls for an end to 'suspicion and discord' in address to Muslim world

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

51. <u>Iran: root of ME terrorism Guest columnist Arnold Roth rebuts Gwynne Dyer's comparision of Israeli and South Korean reactions to the threat of nuclear attack, published in yesterday's Kalgoorlie Miner.</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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52. Israel: Welcome to the promised land

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

53. Disproportionate response does no good

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

54. Israelis killed 'innocents': General; Commander admits tactics to save soldiers added to toll of January war

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

55. The trouble with censorshp; Like eating potato chips, censorship is hard to stop once you get the taste

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

56. Inside the Times, January 29, 2009

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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57. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

58. ISRAELIS ARE JUST DEFENDING THEMSELVES

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

59. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

60. Tunnel effect on an Egyptian town Rafah's economy is based on underground supplies to Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

61. International aid organisations are demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza MIDEAST: Israel Ignores

U.N. Security Council Resolution

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

62. Why we are here

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 63. Is Al Jazeera part of the Muslim Brothers' program?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 64. We cannot turn a blind eye to the hunger for freedom in Iran secondglance

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 65. Readers write

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 66. US Calls for End to Hostilities in Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

# 67. Israelis admit killing civilians in Gaza conflict; Soldiers' accounts of shooting unarmed women, children spark calls for inquiry

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

68. <u>Sherborne calls for action on gaza Fighting continues in the Gaza Strip despite a cease-fire being declared</u> weeks ago.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

69. <u>Sherborne calls for action on gaza Fighting continues in the Gaza Strip despite a cease-fire being declared</u> weeks ago.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

70. Palestinian crisis 'a humanitarian tragedy'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

71. Sherborne calls for action on gaza Fighting continues in the Gaza Strip despite a cease-fire being declared weeks ago.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

72. Hillary Clinton promises the new America will become the world's friend

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

73. Why silence on Iran when terror reigns?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

74. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

75. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

76. REFORMISTS ARE KEY IN IRANIAN ELECTIONS AHMADINEJAD FACES CHALLENGE TODAY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

77. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

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

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 78. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 79. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 80. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 81. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 82. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 83. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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#### 84. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 85. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 86. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 87. Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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#### 88. Jaw-jaw has always been better than war-war LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 89. Jaw-jaw has always been better than war-war LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 90. First Lady to CNN: Will international community accuse Israel of war crimes?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

91. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 92. JCPA Approves Effort To Build Dialogue With Muslim Groups

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 93. Letter: America must put pressure on Israel



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

#### 94. Wards of madness; Doctors call for halt to Gaza onslaught

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 95. Syracuse students gather for peace in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

#### 96. Gazan Doctor's Tragedy Opens Israelis' Eyes to Palestinian Pain

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

# 97. After the hatred, a glimpse of hope Beyond Terror and Martyrdom By Gilles Kepel HARVARD £18.95 (328pp) (free p&p) from 0870 079 8897

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

98. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009

99. Comparing Israel with Nazis wrong

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Jun 30, 2009

100. Comment & Debate: Indiscriminate slaughter from the air is a barbarism that must be abolished: From Vietnam and Iraq to Gaza today, history testifies that aerial bombing is an ineffective, intolerable military tactic

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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# Turkey is turning away from the West

therecord.com
February 10, 2009 Tuesday
Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A9

Length: 866 words

Byline: Soner Cagaptay, Washington Post

## **Body**

Turkey is a special Muslim country. Of the more than 50 majority-Muslim nations, it is the only one that is a NATO ally, is in accession talks with the European Union, is a liberal democracy and has normal relations with Israel.

However, under its current government by the Justice and Development Party -- in Turkish, the AKP) -- Turkey is losing these special qualities. Liberal political trends are disappearing, European Union accession talks have stalled, ties with anti-Western states such as Iran are improving and relations with Israel are deteriorating.

Recently, for example, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan walked out of a panel at Davos, Switzerland, after chiding Israeli President Shimon Peres for "killing people." If Turkey wavers in its commitment to transatlantic structures such as NATO, it cannot expect to be President Barack Obama's favourite Muslim country.

Consider the domestic situation in Turkey and its effect on relations with the European Union.

Although Turkey started accession talks, that train has come to a halt. French objections to Turkish membership slowed the process, but the impact of the AKP's slide from liberal values cannot be ignored. After six years of AKP rule, the people of Turkey are less free and less equal, as various news and other reports on media freedom and gender equality show. In April 2007, for instance, the AKP passed an Internet law that has led to a ban on YouTube, making Turkey the only European country to shut down access to the popular site. On the United Nations Development Program's gender-empowerment index, Turkey has slipped to 90th from 63rd in 2002, the year the AKP came to power, putting it behind even Saudi Arabia. It is difficult to take seriously the AKP's claim to be a liberal party when Saudi women are considered more politically, economically and socially empowered than Turkish women.

Then there is foreign policy. Take Turkey's status as a NATO ally of the United States: Ankara's rapprochement with Tehran has gone so far since 2002 that it is doubtful whether Turkey would side with the United States in dealing with the issue of a nuclear Iran. In December, Erdogan told a Washington crowd that "countries that oppose Iran's nuclear weapons should themselves not have nuclear weapons."

The AKP's commitment to U.S. positions is even weaker on other issues, including <u>Hamas</u>. During the recent Israeli operations in Gaza, Erdogan questioned the validity of Israel's United Nations seat while saying that he wants to represent <u>Hamas</u> on international platforms. Three days before moderate Arab allies of Washington, including Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, gathered on Jan. 19 in Kuwait to discuss an end to the Gaza conflict, Erdogan's officials met with Iran, Syria and Sudan in Qatar, effectively upstaging the moderates.

#### Turkey is turning away from the West

Amazingly, Turkey is now taking a harder line on the Arab-Israeli conflict than even Saudi Arabia.

For years, Turkey has had normal relations with Israel, including strong military, tourist, and cultural and commercial ties. The Turks did not emphasize religion or ideology in their relationship with the Jewish state, so Israelis felt comfortable visiting, doing business and vacationing in Turkey. But Erdogan's recent anti-Israeli statements -- he even suggested that God would punish Israel -- have made normal relations a thing of the past. On Jan. 4, 200,000 Turks turned out in freezing rain in Istanbul to wish death to Israel; on Jan. 7, an Israeli girls' volleyball team was attacked by a Turkish audience chanting, "Muslim policemen, bring us the Jews, so we can slaughter them."

Emerging anti-Semitism also challenges Turkey's special status. Anti-Semitism is not hard-wired into Turkish society -- rather its seeds are being spread by the political leadership. Erdogan has pumped up such sentiments by suggesting Jewish culpability for the conflict in Gaza and alleging that Jewish-controlled media outlets were misrepresenting the facts.

Moreover, on Jan. 6, while demanding remorse for Israel's Gaza operations, Erdogan said to Turkish Jews, "Did we not accept you in the Ottoman Empire?" Turkey's tiny, well-integrated Jewish community is being threatened: Jewish businesses are being boycotted, and instances of violence have been reported.

These are shameful developments in a land that has provided a home for Jews since 1492, when the Ottomans opened their arms to Jewish people fleeing the Spanish Inquisition. The Ottoman sultans must be spinning in their graves.

The erosion of Turkey's liberalism under the AKP is alienating Turkey from the West. If Turkish foreign policy is based on solidarity with Islamist regimes or causes, Ankara cannot hope to be considered a serious NATO ally.

Likewise, if the AKP discriminates against <u>women</u>, forgoes normal relations with Israel, curbs media freedoms or loses interest in joining Europe, it will hardly endear itself to the U.S. And if Erdogan keeps serving a menu of illiberalism at home and religion in foreign policy, Turkey will no longer be special.

Soner Cagaptay, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, is the author of "Islam Secularism and Nationalism in Modern Turkey: Who Is a Turk?"

Load-Date: February 10, 2009

**End of Document** 



# A suffocating consensus of self-congratulation

Guardian.com January 29, 2009

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# theguardian

Length: 837 words

Highlight: Seth Freedman: The role played by the World Jewish Congress as cheerleader for Israel does no

favours for Jews around the world

# **Body**

According to the constitution of the World Jewish Congress, the association's purpose is to "foster the unity, and represent the interests, of the Jewish people"; a weighty mantle to assume, especially given the sheer diversity of the various strands of world Jewry. Despite all the pomp and circumstance surrounding the WJC's 13th Plenary Assembly in Jerusalem, it was clear that the body had no chance of living up to such lofty expectations, precisely because of the make-up of the delegates and their failure to adhere to their own code of practice.

Instead of staying "politically non-partisan and represent[ing] the plurality of the Jewish people", the gathering was simply an opportunity for out-and-out posturing, from the top down. Ron Lauder, scion of the cosmetics family and WJC president, made it his mission from the off to express unambiguous support for the Israeli government, an example repeatedly followed by the rest of the delegates.

While the WJC is a fairly toothless and unrepresentative organisation, the high profile of its leadership means it has the pulling power to attract guests from the uppermost echelons of Israeli politics. Thus, in the space of eight hours, delegates were treated to live performances by the cream of Israeli politics: Shimon Peres, Bibi Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and Jerusalem mayor Nir Barkat, all appearing before an adoring crowd of disciples.

The overriding message from the stage was that Israel had conducted an incredibly moral and well-behaved war in Gaza; the overwhelming response from the audience was that they agreed entirely.

It was painful to witness the way in which the various government ministers were resoundingly applauded for Cast Lead. The more I've learned about the devastation wreaked by the IDF on Gaza, the more contrite I've become about my initial support for such an attack on <u>Hamas</u>. However, I was in a tiny minority at the WJC, and forced to listen to delegate after delegate standing up to congratulate Peres, Barak and Isaac Herzog for their roles in the operation.

"The spokesman's English was flawless, which really helped get Israel's point of view across," kvelled one eager attendee. "We all thought your PR campaign was brilliant this time round." Perhaps, but what about the savage bombing campaign in the first place? English-speaking apologists for the mass-killing of civilians are all well and good for an Israel-right-or-wrong audience in Anglophone countries, yet not so effective with Pakistani and Indonesian viewers who don't understand English, but who comprehend entirely pictures and video of dead <u>women</u> and children.

#### A suffocating consensus of self-congratulation

Barak asserted that "he found the support on the [Israeli] street heartwarming, with people proud of the IDF ... and their attempts to minimise civilian casualties," a statement cueing yet more sycophantic applause from the audience, and a delegate responding: "We are very impressed by the way you handled this terrible war."

Peres maintained that objecting voices in Britain should be ignored, asking: "Did they protest the bombing of Israelis in the 90s?" He then chose to belittle the British activists and the BBC in one fell swoop: "With respect, the world is a bit wider than [just them] - they don't criticise us in India, and the majority of the US population understands what we're doing too."

Minister Herzog also mentioned the BBC in passing, noting that their decision not to air the DEC appeal "shows that people understand that there are two sides to every story", the implication being that any money donated to destitute and suffering Gazans will, by definition, be turned into weapons by <u>Hamas</u> (despite DEC assurances to the contrary).

Instead of adhering to the millennia-old Jewish tradition of healthy discourse and heated debate, as witnessed in every stage of the oral law's dissemination, the new way of thinking appears to be to show a constantly united front, particularly when it comes to Israel. As one prominent delegate told me chidingly, "It's better to stay silent than to criticise Israel, especially at the moment."

The "Keep it in the family" rhetoric was nothing new, but made all the more chilling precisely because if that's the way the leadership of the WJC try to "foster the unity of the Jewish people", they're getting into a dangerous game. Not least because they are playing right into the hands of those who would paint all Jews as ardent Zionists, and all Zionists as apologists for Israel's misdemeanours.

Just as numerous Jews routinely distance themselves from Israel's actions by declaring "not in my name", they should do likewise with regard to the WJC. Because, for all the self-important cheerleading going on inside the halls of the Inbal Hotel, the WJC represents only itself and its cosy group of acolytes. Shimon Peres is not the president of the Jewish people; nor is Ron Lauder. And the more Jews speak out against the manipulative stances of both men, the better for the real interests of world Jewry - such as security, integrity and communal continuity.

Load-Date: January 29, 2009

**End of Document** 



# Stories from the other side

Daily News Egypt

January 28, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 868 words

## **Body**

It is quite telling that much of Egyptian media coverage of the most recent Israeli attack on Gaza focused on a critical examination of Egypt's own relationship with Palestine; on its complicity or otherwise in the hand-wringing, posturing and conferencing which formed the Arab response to the crisis.

Two camps emerged, broadly-speaking, during this debate. The first decried Egypt's abandonment of its role as defender of Palestine and the alignment of its foreign policy with Israeli interests, while the second posited a suddenly rehabilitated President Hosni Mubarak as peacemaker and defender of Egyptian interests, par excellence.

Egypt's 14 km border with Gaza has come to symbolize this divide. It is variously a bastion of Egyptian sovereignty, an agent of Egyptian complicity in the Israeli attack and, in its incarnation as the transit point for the trickle of injured Palestinians permitted into Egypt for treatment, Gaza's faint pulse.

Ironic perhaps, that a border dividing a single town (Rafah) should have these multiple identities; yet another example of the weird physical realities €" the facts on the ground €" Israel's existence has engendered.

Palestinians pay the price for the political smoke circles of course €" a point Egyptian director Azza Shaaban makes in her moving documentary €œOf Flesh and Blood,€ screened last Monday at Rawabet Theater, when she asks, €œWhy is this border so different to every other border in the world?€

A timely question, as both sides claim victory and Gaza attempts yet again to get back onto its feet and aid continues to force its way across the Rafah Crossing. In her 27-minute film, Shaaban takes the viewers back to January 2008, when Gazans in Palestinian Rafah €" who by then had been under an Israeli siege for a year €" breached the border and crossed into Egyptian Rafah.

Shaaban, armed with a handheld camera and a desire to witness Gaza at first hand, made her way through the throngs of Palestinians and Egyptians buying, selling and bargaining at the demolished border fence, and filmed in a €œfive day sneak€ into the beleaguered Gaza Strip. Her aim, she says, is to €œbreak the silent siege that has been imposed on it for so long, and to present to us a perspective of the people of Gaza different to that which the media presents.€

#### Stories from the other side

Shaaban admits that this is €œthe first time€ that she has picked up a camera €" a fact evident in the film's naive, unfinished quality. Rather than undermining the film, this stripped-down quality (the camera which goes in and out of focus during interviews, the shaking during shots in moving cars) lends it a strange, unearthly power which captures the fragility and desperation of life in Gaza.

A glimpse of life in Gaza €" of its day to day hardships and overwhelming tragedies €" is presented via the group of Gazan *women* Shaaban meets and follows.

A sense of quiet anger, resignation and, most remarkably, humor pervades the film. Thus we see a woman struggling to put petrol into a car's tank using a tube connected to a petrol jerkin. Shaaban explains that the woman has insisted on her taking on a car tour of Gaza despite the siege-induced petrol shortages. €œArabs insist on selling us petrol despite the crisis we're in but I give it to my friend for free,€ the woman jokes.

Having succeeded in filling up the petrol tank, Shaaban and her companion go on a tour of Gaza. What was life like when the settlers were here?

Shaaban asks. The woman explains that she used to spend days at checkpoints, that she was forced to sleep in her car at the checkpoints. The worst thing, she says, is that her house would be visible on the other side.

Another woman recounts the history of her family's three forced displacements since 1948 and the grandchildren her father never saw because he couldn't leave Gaza; the children and their fathers, now resident abroad, were prevented by Israel from entering the Strip. She relates this with an impossible equanimity, jokingly asking someone off camera, €œWhere shall we go the fourth time we have to leave?€

The only music used in the film is a song by the sister of a prisoner of war, Alaa, held in Israel. Shaaban asks her how long Alaa was sentenced to.

Three life sentences, she replies, seeking clarification from her friend of how long a life sentence in Israel is. It is 33 years.

Israel is the absent but omnipresent villain in this story, but <u>Hamas</u> are also the target of anger. A woman asks why in the coup it was only teenaged policemen who died before relating the story of a man who she says had both arms and legs broken by <u>Hamas</u> members after committing an infraction of some sort.

The most poignant moment in the film €" and its masterstroke €" are scenes of a wedding party complete with guests, cake, music and bride. The only thing missing is the groom himself: he is studying in Spain and has not been permitted to reenter Gaza. The families decide to go ahead with the wedding anyway, an act of defiance and desperation. There is perhaps no more powerful symbol of Gaza's plight than this, the abandoned bride of Palestine sitting alone and surrounded by well-wishers unable to do a thing to help her.

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# Q&A session with consul general of Israel at San Jose State U. cut short by protests, rowdy crowd

# University Wire February 9, 2009 Monday

Copyright 2009 Spartan Daily via U-Wire

Length: 842 words

Byline: By Julianne Shapiro, Spartan Daily; SOURCE: San Jose State U.

Dateline: SAN JOSE, Calif.

## **Body**

In a scene that was more a mad house than a discussion, Akiva Tor, consul general of Israel for the Pacific Northwest region, was unable to finish his discussion about the conflict in the Gaza Strip in the San Jose State University Student Union Thursday night.

The moderator of the event, Frances Edwards, ended the discussion 15 minutes early as audience members turned their questions into pro-Palestinian speeches, while calling him a liar and heckling at him. More than half of the 130 people in attendance supported the Palestinian cause.

"I think it was very disappointing that we couldn't have intellectual discourse in a polite environment," said Frances Edwards, a political science associate professor.

Tor discussed two topics, the election of Israel's next prime minister on Feb. 10 and the conflict in Gaza, before taking questions from the audience.

Some members of the audience complained that the original format of the event, which was Tor responding to questions written on note cards, was not fair since not every audience member received a note card beforehand.

Edwards said Tor would speak first and take questions later. Audience members asked if all of the questions would be answered and she responded that that was not the agreement.

"Everyone will have the opportunity to speak, I hope," Tor said. "I don't want to talk at you, I want to talk with you."

He was interrupted five minutes later as audience members yelled, "What about the blockade?" in response to Tor talking about Israel having no other choice than to launch rockets at <u>Hamas</u> in Palestine after the lull was not renewed with <u>Hamas</u>.

Tor responded that he was the speaker and an Israeli diplomat who was proud to represent his country. Some of the audience members booed at him while others clapped.

An audience member kept asking Tor how he could talk about the recent period of rocket fire without talking about the blockade, and was later asked to leave by Edwards.

After audience members kept yelling that Tor was speaking lies, Edwards took the microphone.

Q&A session with consul general of Israel at San Jose State U. cut short by protests, rowdy crowd

"This is San Jose State University," she said. "We are an intellectual community of scholars who would like to learn from each other and if you want to talk over the speaker, you cannot learn from him."

One audience member told everyone to let Tor finish so they would have time to come to questions.

Tor then finished his speech saying he wants peace with the Palestinian people. Some members of the audience clapped. Tor then addressed questions from the audience.

Edwards let five students near the stage to ask their questions. A couple of the students who were picked to ask questions had previously interrupted him while speaking.

Edwards also wanted to have Tor answer five questions written on note cards. She said if the questions were going to be impolite demonstrations then the format was not going to be constructive.

One audience member asked why Israel was contradicting ideas that were on its own official Web site and received applause from the audience.

Tor responded that he was glad the audience member had read the Web site and said he thought it was so authoritative but didn't think he was reading it correctly. He said the cease-fire was imperfect, and an audience member said it was imperfect because Israel violated it.

The audience members said that Tor was full of lies. Tor said to please stop calling him a liar and anyone in the room a liar.

"I respect you more than to attribute to you those kind of potentials," he said.

The next audience member who wanted to ask Tor a question started to directly read from a pro-Palestinian handout that was given out to members of the audience before the event entitled "Albert Einstein, Gandhi, and Bertrand Russell: Israel is an illegitimate, fascist, terrorist state."

After Tor asked for her question more than a minute after she started reading, there was a quarrel between audience members and Michelle Salinsky, president of Spartans for Israel. The <u>female</u> audience member continued to read her handout about Gandhi after a sigh from Tor.

After reading for another two minutes with the microphone in her hand she asked, "Why do you lie so much?" Tor just shook his head while some members of the audience clapped and cheered.

Edwards then tried to limit questions to two minutes, and said she wanted to hear a real question that she wanted Tor to answer and not something that included his honesty.

Another audience member yelled at Tor that she lost four family members in Gaza and asked him if he could justify it. He responded saying he was sorry that it happened.

Tor was asked to speak at SJSU by the Global Studies Club and Spartans for Israel over winter break.

Tor was previously the World Jewish Affairs adviser to the president of Israel and began the organization of the World Jewish Forum, which created a strategy for stemming the assimilation and decline of Jewish life.

He has also served as the director of the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei and as deputy director for Palestinian affairs.

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Load-Date: February 9, 2009

**End of Document** 



# The savaging of humanitarian law; Mobilizing the UN II

The International Herald Tribune January 29, 2009 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 908 words

Byline: Bernard Kouchner - The New York Times Media Group

# **Body**

'Modern" war disgusts us in the tragic consequences it has for civilians.

How could we not be horrified at the sight of bodies, atrociously maimed or burned; the bodies of <u>women</u>, men and children lying in the smoking ruins of their homes, in hospitals unable to cope that have become simply places to die, absent sufficient drugs and equipment?

Unfortunately, such atrocities are to be seen in many places around the world, usually with relative indifference - the paradoxical outcome of the way in which the media have made violence an everyday event.

Somalia, Congo, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Darfur, Gaza: this depressing litany of conflicts with their multitude of innocent civilian victims swept away by the storms of war must not however leave us indifferent.

The international community - and in particular France and the European Union, for which human rights are a core value, the very foundation of their sense of identity - cannot stand silently by in the face of such a situation.

In a period of armed conflict there is in fact a body of rules and principles that all parties to the conflict must obey: international humanitarian law.

That body of law, which has been largely built up since World War II, derives mainly from the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols.

While the International Committee of the Red Cross is the statutory guardian of those standards, all states parties to the conventions must not only obey them but also ensure that they are obeyed by the parties in an armed conflict.

What that means is that the international community has a special responsibility in ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law.

Indeed, one of the essential principles of international humanitarian law is that a distinction must be made at all times and in all circumstances between combatants and non-combatants, along with its corollary: a distinction between military targets and civilian targets, the latter to be protected. There are few conflicts in which that principle is fully respected.

In northeastern Sri Lanka, 230,000 civilians have been caught up in the fighting. The Tamil Tigers are accused by all NGOs of refusing to allow civilians to flee the war zone.

During the Israeli offensive in Gaza, there were several strikes in areas apparently devoid of any identifiable military target, and in particular that of Dec. 27, which hit the Gaza Training College, and the series of bombardments on Jan. 6 aimed at schools run by UNRWA (the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees).

<u>Hamas</u> also is responsible for violations of international humanitarian law, in part by firing rockets which were not aimed at military targets, but clearly intended to terrorize civilians in southern Israel.

Moreover, both Israel and <u>Hamas</u> have used weapons that have indiscriminate effects, since aerial bombing and mortar fire were not used in such a manner as to spare civilians. Yet the prohibition of the use of weapons with indiscriminate effects is another key principle of international humanitarian law.

The tragedy to which we have been witness in recent weeks is unfortunately not an isolated instance. Far too many armed conflicts ravage other parts of the world, from Sri Lanka to Darfur, from Somalia to Iraq, each with its funeral procession of massacred innocents. In each case the parties commit grave breaches of international humanitarian law, and in some cases mass atrocities punishable by international criminal justice.

Access is impeded to humanitarian aid and aid workers, plunging civilians into total destitution and depriving them of the most basic medical treatment. Children, some less than 10 years old, are enlisted as soldiers as well as sex slaves.

In various conflicts, rape is increasingly being used in a systematic, planned and large-scale manner; in short, it is used as a genuine weapon of war, whether in the Kivus or in Sudan, with almost total impunity. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a woman is raped every 30 minutes; 30,000 were raped in the Kivus in the first half of 2007.

In the face of situations in which civilians are deliberately targeted, the maintenance and the restoration of peace are constant challenges.

France is engaged in numerous peacekeeping operations under UN mandates. The purpose of several of them - first and foremost the European Union operation in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic - is to provide protection to innocent civilians.

Such protection must involve first and foremost a guarantee of adherence to the principles of international humanitarian law in armed conflict and the inclusion of the issues surrounding the protection of civilians in mandates for peacekeeping operations.

I am convinced that compliance with international humanitarian law must be made the subject of depoliticized discussions at the United Nations, since such compliance is the duty of all, irrespective of the legitimacy of the military action undertaken by a specific state or armed group.

That is why I have asked France's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York to mobilize our partners on this matter. An initial meeting will be held in the coming days with a view to organizing a debate in the weeks to come.

What is at stake here is the credibility of the United Nations, and of the Security Council in particular, as the guardian of international peace and security.

Bernard Kouchner is the foreign minister of France.

Load-Date: February 4, 2009



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The International Herald Tribune January 29, 2009 Thursday

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Load-Date: March 2, 2009



# Stories from the other side

Daily News Egypt

January 28, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 868 words

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The only music used in the film is a song by the sister of a prisoner of war, Alaa, held in Israel. Shaaban asks her how long Alaa was sentenced to.

Three life sentences, she replies, seeking clarification from her friend of how long a life sentence in Israel is. It is 33 years.

Israel is the absent but omnipresent villain in this story, but <u>Hamas</u> are also the target of anger. A woman asks why in the coup it was only teenaged policemen who died before relating the story of a man who she says had both arms and legs broken by <u>Hamas</u> members after committing an infraction of some sort.

The most poignant moment in the film €" and its masterstroke €" are scenes of a wedding party complete with guests, cake, music and bride. The only thing missing is the groom himself: he is studying in Spain and has not been permitted to reenter Gaza. The families decide to go ahead with the wedding anyway, an act of defiance and desperation. There is perhaps no more powerful symbol of Gaza's plight than this, the abandoned bride of Palestine sitting alone and surrounded by well-wishers unable to do a thing to help her.

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Load-Date: January 29, 2009



# Talking Softly About Democracy Promotion

The New York Times
January 30, 2009 Friday
The New York Times on the Web

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Section: Section; Column 0; National Desk; Pg.; ON THE WHITE HOUSE

Length: 845 words

Byline: By HELENE COOPER

**Dateline: WASHINGTON** 

# **Body**

Here is one thing on which democracy experts agree: When Barack Obama took the oath of office last Tuesday, he did more in one instant, as a minority candidate, to promote the American ideal of democracy to the outside world than any of his predecessors ever could.

In both developed and developing autocracies, the election of a minority candidate stands as a powerful example of the American democratic model.

But what concrete steps will Mr. Obama take to promote democracy?

The mixed results of President Bush's freedom agenda left some proponents queasy about even using the word "democracy" overseas. His administration got elections in Iraq and Afghanistan only after invading those countries, and it encouraged them in the Palestinian territories only to reject the results when <u>Hamas</u>, the militant Islamist organization, won.

During his second inaugural address in 2005, Mr. Bush used soaring language to lay out his freedom agenda. The words "freedom," "free," and "liberty" appeared 49 times, as Mr. Bush expounded on democracy as a retrospective justification for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and his vision of America's mission in the world.

"The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands," Mr. Bush said. "The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world."

Now, some of Mr. Obama's aides are suggesting that he "talk less and do more," in the words of Michael McFaul, who advises Mr. Obama on both Russia and democracy issues and is likely to be headed to the White House staff.

"President Bush delivered several lofty speeches explaining why the United States should promote freedom, yet Ayman Nour sits in jail in Egypt," Mr. McFaul said in a paper he prepared last year on how the United States should support democracy abroad. He was referring to the main opponent of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in the 2005 elections, who was imprisoned on fraud charges that Mr. Nour's supporters regarded as politically motivated.

But "rather than speeches or even grand goals," Mr. McFaul said, "the next administration should seek to achieve small, concrete outcomes that advance political freedoms in very tangible ways and do so, without talking about doing so."

#### Talking Softly About Democracy Promotion

To be sure, Mr. Bush raised the issue of Mr. Nour with Mr. Mubarak as recently as last May, and he has that he believes Mr. Nour has been unjustly imprisoned.

But Mr. Bush did not come to office in 2001 with big promises about democracy promotion; indeed, his initial foreign policy agenda was stingy on the nation-building front. After Sept. 11, 2001, Mr. Bush and his aides decided that autocratic regimes, particularly in the Middle East, fostered hopelessness that led to the attacks on the United States.

From then on, Mr. Bush's national security agenda elevated democracy promotion to be a central objective of foreign policy. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice followed her boss's 2005 inauguration freedom speech with one of her own, in Cairo a few months later. She called on America's closest allies in the Arab world, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to embrace democracy by holding fair elections, releasing political prisoners and allowing free expression and rights for *women*.

The trouble, according to Francis Fukuyama, a political economist at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, was that the United States was perceived as insincere, given the Iraq War, the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, the military prisons at Guantanamo Bay and other assorted policies.

"The problem with Bush's legacy is they tied democracy promotion so much to the Iraq war justification and the war on terrorism that it made American policy look hypocritical," Mr. Fukuyama said. "If you use the language that Bush used in the second inaugural, all of that soaring rhetoric, it's going to make you look stupid when <u>Hamas</u> comes to power."

He and other democracy experts do credit Mr. Bush with creating the Millennium Challenge Account, which greatly increased United States foreign aid to countries that practiced good government and met certain specific goals. In addition, Mr. Bush greatly increased the amount of money the United States spent to fight AIDS and malaria overseas, an initiative that -- which experts say are initiatives that can lead to democracy by first helping poor people get access to the basic tools they need to live.

Mr. Obama's aides say that he will probably continue the Millennium Challenge program. Beyond that, it is unclear what specific steps Mr. Obama intends to take on democracy promotion.

Making good on his promise to shut down the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay could be viewed as a step towards democracy promotion, some experts said. Mr. Obama has also promised to increase United States foreign assistance to \$50 billion by 2012. But he made that promise before the economic crisis erupted last fall, and fiscal constraints, along with America-first politics, could force him to cut back on foreign assistance instead.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: January 30, 2009



## The savaging of humanitarian law; Mobilizing the UN II

The International Herald Tribune January 29, 2009 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 908 words

Byline: Bernard Kouchner - The New York Times Media Group

## **Body**

'Modern" war disgusts us in the tragic consequences it has for civilians.

How could we not be horrified at the sight of bodies, atrociously maimed or burned; the bodies of <u>women</u>, men and children lying in the smoking ruins of their homes, in hospitals unable to cope that have become simply places to die, absent sufficient drugs and equipment?

Unfortunately, such atrocities are to be seen in many places around the world, usually with relative indifference - the paradoxical outcome of the way in which the media have made violence an everyday event.

Somalia, Congo, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Darfur, Gaza: this depressing litany of conflicts with their multitude of innocent civilian victims swept away by the storms of war must not however leave us indifferent.

The international community - and in particular France and the European Union, for which human rights are a core value, the very foundation of their sense of identity - cannot stand silently by in the face of such a situation.

In a period of armed conflict there is in fact a body of rules and principles that all parties to the conflict must obey: international humanitarian law.

That body of law, which has been largely built up since World War II, derives mainly from the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols.

While the International Committee of the Red Cross is the statutory guardian of those standards, all states parties to the conventions must not only obey them but also ensure that they are obeyed by the parties in an armed conflict.

What that means is that the international community has a special responsibility in ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law.

Indeed, one of the essential principles of international humanitarian law is that a distinction must be made at all times and in all circumstances between combatants and non-combatants, along with its corollary: a distinction between military targets and civilian targets, the latter to be protected. There are few conflicts in which that principle is fully respected.

In northeastern Sri Lanka, 230,000 civilians have been caught up in the fighting. The Tamil Tigers are accused by all NGOs of refusing to allow civilians to flee the war zone.

During the Israeli offensive in Gaza, there were several strikes in areas apparently devoid of any identifiable military target, and in particular that of Dec. 27, which hit the Gaza Training College, and the series of bombardments on Jan. 6 aimed at schools run by UNRWA (the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees).

<u>Hamas</u> also is responsible for violations of international humanitarian law, in part by firing rockets which were not aimed at military targets, but clearly intended to terrorize civilians in southern Israel.

Moreover, both Israel and <u>Hamas</u> have used weapons that have indiscriminate effects, since aerial bombing and mortar fire were not used in such a manner as to spare civilians. Yet the prohibition of the use of weapons with indiscriminate effects is another key principle of international humanitarian law.

The tragedy to which we have been witness in recent weeks is unfortunately not an isolated instance. Far too many armed conflicts ravage other parts of the world, from Sri Lanka to Darfur, from Somalia to Iraq, each with its funeral procession of massacred innocents. In each case the parties commit grave breaches of international humanitarian law, and in some cases mass atrocities punishable by international criminal justice.

Access is impeded to humanitarian aid and aid workers, plunging civilians into total destitution and depriving them of the most basic medical treatment. Children, some less than 10 years old, are enlisted as soldiers as well as sex slaves.

In various conflicts, rape is increasingly being used in a systematic, planned and large-scale manner; in short, it is used as a genuine weapon of war, whether in the Kivus or in Sudan, with almost total impunity. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a woman is raped every 30 minutes; 30,000 were raped in the Kivus in the first half of 2007.

In the face of situations in which civilians are deliberately targeted, the maintenance and the restoration of peace are constant challenges.

France is engaged in numerous peacekeeping operations under UN mandates. The purpose of several of them - first and foremost the European Union operation in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic - is to provide protection to innocent civilians.

Such protection must involve first and foremost a guarantee of adherence to the principles of international humanitarian law in armed conflict and the inclusion of the issues surrounding the protection of civilians in mandates for peacekeeping operations.

I am convinced that compliance with international humanitarian law must be made the subject of depoliticized discussions at the United Nations, since such compliance is the duty of all, irrespective of the legitimacy of the military action undertaken by a specific state or armed group.

That is why I have asked France's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York to mobilize our partners on this matter. An initial meeting will be held in the coming days with a view to organizing a debate in the weeks to come.

What is at stake here is the credibility of the United Nations, and of the Security Council in particular, as the guardian of international peace and security.

Bernard Kouchner is the foreign minister of France.

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Bernard Kouchner is the foreign minister of France.

Load-Date: February 27, 2009

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## War, from a distance

The Independent (London)
January 19, 2009 Monday
First Edition

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Section: Pg. 46

Length: 784 words

Byline: Jon Snow

## **Body**

There have been two versions of the assault on Gaza played out over the past three weeks. One is the moderated account aired in the West; the other is the unexpurgated account of civilian deaths filmed in vivid close-up inside Gaza. Has the Western account, restricted by the Israeli ban on journalists in the conflict zone, been so reduced as to dull the scale of protest? Has the volume of images of death injury and destruction played and replayed in the Arab media served to radicalise and enrage the Islamic world still further? Thus creating a gulf so unbridgeable that it defeated even the passage of a unanimous UN call for a ceasefire? I want to take you on a personal journey that I made to the region last week.

I am standing on the so-called "hill of shame" - a strange bump of terrain with three trees on top and a cascade of camera's tents and television dishes pouring down the other side. This is as close as the world's media has come to the Israeli invasion of Gaza. I have been unable to clarify whose "shame" the hill celebrates. Is it the stream of ordinary Israelis who come to cheer the booms of Israeli bombs and shells and the plumes of resulting smoke? Is it the shame of reporters stymied in their attempts to reach Gaza? Either way it has made me think again about war reporting.

People talk about the smell of cordite and the first-hand contact with fear. The Israeli blockade of Gaza and the exclusion of all journalists from the conflict emphasise, in a way that I've not really understood before, how important it is for those who report the horror of war actually to experience what they're communicating.

The noise and distant smoke of war in this spot, perhaps a mile back from the fence with Gaza, is simply a tableau, because I feel no fear and I can see no victims and hear no cries.

Later, I see on al-Jazeera the aftermath of those attacks: wailing <u>women</u> running in the streets, carrying the wrapped remains of tiny children. And somehow I remained detached, no closer an observer than if I were in my own living room in London.

Had I been on the ground in Gaza, I would have found out the baby's name, talked to its father, perhaps been to the home - made that human emotional connection between the death of a child and our own living experience. The thing that binds us together and shocks us as humans.

#### War, from a distance

Wrapped remains and wailing <u>women</u> shock, but do not connect in the same way. We see the image, we know it's bad, but we do not experience the emotion. When the Israelis exclude the media, they know what they are doing.

By the next day, I have spoken to two al-Jazeera correspondents by video link on the roof of their studio complex in Gaza City. But as the Israeli military communications unit reports that they have started another phase of this invasion, venturing ever deeper into the urban areas of Gaza, the al-Jazeera reporters could tell me very little either. They can see little of the ground force activity and have to depend on the doctors in the hospital to tell them the human consequences of what has happened.

Such is the nature of this conflict. And it is one the like of which I have never had to cover before. The access has never been so absolutely barred.

I move from the hill to nearby Sderot. This is the front line the Israeli government press office wants me to cover. There is a hole in the bus shelter roof caused by one of the random and ill-guided rocket attacks. Israel's Channel 10 runs blanket coverage of their impact upon Israel's civilian areas. At the time of writing, three Israelis have been killed in these latest attacks, while the army has claimed the lives of more than 1,000 Gazans.

This is the fog of war; full access to the consequences of <u>Hamas</u> attacks, but no direct access to the carnage resulting from the Israeli assault on Gaza. It's a war in which the propaganda machines have been in full cry. The Israeli Defence Forces have uploaded more than 30,000 "action clips" on to YouTube and elsewhere. The Arab media has streamed horrific close-ups of wounds and dead bodies that cannot be seen on British television. Meanwhile, <u>Hamas</u> leaders remain in hiding inside Gaza, with Western journalists unable to interview them or hold them to account for their attacks.

As with every military conflict, the inevitable first casualty is the truth. It is caught in a pincer movement of lack of access and our own regulations, which forbid the most searing images from airing on the dominant mainstream media. The consequence is that the Arab world is seeing a vastly different account of this war from that which we are seeing. That presents a dangerous dynamic for the future.

'Unseen Gaza' is on Channel 4 on 22 January at 11.05pm

Load-Date: January 18, 2009



## Dev Nadkarni: Pakistan unrest world's flashpoint

The New Zealand Herald January 14, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; General

Length: 895 words

#### **Body**

As world attention remains intensely focused on the Israel-Palestine conflict, a similar but far more serious situation with implications way beyond the Middle East may be closer than most people think.

Israel's Gaza action has diverted attention away from the fallout of November's carnage by Islamist gunmen in Mumbai that left nearly 200 dead. Indian authorities have submitted dossiers on investigations linking the planned, co-ordinated attacks to Pakistani nationals and their Pakistan-based sponsors. The reports have gone to the Pakistan Government and Western countries.

After more than a month of consistent denials, Pakistan has grudgingly begun to acknowledge evidence of the involvement of individuals and organisations in that country, despite the FBI, European and Russian investigators having established these links.

Both the outgoing Bush Administration - rather too late in the day - and Obama's regime have acknowledged that the key to making headway in the war on terror lies in dealing with the Pakistan situation first.

The biggest foreign-policy challenge awaiting President-elect Barack Obama is not Iraq or Afghanistan but Pakistan, Stephen Hadley, United States national security adviser told the Wall Street Journal last week.

"Pakistan's increasingly turbulent border region poses threats not just to the US mission in Afghanistan, but also to neighbouring India, as evidenced by the recent Mumbai terrorist attacks, as well as to urban areas of Pakistan itself - and the world beyond. If extremists succeed in destabilising Pakistan, the resulting chaos will threaten the entire region. That's why I think Pakistan is at the centre," he said.

What he left unsaid is the intelligence agencies' fears this might already be happening. The increasingly porous Afghanistan-Pakistan border has waves of Taleban militants making inroads into Pakistan. A month ago, militants bombed a Nato depot destroying dozens of trucks and communication infrastructure besides killing three workers. As a result the Western coalition's operations in a crucial area around Peshawar were temporarily suspended.

Amid rumours of possible military action by India after the Mumbai attacks, the Pakistani Army threatened to move 100,000 troops from its Afghan frontier to its border with India to the East - causing consternation through the Western countries' camp. India assured the world it was not contemplating military action but the Pakistani Army's alacrity in announcing a troop withdrawal from the western front was an emphatic signal about its priorities.

The Taleban considers India one of its main enemies along with Western nations but unlike them India is within easy striking range. It is a soft target and a great one for global exposure.

#### Dev Nadkarni: Pakistan unrest world's flashpoint

There is no doubt Pakistan's announcement to move troops emboldened the Taleban to infiltrate further into Pakistani territory. In fact, the Taleban leadership even issued media statements that it would fight India alongside Pakistani forces.

Indian media have consistently carried reports of the increasing Talebanisation of Pakistani villages where <u>women</u> are barred from being seen in public and schools for girls are being razed. Men have to wear beards and recruitment into their armies continues.

The legal system is being replaced by the Taleban's own brand of brutal, instant justice.

Not containing the Taleban's slow, but what appears to be steady, eastward foray into Pakistan immediately puts the country's nuclear hardware and infrastructure within its greater reach with each passing month. As things stand, Taleban activity is less than 200km from some of Pakistan's nuclear installations.

There is no knowing how safe and secure the country's nuclear chain of command is, what with poorly defined demarcations between the Army and the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), which world intelligence agencies know is teeming with highly placed officials, many of them retired army brass, that are partial to radical Islamist causes and the nuclear establishment.

It's more a question of when, not if, the Taleban infiltrates the Pakistan's nuclear defence system. Not that the Western countries are unaware of this - but the question is how to deal with the situation.

While the West needs to do everything it can to keep President Asif Ali Zardari's democratically elected fledgling Government alive, the Mumbai attacks have pointed to the Government's progressive marginalisation with each passing week. The West is painfully aware that nothing can be achieved without the Army's help.

It can't deal with the Army directly so long as a civilian government is in place and the Army won't listen to its own Government (its reversal of the President's assurance to send the intelligence chief to India after the Mumbai carnage is a case in point).

Instead of the Gaza situation for a moment consider a scenario involving Western nations (with India included). And rather than *Hamas* they are dealing with a far more geographically widespread and nuclearised Taleban.

Instead of the 30-60km range rockets that <u>Hamas</u> has been using on Israeli targets, the scenario in Pakistan could involve dozens of 700-2000km nuclear-capable missiles ready to fly at the push of a button. What you might have is a scenario that will leave the Middle East situation looking like a bar brawl.

\* Dev Nadkarni is an Auckland based journalist.

Load-Date: January 13, 2009



## The savaging of humanitarian law; Mobilizing the UN II

The International Herald Tribune January 29, 2009 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 908 words

Byline: Bernard Kouchner - The New York Times Media Group

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Bernard Kouchner is the foreign minister of France.

Load-Date: January 29, 2009



## Rights column sparks discussion

The Toronto Star

June 24, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A18

Length: 391 words

Byline: Haroon Siddiqui, Toronto Star

## **Body**

Why Tories are worrying

about rights tribunal, June 21

I am fed up with Haroon Siddiqui's interpretation of any negative comment made about Islam, or Muslim countries, as Islamophobia.

On June 21 he wrote: "Similarly, Christians and Jews had been using religious-based arbitration since 1991 in family and business disputes. But no sooner had some Muslims requested it than we had hysteria over sharia." But, in fact, Muslims have been using religious-based arbitration in Ontario with absolutely no problem.

There were many problems with the specific proposal submitted by the Islamic Institute of Civil Justice: there was to be no right of appeal and some of the items being presented as "family law" (provincial) are, in Canada, "criminal law" (federal) - e.g. sex between an adult male and an underage <u>female</u>.

I am neither Islamophobic nor anti-Semitic. I will continue to make rational and logical analyses of all situations and, each time I do so, I expect to get closer to the truth. I hope Mr. Siddiqui will do the same.

Elka Ruth Enola, Oakville

The sooner the Ontario and Canadian Human Rights Commissions, with their openly acknowledged 30-year-old gay bias, are abolished the better. What we now have in Canada is a steadily growing Christianophobia spurred on by hate laws and rights commissions.

Alphonse de Valk, Catholic Insight

Magazine, Toronto

Human Rights Tribunals have gone way beyond what they were intended for, which was to give the truly needy access to quickly resolved legal issues such as being refused rental accommodations. They are not courts of law where the rule of law, procedure and evidence must be presented and presided over by an actual judge. Our legal system is more than capable of dealing with any real cases of hate.

Andrew Phillips, Ottawa

#### Rights column sparks discussion

For Haroon Siddiqui it seems everything is due to anti-Muslim prejudice: Liberals won't remove government funding from Catholic schools, or extend it to other faiths; feminists oppose Ontario government enforcement of Islamic law that discriminates against <u>women</u>; Canada (like Europe) calls <u>Hamas</u> a terror group because of its ideology and tactics; and free speech advocates criticize the Human Rights Tribunal's structure in a system that deprives defendants of many legal protections of the court system, and has no penalty for unwarranted complaints.

David Latner, Toronto

Load-Date: June 24, 2009



# <u>Locals embrace vision of future - CAIRO ADDRESS: A NEW BEGINNING - Correction Appended</u>

Weekend Australian

June 6, 2009 Saturday

1 - All-round Country Edition

## Correction Appended

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 13

**Length:** 307 words **Byline:** JOHN LYONS

#### **Body**

#### **CAIRO**

AFTER Barack Obama's journey into the centre of the Arab world, two things are crystal clear: his vision and his strategy.

His vision has two planks -- that the running conflict of the Middle East, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, be resolved and that the two countries that are moving towards a possible war, Israel and Iran, arrive at a cold peace.

His vision is not of a Greater Israel including the settlements of the West Bank but rather an Israel that has its security guaranteed in the borders it had before 1967, when several of its Arab neighbours, including Egypt and Jordan, launched a surprise attack but were defeated.

As for Israel and Iran, these two countries will almost certainly never be friends. But in a dangerous world where Israel has a large nuclear arsenal and Iran is trying to develop one, Obama wants an accommodation.

Around the Arab world the imagery this week was extraordinary -- Obama and his Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, walking around the Sultan Hassan Mosque in Cairo, one of the Arab world's most famous mosques.

Clinton wore a headdress.

To have a US president in the cradle of Arab culture quoting from the Koran -- and using it to argue against violence -- was historic. Furthermore, he delivered messages not popular with that audience: Israel was here to stay, violence needed to be renounced, the treatment of <u>women</u> needed to improve. Interestingly, it was the last point which received the biggest applause.

The reaction in the Arab world was mostly positive, with a notable exception in <u>Hamas</u>, the militant group that runs Gaza.

For me there was one reaction which was instructive.

#### Locals embrace vision of future - CAIRO ADDRESS: A NEW BEGINNING

It came from an Egyptian man at the check-in counter at Cairo airport. He asked if I were American. When I said no, he said: ``Pity -- I wanted to say your President good man. He wants to do things, not just talk."

#### Correction

IN The Weekend Australian last Saturday (``Locals embrace vision of future", page 13), a reference was made to the 1967 war between Israel and its Arab neighbours beginning with a surprise attack by Arab states. In fact, Israel launched a pre-emptive airstrike on Egypt on June 5, 1967, after Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping.

Correction-Date: June 13, 2009

Load-Date: June 5, 2009



## Why Israel is slated

Cape Times (South Africa)
June 23, 2009 Tuesday
e1 Edition

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Section: Pg. 8

Length: 380 words

## **Body**

Milton Shain is a respected, honest and honourable commentator on Israeli politics and I do not wish to quarrel with his account of the difficulties the State of Israel has faced since its birth (June 22).

But I do want to answer his question, "Why is it only Israel that, in the midst of other most flagrant cruelties and tragedies, is singled out for constant excoriation by the likes of Kasrils?"

The answer is simple - since 1948 we hoped for better. Jews around the world, especially those who do not believe in God and who were proud of the radical tradition among irreligious Jews, believed, perhaps naively, that Israel would uphold those traditional beliefs in the rights of the oppressed and in non-racism.

The settlements on Palestinian land and their continued so-called "natural growth" have been condemned by every fair-minded observer. The programmes violate international law, as has been reaffirmed by the Security Council and the World Court.

In Gaza today, there is more or less universal misery; there is no private sector to speak of and virtually no industry and a substantial portion of Gaza's agricultural crops were destroyed in the Israeli invasion.

The severity of the current blockade on Gaza, which is causing huge suffering among many ill <u>women</u> and children, in what is in effect a vast hostile prison, is not excused by the cruelties and excesses of <u>Hamas</u>. It is particularly saddening for those with initial high hopes for Israel that the Israeli Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, is a democratically elected racist who has proposed to reduce the non-Jewish population of Israel by transferring concentrations of Israeli Arabs (specifically, Wadi Ara in the Galilee) to a "Palestinian state".

Let us be clear, he is referring to Israeli citizens, and he is the Foreign Minister of the State where these citizens and their ancestors have been at home longer than the majority of Jewish Israelis.

This "offer" to swap citizenship is opposed by the proposed victims of the swap, and its racist purpose is to rid Israel of citizens who are not Jews.

Professor Shain is right, shameful behaviour is by no means unique to Israel; he should, however, be pleased that there are many who oppose it, including of course Jews in Israel itself.

Robert Segall

Newlands

Load-Date: June 22, 2009



## Situation: Hope-less?

The Jerusalem Post June 30, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 16

Length: 840 words

**Byline: STWART WEISS** 

Highlight: What started out as an unusual ad campaign has now become a cause celebre in Ra'anana, and

beyond. The writer is director of the Jewish Outreach Center of Ra'anana.

#### **Body**

Driving down the streets of Ra'anana a couple of weeks ago, motorists noticed large posters of a scantily-clad young woman, promoting a local lingerie store called Hope. Only problem was, on most of the posters, the woman was almost completely obscured by heavy black lines that had been drawn to block out almost everything except the name of the company.

But who had done this? The first inclination, of course, was to assume that members of the religious community had objected to the immodest pictures and had taken matters into their own hands.

You could almost picture these intrepid members of the modesty patrol, surreptitiously sneaking around at night, paint brush in hand, merrily masking the maiden, and so sparing the innocent and the pure from the sexy, scandalous scenes that had invaded their neighborhood.

But lo and behold, it soon was learned that it was the company itself that had done the deed! Yes, the posters were created that way from the very beginning, with the model intentionally blocked out. But now the question was why.

Hope's co-owner, Yafit Kavia, maintains that this was just part of a clever ad campaign to attract attention. "It's different, it's unusual," she told me. "We meant no offense to the religious community; in fact, as someone who grew up in a traditional home, I thought it would be totally inappropriate to put up posters of <u>women</u> in their underwear!"

But local residents were not so sure. More than one irate citizen told me, "I'm absolutely certain that the perpetrators of this campaign knew full well that the secular residents would blame the religious for defacing the posters; the religious would then deny it, and the ensuing war of words would keep everyone talking about the store."

COMING ON the heels of a fear-and-smear campaign by Ra'anana's Meretz party in the last local election - which warned voters that, if elected, the religious parties would "close the streets and stores on Shabbat and force their way of life on all of us" - the Hope happening has created a furious debate in the city about the limits of good taste and "freedom of sight." There has even been a call for the mayor to publicly condemn the bizarre advertising gambit, and forcibly remove the posters from the city's streets.

Situation: Hope-less?

But the issues swirling around in this idyllic city of 80,000 are just a microcosm of what is happening throughout our entire society. It's about the great distrust between religious and secular, each of whom believes the opposite side is out to get them. Its about the blame we place - openly or subconsciously - on "the other," who, we are firmly convinced, is to blame for virtually all the ills of the nation.

After all, the religious consider the secular population as second-class, don't they? The secular destroy the Jewish character of the state, they are valueless and only care about their own selfish, material pleasures, and they would gladly hand half this country over to the Palestinians on a silver platter for a phony peace. Right?

As for the secular, they are just as sure that it is the religious who threaten their way of life. The religious want to force Judaism's strictures down everyone's throat; they want to replace our democracy with a theocracy; they care more about some lifeless dunam of biblical land than the future of our own children. Isn't that so?

And therefore, if a controversial photo was blotted out, it must have been the religious who did it! And if such posters were erected like that in the first place, it must have been a secular ploy to make the religious look like fanatical vigilantes. The preconceived notions and nonsense that afflict us are, to me, more frightening than Iran, *Hamas* and the water shortage put together.

YES, FOLKS, we do have our problems, and we should not take them lightly. There is a legitimate debate over Jewish values, land for peace, pluralism and army service versus yeshiva study. And our situation isn't made any easier by kippa-clad demonstrators - in an obvious effort to bring honor to God and Torah - launching loaded diapers at police protecting a parking lot on Shabbat. Or by mustachioed men in bikinis riding on floats through the streets of Jerusalem in an effort to show off the joy of being a gender-bender.

But the fact is, we have more in common with each other than we realize. The vast majority of our country has a genuine respect for Judaism, though we may express it in different ways. We abhor corruption, whether by a secular Avraham Hirchson or an observant Shlomo Benizri, and we cheer when we see justice done. We want our children to be safe on the streets, well-educated and able to live securely, now and in future generations. We love Israel, we are in awe of its beauty, we are dedicated to its survival and we are willing to place our lives on the line-just by living here! - to demonstrate our loyalty to this country.

All this may sound overly optimistic, even naive. But I believe it, because Hope springs eternal. At least in life, if not in lingerie.

jocmtv@netvision.net.il

## **Graphic**

Photo: THE LINGERIE STORE poster. The preconceived notions and nonsense that afflict us are more frightening than Iran, *Hamas* and the water shortage put together.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



## Elections still a display of democracy other countries dream of

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 20, 2009 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 13

Length: 968 words

Byline: Jason Koutsoukis

#### **Body**

In many Middle Eastern regimes political opposition simply doesn't exist, reports Jason Koutsoukis in Jerusalem.

THE electoral fiasco in Iran has reinforced Western fears about the state of democracy in the Middle East. But at least people in Iran were given the opportunity to vote.

Despite the apparently defective result, Iran still proved itself capable of staging a genuine election campaign that had all the trappings of a US-style presidential race. Televised candidate debates, mass rallies and inspiring campaign rhetoric were all part of the show.

It was a display of freedom supporters of democracy in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates can only dream about. And a display that will have the rulers of those countries watching nervously.

The mere fact that opposition candidates were allowed to stand against the incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had seemed worthy of commendation.

In Syria, President Bashar al-Assad will only allow votes of confidence from the electorate when he is the only candidate standing. In many other Middle East regimes, political opposition of any sort even the cosmetic kind is banned.

Elections, if they are permitted, are mostly for legislative bodies that have no control over executive power and face having their decisions overturned at a moment's notice by the ruling monarch or dictator.

As Amnesty International noted in a recent report on challenging repression in the Middle East, the right to vote is not the only human right denied.

"Activists and journalists who seek to publicise human rights abuses face an array of repressive measures intended to silence them for exercising their right to freedom of expression," the report noted.

"Lawyers who try to uphold the rights of their clients not to be tortured or arbitrarily detained, to have access to legal counsel and to receive fair trials, often themselves face similar abuses. People who demonstrate peacefully in support of demands for improved rights for **women**, workers and minority communities risk arrest, imprisonment,

#### Elections still a display of democracy other countries dream of

beatings or even assassination by government security forces simply for exercising their right to freedom of assembly."

In November 2003, the US president, George Bush, spoke of his determination to remake the Middle East, asking the question of whether the peoples of the Middle East were somehow beyond the reach of liberty.

He declared the US had "adopted a new policy, a forward strategy of freedom in the Middle East". Four years later his policies have failed to sprout the new roots of freedom he hoped for.

And in some cases, where democracy was allowed to take root, Western interests faced the embarrassment of not getting the results they were hoping for such as in the Palestinian territories, where the Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas, was pushed into rushing parliamentary elections in 2006.

The Islamic resistance movement <u>Hamas</u> won a majority of seats in the elections. It touched off a chain of events that led to <u>Hamas</u> taking full control of the Gaza Strip, and that in turn led to a full-scale conflict with Israel that resulted in the deaths of more than 1300 Gazans in January.

In 2005, the Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, allowed candidates other than himself to stand in presidential elections, but he made the rules of eligibility so tight that any real opposition was screened out and he ended up winning the poll with 88 per cent of the vote.

"Democracy is encouraged in particular countries in the Middle East at the convenience of the Western powers," says Dr Ayman Nour, a prominent Egyptian opposition political leader jailed in 2005 by Mr Mubarak's government on trumped charges of forging political signatures.

After four years in prison he was released earlier this year on health grounds.

"We cannot afford to have countries that know better trade justice and democracy because it is in their immediate short-term interest to do so." Dr Nour told the Herald.

"What we need in the Middle East is pressure from countries that know how to stick to their ideals of freedom, that know how to fight tyranny and injustice that is what I believe is the key to our long-term regional security."

Countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Bahrain rarely feel the opprobrium of the West, it would seem, because they offer secure supplies of vital resources, are willing to open their doors to foreign corporations or offer strategic advantage.

Not that the region is without hope of change. In Lebanon earlier this month, people voted peacefully in elections judged free and fair by thousands of international observers. And when the Iranian-backed Shiite movement Hezbollah did not end up the winner as many had expected, instead of reacting violently, Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, pledged to respect the result.

#### WHO RULES WHERE

- \* Bahrain Ruled by royal family. Upper house appointed by king.
- \* Egypt Republic. Executive power rests with president elected in mostly single-candidate elections.
- \* Iran Islamic theocracy. Ruled by supreme leader elected by an assembly of Islamic scholars.
- \* Iraq Republic. President elected by parliament. Prime minister chosen by Presidency Council.
- \* Israel Parliamentary democracy. President appointed by parliament. Prime minister elected by parliament.
- \* Jordan Constitutional monarchy. Upper house chosen by king.
- \* Kuwait Constitutional monarchy.

#### Elections still a display of democracy other countries dream of

- \* Lebanon Confessional republic. President elected by parliament. President chooses prime minister.
- \* Oman Absolute monarchy.
- \* Qatar Absolute monarchy.
- \* Saudi Arabia Absolute monarchy.
- \* Syria Republic. President stands for elections unopposed.
- \* Turkey Parliamentary democracy. Directly elected president.
- \* United Arab Emirates Ruled by a federation of seven absolute monarchies.
- \* Yemen Republic. Upper house appointed by president.

## **Graphic**

PHOTO: Iranian reformist presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi waves after polls closed.

Load-Date: June 19, 2009



# International: The US and Islam: Obama woos Muslim world with call for a new understanding: President urges 'mutual respect' in landmark address, and strongly backs two-state solution to Palestinian conflict

The Guardian - Final Edition
June 5, 2009 Friday

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Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 20

Length: 881 words

Byline: Ian Black, Cairo

#### **Body**

Barack Obama used his long-heralded speech to the Muslim world yesterday to call for a new beginning in relations and made an impassioned plea for a two-state solution to resolve the bitter conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Seeking to draw a line under the war in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay and other Bush policies, Obama went out of his way to display understanding of the causes of Muslim resentment and mistrust of the west.

But as he left for Germany and France for D-Day celebrations his landmark address drew mixed reviews for a performance many found sensitively crafted and sincere but lacking substance or novelty.

"I have come here to seek a new beginning between the US and Muslims around the world, one based upon mutual interest and mutual respect," the president told an invited audience at Cairo University. "America and Islam are not exclusive, and need not be in competition."

Obama's messages on the hot-button issues of Israel, the Palestinians and Iran did not break new ground, while passages on Afghanistan, Iraq and fighting violent extremism also replayed familiar themes. Still, some of his strongest words were reserved for the ever-contentious issue of Israel and the Palestinians, whose life under occupation was "intolerable".

There was loud applause when he said emphatically: "The US does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements. This construction violates previous agreements and undermines efforts to achieve peace. It is time for these settlements to stop."

But comments that presage a clash with Binyamin Netanyahu's rightwing government were balanced with an appeal to the Palestinian movement <u>Hamas</u> to abandon violence. "It is a sign of neither courage nor power to shoot rockets at sleeping children, or to blow up old **women** on a bus," he said.

International: The US and Islam: Obama woos Muslim world with call for a new understanding: President urges 'mutual respect' in landmark address, and strongly b....

Obama also referred to America's "unbreakable bond" with Israel, which he coupled with a bold attack on "baseless, ignorant and hateful" denial of the Nazi Holocaust - a staple of the hardline Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The Cairo speech had been billed as one of Obama's most important, and was keenly awaited after a fleeting visit to Iraq, a Persian new year message to Iran, and a speech to the Turkish parliament in Ankara.

Obama painted a flattering picture of Islamic religion, culture and civilisation, starting with the traditional Arabic greeting, assalaamu alaykum - "peace be upon you" - drawing a thunderous ovation.

As expected, he referred to his own Muslim roots, mentioning the azaan call to prayer that he heard while a child in Indonesia. He played the religious card deftly. America would never be at war with Islam. "The Holy Qur'an teaches that whoever kills an innocent, it is as if he has killed all mankind; and whoever saves a person, it is as if he has saved all mankind.

"The faith of over a billion people is so much bigger than the narrow hatred of a few. Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism - it is an important part of promoting peace."

He referred to his decision to close the Guantanamo Bay detention camp and did not use the Bush-era phrase "war on terror". Religious freedom and *women*'s rights were also emphasised - a challenge to intolerance and bigotry.

Obama's comments on democracy - a burning issue in US allies Egypt and Saudi Arabia and most Arab countries - were detailed but non-specific, a disappointment if not a surprise to activists.

"America does not presume to know what is best for everyone, just as we would not presume to pick the outcome of a peaceful election," the president said. "But I do have an unyielding belief that all people yearn for certain things: the ability to speak your mind and have a say in how you are governed; government that is transparent and doesn't steal from the people; the freedom to live as you choose.

"Those are not just American ideas, they are human rights, and that is why we will support them everywhere."

Reaction was varied. In Damascus, the <u>Hamas</u> leader Khaled Meshal told Time magazine: "Undoubtedly Obama speaks a new language. We are looking for more than just mere words . . . We are keen to contribute to this. But we (believe that can not happen) merely with words."

"It was basically a very conciliatory speech," said Hisham Kassem, one of Egypt's leading commentators. "Obama was saying 'I'm not George Bush'. But there was very little policy and very little you could hold him accountable to."

Mohamed Habib, deputy leader of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist movement that poses the strongest opposition to Hosni Mubarak's authoritarian regime, called the speech "a public relations address". Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon both attacked it.

In the speech Obama defended US strategy in Afghanistan and Iraq but made it clear he did not wish to maintain a permanent military presence in either country.

Obama's message on Iran - where Ahmadinejad is facing crucial presidential elections next week - repeated a commitment to "mutual respect" between the old adversaries.

But he issued a warning on the burning issue of nuclear weapons. "We have reached a decisive point. This is not simply about America's interests. It is about preventing a nuclear arms race in the Middle East that could lead this region and the world down a hugely dangerous path."

Load-Date: June 5, 2009

International: The US and Islam: Obama woos Muslim world with call for a new understanding: President urges 'mutual respect' in landmark address, and strongly b....



The Courier Mail (Australia) March 28, 2009 Saturday

1 - First with the news Edition

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Section: ETC; Pg. 22 Length: 1465 words

Byline: Cheryl Jorgensen, Julia Ross, Natascha Mirosch, Lesley Synge, Ian Barry

#### **Body**

#### **FICTION**

The Dreaming and Other Essays

W.E.H. Stanner

Black Inc. Agenda, \$32.95

BORN in 1905, William Edward Hanley Stanner held the chair at the Australian National University from 1964 until 1970. He died in 1981.

In these poignant, exquisitely written essays about Aboriginal Australia, he is neither condescending nor sentimental, lucidly portraying the history of Australia's race relations. It was Stanner who coined the phrase ``the great Australian silence", an apt description of the European-Australian attitude to the near-genocide of a complex indigenous people whose resistance to assimilation, and therefore cultural obliteration, was nothing less than heroic.

Stanner points out that Lt James Cook was ordered to take possession of Convenient Situations in the Country in the name of the King of Great Britain only with the Consent of the Natives. He disobeyed these instructions.

Captain Arthur Phillip also had a kind of myopia when dealing with the original inhabitants of his colony. Though he ordered that the native people were to be left unharmed, he held the European settlers' claims tantamount at great cost to those of the indigenous people. Their rights to the land and its waterways were totally unremembered.

By the time the pastoral industry had been established in the 19th century, five-sixths of the Australian Aboriginal race had disappeared without trace. The people left faced homelessness, powerlessness, pauperism, dependence, even inertia.

Yet, says Stanner, two aspects of the Aboriginal struggle have been undervalued. One is their continued will to survive, the other their continued effort to come to terms with us.

Though a painful journey through the least edifying chapter of Australia's past, this book is compulsory reading for any Australian seeking an honest account of our history.

ensen

**FICTION** 

The Missing

Tim Gautreaux

Sceptre, \$32.99

STEAM into a harrowing mystery when former soldier Sam Simoneaux sets course aboard a Mississippi steamboat to help find a stolen child in 1921.

Such guilt -- blonde Lily, 3, vanishes on his watch as head floorwalker in a New Orleans department store, and the hired thieves knock him unconscious as they spirit her away. Sam, who has the unlikely sobriquet Lucky, knows all about suffering -- his entire family was murdered by outlaws when he was just a baby, and he and wife Linda's only son died of a fever at two. To try to redeem his mistake, Sam finds work as a guard and sometime pianist aboard the Ambassador with Lily's musician parents. If he could make another family whole, maybe that would help.

Gautreaux makes Prohibition Louisiana come alive as the steamboat makes its passage up the Mississippi, with a black orchestra setting jazz on fire, and rowdy passengers drunk with hooch from illicit stills.

But then a mystery within a mystery -- tension builds as we learn Lily was stolen for a childless couple, a rich banker and his selfish, spoiled wife. As a Catholic man trying to do the right thing, Sam's searches ashore into backwater Louisiana to try to piece together what happened to Lily (now known as Madeline), endanger him and Lily's parents. Swampy settings, ferocious dogs, and guns galore add to the frightening frontier setting, as the danger of Sam's past collides with his present.

Gautreaux's languid prose revisits some familiar themes in his writing -- Louisiana, violence, and men in search of redemption. And this beautifully composed novel is set on a strong moral compass that illustrates the chasm between whites and blacks, and the poor and the rich in the 1920s, as we follow Sam on his physical and emotional journey.

Julia Ross

**FICTION** 

A Most Immoral Woman

Linda Jaivin

Fourth Estate, \$32.99

IT'S 1904 in China, a time of political instability as Russia and Japan fight it out for domination over northeast China. Australian George Ernest Morrison is Peking correspondent for The Times and is fighting it out himself, trying to untangle and interpret the truth from the propaganda about what is happening in the frequent battles.

At 42, the handsome Morrison is dissolute, bored with life and himself, tired of his state of bachelorhood but unable to find a woman who challenges and excites him.

Life changes abruptly with the arrival of Mae Perkins, the feisty daughter of a Californian millionaire. They begin a passionate affair but Morrison is at first unbelieving, then dismayed to discover that the beautiful Mae refuses to be constrained by the morals of the time or her perceived place in society as a woman. She is sensual, uninhibited and open about indulging her passion with whomever she chooses (``I make no pretence of propriety. Propriety interests me not in the least!").

Her list of lovers, despite her youth, is lengthy.

Morrison is unable to help but fall in love with free-spirited and compellingly honest Mae, finding their affair both lifts him and at times casts him into the depths of despair. Set against the ``floating world" of Westerners in China and Japan at the turn of the century, the novel is based on a true story, inspired by Linda Jaivin's reading of a biography of Morrison in which Mae is mentioned. Intrigued, she tracked down Mae's family archives, including a huge collection of love letters, and it is these sources, along with Morrison's own diaries, on which she's based the novel.

Jaivin's research shows in in her ability to capture the essence of the time, a story of simple love affair into a commentary on the social mores for **women** at the turn of the century.

Natascha Mirosch

**NON-FICTION** 

Michelle Obama

Liz Mundy

Simon & Schuster, \$24.95

IF the last book you read about race relations in America was the novel To Kill a Mockingbird, it's time to update.

This hot-off-the-press biography of the black janitor's daughter from Chicago's southside who has just moved into the White House, is an excellent place to start.

When released in the US, everybody knew who Michelle was.

There was no need to add her famous husband's last name to the cover.

Australians are about to hear a whole lot more about Michelle and Barack Obama -- not exactly a bad thing if it stimulates a discussion about gender and race relations here too.

While some cultural consumers are always going to stay on the level of ``What does Michelle Obama cook?", ``What does she wear?", ``Is she Angela Davis in designer sundresses?", Mundy, a Washington Post journalist, delivers a readable and engaging racial, social and political context.

What emerges is a portrait of a sophisticated thinker and hard-working idealist, thoroughly conscious of how her energies, including her celebrity status, might benefit the African-American community and usher in a new kind of America.

Although there is an undercurrent of opportunism in Mundy's delivery of this political biography, Michelle's story is poignant.

The question is, as Harper Lee posed in her novel about America in the 1930s, will the harmless mockingbird survive the ruthless and the ignorant?

Already the nasties have called Michelle everything from `Lady Macbeth" to `Obama's Baby Mama".

Lesley Synge

**NON-FICTION** 

Kill Khalid

Paul McGeough

Allen & Unwin, \$35

HANDS up all those who have any idea of what's happening in the Middle East? How about something simpler then -- who or what is <u>Hamas</u>? I thought so. It is difficult to come to any understanding of what is going on in this turbulent region from half a world and an entire culture away. Our information arrives in 60-second parcels on the TV news every once in a while and deeper dissection, whether electronic or print, is in immediate competition with events more local and colourful. So if you really want to take the plunge and try to get your head around the past, present and future of politics Middle Eastern style, you need someone who knows about it to lead you through the minefield of its history.

Paul McGeough is one of Australia's most lauded foreign correspondents. Apart from winning numerous awards for his reporting and analysis, he has written several books on his experiences covering the war in Iraq. His personal connections throughout the region have given him access to many key personnel from the multitude of factions and alliances. It's needed; although we recognise countries, many of the key relationships here are tribal and familial.

<u>Hamas</u> is a militantly political and religious organisation dedicated to the overthrow of Israel and the restoration of an Islamic state of Palestine.

In 1997, Khalid Mishal was the head of the <u>Hamas</u> political wing, based in the Kingdom of Jordan, when agents of the Israeli secret police attempted to assassinate him. McGeough has used this event as a lens to focus his knowledge and understanding of the place.

It is in no way an easy read, but it is full of insight into a turbid issue.

Ian Barry

Load-Date: March 27, 2009



## Zionism and the global anti-Semitic frenzy

The Jerusalem Post February 16, 2009 Monday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 15

**Length:** 1571 words **Byline:** ISI LEIBLER

Highlight: Jew-baiting is especially intense in the UK. Candidly Speaking

## **Body**

The Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti- Semitism is meeting today in London in the wake of the Gaza campaign, which ignited an exponential eruption of global anti-Semitic frenzy unprecedented since the Nazi era. The intensity of the anti-Jewish rage, frequently accompanied by acts of violence, has engendered fear and anxiety among Diaspora Jews and obliged many to seriously ponder their long-term future.

On every continent and in virtually every city, enraged demonstrators have railed against Israel and indulged in anti-Semitic calls to "boycott Jews," "gas" them and "dismantle the Nazi Israeli state." The anti-Jewish offensives, usually initiated by Arabs, have been supported by wide spectrums of indigenous citizens.

Jew-baiting is especially intense in the UK. Prominent Jews encounter death threats. A high-ranking British diplomat was arrested after publicly launching a foul-mouthed anti- Semitic tirade. The London-based Royal Court Theatre is staging a viciously anti-Israeli play by Caryl Churchill that Melanie Phillips described in the Spectator as reminiscent of anti-Semitic plays performed in the Middle Ages portraying Jews as demonic Christ-killers.

In many European cities, Jews encounter violence in the streets. In Italy, a labor union has called for a boycott of all Jewish businesses. In France, synagogues have been attacked and cars belonging to Jews firebombed. A Swedish school has refused to accept Jewish students. A leading Norwegian TV entertainer was sufficiently insensitive to jokingly express regret for the billions of innocent lice killed with Jews in gas chambers. The Barcelona municipality canceled a Holocaust memorial because "making a Jewish Holocaust ceremony whilst a Palestinian Holocaust was taking place was not right"; simultaneously, 30,000 Barcelonans marched in support of *Hamas*.

Elsewhere, the deputy South African foreign minister was obliged to apologize after making a statement railing against Jewish money that controlled America; in Turkey, in the wake of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's histrionic outbursts against Israel, Jewish institutions were vandalized and calls were made to boycott Jewish businesses; there were violent anti-Jewish riots at York University in Toronto, Canada.

The onslaught against the Venezuelan Jewish community by President Hugo Chavez, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's ally, included demands for the Jews to condemn Israel and calls to boycott Jewish enterprises. There is now concern that other Latin American governments like Argentina, imbued with anti-Semitism bolstered by Iranian-sponsored Arab migrants, could also embark on anti- Jewish campaigns.

Even in the United States, where public opinion remains overwhelmingly supportive of Israel, the blatantly anti-Semitic demonstrations in major cities have shocked many American Jews hitherto confident that unlike in Europe,

#### Zionism and the global anti-Semitic frenzy

anti-Semitism would never reassert itself in their country. The increasing dominance of anti-Israeli elements on most campuses provides additional grounds for concern because ultimately many of these youngsters will become leaders of the nation.

THE USE of holocaust inversion to demonize Israel, and the bracketing of Israelis with Nazis, have extended from the Arab arena into the mainstream and are now sanctioned as legitimate political discourse. Today, much of what purports to be criticism of Israel even in the "respectable" media is reminiscent of Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda.

The role of renegade "non-Jewish Jews" seeking to delegitimize Israel has also dramatically escalated, and extends beyond calls to boycott Israel. For example, the Web site of the notorious Norman Finkelstein recently reproduced 40 horrific photographs displaying Nazi atrocities juxtaposed with images of purported Israeli atrocities in Gaza. It was titled "The grandchildren of the Holocaust survivors are doing to the Palestinians exactly what was done to the Jews in Nazi Germany." This obscenity was widely distributed throughout the Internet by left- wingers, Arabs and radical right-wingers like Pat Buchanan. It was also promoted by a Norwegian diplomat in Saudi Arabia, who transmitted the vile collage on her embassy's e-mail.

There appear to be no limits to the depths to which these despicable Jewish foes of Zion are willing to stoop to demonize their own people. In an article published in the purportedly respectable London Review of Books, Henry Siegman, a former director of the American Jewish Congress, hailed <u>Hamas</u> as an Arab national liberation movement comparable to the pre-state Zionist underground movements. British Labor parliamentarian Gerald Kaufman exceeded his previous foul outbursts by proclaiming that Israeli soldiers reminded him of the Nazis who had cold-bloodedly murdered his grandmother while she was in bed.

"My grandmother did not die to provide cover for Israeli soldiers to murder Palestinian grandmothers," he said.

Jonathan Freedland of the Guardian, after reassuring his readers that he had consistently and unequivocally condemned Israel for its Gaza campaign, pleaded with them not to blame Jews for the atrocities committed by Israelis any more than Muslims who were not guilty "because the killers of 9/11 and 7/7 had been Muslims." In many European countries, including the UK, the media provide greater exposure to the marginal Jewish anti-Zionists than to official Jewish community spokesmen.

WHAT IS especially chilling is that in most countries, hatred of Jews at the grassroots level is far more intense than government policy. The talkbacks from even the more sophisticated Internet and media publications reflect a dramatic escalation of ferocious hatred of Jews. A recent Anti-Defamation League survey disclosed that 40 percent of Europeans consider Jews to have too much power, and 31% believe Jews are to blame for the current global financial meltdown. Needless to say, the broad acceptance of such rabid views at the people's level bodes ill for the future.

It is especially galling to witness this anti-Semitic pandemic after the extraordinary efforts Israel made to avoid a conflict despite all the years in which their civilians have been targeted by missiles. <u>Hamas</u>'s systematic and calculated exploitation of <u>women</u> and children as human shields was effectively disregarded. Israel's efforts - unprecedented in the history of warfare - to minimize civilian casualties, were ignored. Yet the brutal means employed to suppress terrorists in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan (not to mention Chechnya) and the killings in Congo, Zimbabwe and especially in Darfur, where hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians have died, are hardly mentioned. There is little doubt that the Gaza campaign merely provided a pretext to unleash pent-up anti-Semitism.

Regrettably, the frenzy will undoubtedly increase as perfidious allegations of Israeli war crimes are intensified and the newly elected government is demonized for being "intransigent and racist."

ALAS, THE ZIONIST DREAM that a Jewish state would eradicate anti-Semitism has proved to be a delusion. Ironically, today, Israel itself is being exploited as a vehicle to promote anti-Semitism.

Yet the Zionist vision of a Jewish state representing a haven for Jews in distress is a reality. Diaspora Jews can at least feel reassured that if they are unwilling to live like pariahs in societies that revile them, there will always be a

#### Zionism and the global anti-Semitic frenzy

Jewish state willing to embrace them. They will never face the nightmare that confronted Jews prior to the Holocaust when their desperate pleas for entry visas to escape from Nazism were nearly always denied.

Indeed, it would now be timely for Jews domiciled in countries in which the hatred surrounding them is undermining the quality of their lives, to undergo genuine soul-searching. The future for Jews in some European countries is bleak, as resentment against them is transformed into hatred and accompanied by violence. The United Kingdom has already reached this level, and Anglo Jews who deny the reality of the anti-Semitic cesspool surrounding them are truly in denial.

Diaspora Jews should now honestly contemplate the practicality of creating new lives among their own people. Many may conclude that there are insurmountable obstacles to packing up and coming to Israel. But if they remain in anti-Semitic countries, they should at least weigh the crippling impact on their children and consider encouraging them to make aliya.

Anti-Semitism has always escalated during periods of economic upheaval, and as the financial meltdown intensifies, the problem will undoubtedly be aggravated. In addition, aside from the wealthy, many who regard Jewish continuity as important will find it increasingly difficult to afford the prohibitive school fees required to provide children with a Jewish education. That may represent an additional incentive to consider aliya.

The escalation of anti-Semitism must be a wake-up call for Diaspora Jews. They should be aware that notwithstanding the difficulties facing those wishing to settle in Israel, the standard of living here today is a far cry from what it was half a century ago when the Jewish state was still struggling to establish itself. For some Jews, it is imperative that they review their options now, not at some future date when further deterioration could transform aliya into a stressful evacuation rather than a choice.

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## Graphic

Photo: THIS IMAGE issued by Britain's Community Security Trust shows graffiti on a piece of pavement in North London in October 2008. (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



## Kerre Woodham: Trouble brewing over coffee shop refusal

The New Zealand Herald January 18, 2009 Sunday

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Section: NEWS; General

Length: 364 words

## **Body**

Hasn't Mustafa Tekinkaya created a storm with his refusal to serve two Israeli women in his coffee shop?

The two sisters, one of whom is married to a Kiwi and living in Invercargill, visited Tekinkaya's cafe in Esk St but when he overheard them speaking in Hebrew, he asked them to leave.

He says that as long as Israeli troops are killing innocent women and children, he won't serve Israelis.

While I'm all for people making a stand based on what they believe, in this country refusing service on the basis of nationality is against the law and the Human Rights Commission and the race relations conciliator are investigating.

Many people, of all ethnicities and nationalities, are against the Israeli bombing of Gaza. Just as there are many who believe that the violence is justified as long as *Hamas* continue their shelling of Israeli territories.

But most people have the sophistication to understand that individual people do not necessarily represent the policies of their countries' governments.

Many Americans are against the war in Iraq just as there are many Israelis who do not support "Operation Go Nuts", as the Israeli bombing was described in the Spectator magazine. Tekinkaya didn't bother to find out what the **women** thought of the bombing, he just lumped all Israelis in one basket and has banned the lot of them.

I bet he'd be brassed off if people treated Muslims as one generic group of people who all thought the same way.

The beauty of living in New Zealand is that we are, as Gordon Campbell so famously wrote, a passionless people. He meant it as a criticism but sometimes being passionless is a good thing. Seeing both sides of the argument, not getting exercised about historical issues, not taking foreign policy personally - these are good things. The reason many people want to live in this country is that there aren't the centuries-old conflicts that blight modern living. And the last thing we want to do is to import intolerance, bigotry and hatred.

The mayor of Invercargill, Tim Shadbolt - who would at one time have been burning Israeli flags in the main streets - needs to take a wander down to Tekinkaya's cafe and explain the facts of life to this new Kiwi.

Load-Date: January 17, 2009

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## Rockets, economics and miracles shape voting patterns in South. Cities targeted in recent fighting show support for wide range of parties

#### The Jerusalem Post

February 11, 2009 Wednesday

Copyright 2009 The Jerusalem Post All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 838 words

**Byline: YAAKOV LAPPIN** 

#### **Body**

In many ways, the tale of one Sderot family that is split between Labor and Shas represents the divergent political views that coexist in this rocket-battered town.

Yehudit Uriel has long been an active member of the Labor Party and a loyalist of former party leader Amir Peretz. Her brother, Rabbi Oren Simha, fills the 15th slot on the Shas Party's Knesset list.

Uriel, a secular woman who chairs the Ashkelon branch of the Movement of Working <u>Women</u> and Volunteers, has two children; Simha, who became religious, has 12.

"We are very close and we respect each other," Uriel said of her brother after voting for Labor on Tuesday at Sderot's Mekif School, where the roof had been reinforced by a large concrete structure designed to withstand rocket attacks.

"I help my brother where I can and offer him encouragement," she added, "but I am also loyal to my own path of Labor."

Uriel is concerned about her party's standing in Sderot, saying its popularity had slumped since the 2006 elections, when it drew the highest amount of votes in town.

"The Gaza operation helped the party make up for some of the loss of support, but only to a certain degree," she said.

Outside, a handful of Shas activists handed out miniature prayer books and election leaflets while braving a thunderstorm under white umbrellas with the party's logo.

Among them was Uriel's mother.

"We need Shas and Rabbi Ovadia Yosef to give the Torah to Israel," Malka Simha said. "We need the Torah so the miracles can continue in Sderot."

Simha said she had talked an elderly neighbor into staying with a son just before a Kassam rocket struck close by, shaking their homes.

"This can only be God preforming miracles for us," Simha said.

Rockets, economics and miracles shape voting patterns in South. Cities targeted in recent fighting show support for wide range of parties

Other voters placed their trust in Binyamin Netanyahu. Andre Elharat, who has lived in Sderot for 50 years, cast his vote for the Likud.

"We've been suffering from Kassams for eight years," Elharat said. "We want to live in peace. Labor failed to secure us and Kadima will split up after Netanyahu forms a government. I support anything that will put a stop to the Kassams and end the terror."

David Asulin and wife Idi also voted for Netanyahu, saying they were disappointed with what they called a premature ending to Operation Cast Lead in Gaza.

"We arrived at the well but did not drink from it," said David, a Golani Brigade veteran, describing what he viewed as an incomplete mission.

"We like and respect the people in Gaza," Idi said. "They are good people who are also suffering under Hamas."

Some 15 kilometers away in Ashkelon, which came under heavy rocket fire during the Gaza fighting, voters appeared to place equal emphasis on economic and security concerns.

Shlomi Mizrahi, owner of the popular Mitus shwarma restaurant near City Hall, said he would cast his vote for Tzipi Livni in the evening.

"I believe in her. She doesn't seem as corrupt as the others. The economic situation here is much worse than the security situation," Mizrahi said, adding that he hoped Livni would have the ability to solve the country's economic woes.

A steady trickle of voters flowed into a polling center at the Hadekel School in an affluent Ashkelon neighborhood that's home to Public Security Minister Avi Dichter and Likud MK Gilad Erdan.

"I'm voting for the Hayisraelim Party," Rahm Purer said as he exited the school.

One of many new small parties, Hayisraelim has placed anti-corruption and political reform at the center of its platform. One of its Knesset candidates, John Daly, is a city resident.

"This system is corrupt, and there's no real difference between the three big parties in how they will deal with rocket attacks," Purer added. "They will all listen to what military advisors tell them."

An Ashkelon resident who asked not to be named said he and his wife were voting for the Likud.

"We are voting for Bibi," he said as they walked toward the school. "Livni is willing to divide Jerusalem and the Golan. Would you divide your home?"

Carmela Seep said she had cast her vote for Livni, adding that the rocket threat was not her sole consideration.

"I believe she is the least corrupt," Seep said of the Kadima leader. "I am looking to the future rather than living only in the present, which admittedly is not pleasant."

Standing just outside the polling place was a paid Kadima activist in a Tzipi Livni t-shirt. The woman admitted, however, that she had voted for Avigdor Lieberman.

"The job market is tough. For NIS 300 I will stand here all day," she declared.

At the Moria School, situated in a less affluent area across town, Eitan Lasri said Avigdor Lieberman had won his support.

"The time has come for Lieberman to get the job done," Lasri said.

Rockets, economics and miracles shape voting patterns in South. Cities targeted in recent fighting show support for wide range of parties

As in Sderot, Shas activists maintained a high profile outside Ashkelon's polling centers and emphasized what they viewed as the miraculous escape of city residents from incoming *Hamas* rockets.

"People were saved; only homes were damaged," said Gilad Marshaa, a party activist who immigrated from Ethiopia at age three. "My support for Shas is not political. It is a matter of belief."

# **Graphic**

Photo: SHAS ACTIVIST Gilad Marshaa promotes the party outside a polling place yesterday in Ashkelon. (Credit: Yaakov Lappin)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



## FG rejects criticism of stance on Gaza as Kenny prepares to visit the region

The Irish Times

January 16, 2009 Friday

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Section: IRELAND; Other Stories; Pg. 7

Length: 371 words

Byline: MARK HENNESSY and MARY MINIHAN

# **Body**

FINE GAEL leader Enda Kenny has announced plans to travel to Gaza, after calling yesterday for an immediate ceasefire.

In a robust response to criticism of Fine Gael policy on the crisis from Fianna Fáil TDS, Mr Kenny said he had condemned both the Israeli attacks and the <u>Hamas</u> shelling of Israel: Innocent people are dying as a result of these atrocities. Innocent people have died.

He was responding to criticism by Fianna Fáil TDs Michael Mulcahy and Timmy Dooley, both of whom have alleged that Fine Gael had failed properly to condemn Israel for its action.

Fine Gael foreign affairs spokesman Billy Timmins expressed deep anger that Fianna Fáil would seek to gain political advantage on the tragedy that is the ongoing conflict in Gaza, by deliberately misrepresenting Fine Gael s position.

Fine Gael s condemnation of Israeli attacks on Gaza is a matter of record. The Fianna Fáil TDs, he said, had tabled a motion at the Oireachtas foreign affairs committee that had grossly oversimplified the current conflict and contained little that would contribute to a much-needed ceasefire.

Mr Timmins said Fine Gael does not believe in selective condemnation no ceasefire and no lasting peace will be achieved if those expected to broker that peace direct criticism at only one side. Quite patently, wrongs have been committed on both sides. Fianna Fáil s attempts at moral indignation are reprehensible and shameful in the extreme

At the Oireachtas European affairs committee meeting yesterday, Fine Gael s appeal for a moderate approach to the conflict in Gaza was criticised.

Mr Timmins said adopting the middle ground was the only way to end the crisis in the Middle East. We in Fine Gael have adopted a moderate, middle-of-the-road line on this, he said. We re not on either side here. We re on the side of humanity and legality.

Fianna Fáil TD Mary O Rourke said the lazy, leisurely language of diplomacy was achieving nothing. How can you be moderate when there s mass murder going on of men, <u>women</u> and children?

Green Party senator Deirdre de Búrca said she was disappointed to hear the Fine Gael spokesman advocating a moderate stance.

FG rejects criticism of stance on Gaza as Kenny prepares to visit the region

It was agreed to invite experts to appear before the committee.

Load-Date: January 16, 2009



## <u>Obama</u>

Cape Argus (South Africa)

January 21, 2009 Wednesday

e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 850 words

## **Body**

I Obama's speech, magnificent! Now can we move to the 21st century and cut the jumping up and down singing childish songs about machine guns and get on with making our country great, using all its people.

I I cannot believe the poor commentary we witnessed on SABC 2 during the inauguration ceremony of President Obama. The presenter spoke during most of the events, thus viewers missed out on a lot that was said. A real momentous occasion spoiled by an incompetent Tim Modise.

I Good address by Obama. I pray he is able to carry out his ideals. Trust TV2 to comment on it instead of giving benediction. I changed to e.tv.

I If only we had a government that inspired us as a nation the way Barack Obama does. Imagine the possibilities.

I Was it my imagination or did the enthusiasm of the crowd drop substantially when Barack Obama hinted in his inaugural address that Americans must accept that the principle of "no pain, no gain" had to apply to everyone if problems were to be solved? Can he take his country with him?

I America has inaugurated a worthy president. We in SA are facing the bizarre prospect of having as president a jiving and singing clown. May God have mercy on us.

I There is a feeling of euphoria around the world as we celebrate Barack Obama's inauguration. Then we, as South Africans, come down to earth with a resounding bump as we contemplate our uncertain future under the ineffectual and corrupt leadership of the ANC.

I Stop blaming SA for the situation in the Middle East and Zim. - AJ

I Israel is not the neighbour but the occupier of the Gaza refugee camp.

I Israel's measured retaliation claimed 1 200 lives with more than half <u>women</u> and children as opposed to 13 Israeli deaths with nine being soldiers.

I What does David Saks think of the Al Jazeera report that IDF soldiers bulldozed homes and water towers that supply an entire village? After the ceasefire was called and they were "withdrawing" from Gaza?

I One question - do Palestinian women have a right to vote? And if so why vote for a terrorist group?

#### Obama

I David Saks is correct when he says <u>Hamas</u> provokes massive reprisals, that's why there is muted sympathy across the world for the <u>Hamas</u>-run Gaza. They counted on <u>women</u> and children being killed and it backfired.

I As a Jew, I say shame on Israel for your Nazi behaviour. 100 dead Arabs to one dead Jew!

I With all the backstabbing in the communist alliance, we have gone from President Mbeki to President Motlanthe, then on to "President" the honourable Zuma and finally, after Zuma gets the chop, the right honourable President for life Blade Nzimande. The ultimate goal of the Stalinists!

I Paul Hoffman writes extremely eloquently and persuasively about the "criminal protection system" and the problems connected therewith, but to what effect if the functionally illiterate electorate can't understand his reasoning?

I Whenever anything goes wrong politically, it's blamed on apartheid. Get real. We suffered as much as you blacks did. - AJ

I Me wonders what Chris Nissen was offered by the ANC.

I Every time I see that portrait of Jacob Zuma I want to throw up Luke Watson style.

I I noticed that President Motlanthe was wearing the flowers and holding Mugabe's hand. Shame, Mbeki has been dumped, who is next?

I Chris Nissen is a snake. The ANC would fare better with Lynne Brown.

I Dave Dalling, four wives and eight political parties - what a sucker for punishment.

I <u>Women</u> can't wear the pants in Cope? Oh dear! That's like telling the Eskimo to wear a thong

I Hilda Ndude, what planet are you living on? Was going to vote for Cope but love wearing pants! I am also a white Christian woman. I guess African males still wear the pants.

I The only difference between Nissen and Boesak is a prison record! I'll stick with the DA, at least they work for their wages.

I The ANC called Boesak an opportunist and not a thief, because they know the truth.

I Mr Nissen has enriched himself at the expense of the poor fisherman. Enough of these fatcats!

I I am glad that the incident of Grace Mugabe's vicious attack on a press photographer has been published worldwide. This woman does not need a bodyguard.

I I was contacted by the Spur head office in response to my feedback in the SMS column. I thank Dave, Jaco and Quinton for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet with my son and I . - B Sands

I Why doesn't Cape Talk listen to their listeners about Soli on in the afternoon. He is too busy. It's such a pleasure to not have to listen to him for these past few weeks. Long may he stay on holiday.

I Hot cross buns on sale at Pick 'n Pay in January? Try Woolies - you can get them there every day of the year! - H Smith

I To the absolutely useless <u>female</u> at Sars Bellville, why do you answer the phone when you have no clue as to how to reply to two simple queries?

I I agree with reader about Shoprite in Kenilworth Centre. The service stinks and to top it all, two weeks ago the cleaner nearly mopped me off my feet, no apology.

## Obama

I A fatwa on the designer of Michelle Obama's inauguration outfit. Old Crimplene disaster, and shiny! Who is responsible for this fashion horror?

Load-Date: January 21, 2009



# A speech that might change the world; OBAMA'S DREAM: President lays out path for Muslim world and West to find peace

The Toronto Star

June 5, 2009 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 849 words

## **Body**

That was the speech that may indeed change the world.

No one speech can, as Barack Obama himself said. But in his 5,000 words yesterday in Cairo, he laid out a path for the West and the Muslim world to walk on together, perhaps even holding hands.

It was more of a landmark speech than the one he gave last year on race. That one saved his presidential campaign. This one might just spell the end of the post-9/11 "clash of civilizations."

More than tackling the toughest geopolitical issues of the day - Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Israel, anti-Semitism, etc. - Obama's greatest accomplishment was cultural.

This son of a black Muslim father and a white Christian mother effectively announced the end of the culture war on Muslims that has underpinned the war on terrorism for the last eight years.

Muslims - here in North America and Europe, and there in Muslim lands - will be relieved. Islamophobes, of whom we have our share, will not be pleased.

Obama's was a Canadian message - of pluralism, of people of different faiths and cultures finding ways to live in harmony.

In fact, some of his most ringing pronouncements echoed last year's report of the Quebec commission on reasonable accommodation.

With his trademark ability to see both sides of every issue, Obama was, by turns, empathetic of both Arabs and Jews, and equally tough on Muslims and the West.

He was a heralder of new beginnings, but only on conditions of reciprocity.

Speaking "as clearly and plainly as I can," he said that while Afghanistan was a war of necessity, Iraq was indeed "a war of choice." The U.S. will get out of both, eventually, keeping no permanent bases.

But Muslims must confront extremists, who've killed "people of different faiths - more than any other, they've killed Muslims."

A speech that might change the world OBAMA'S DREAM: President lays out path for Muslim world and West to find peace

He went after intolerant Muslims. "Among some Muslims, there's a disturbing tendency to measure one's own faith by the rejection of somebody else's faith. The richness of religious diversity must be upheld, whether it is for Maronites in Lebanon or the Copts in Egypt."

Iran has the right to peaceful nuclear power, but not weapons.

Denying the Holocaust (as Mahmoud Ahmadinejad does) is "baseless, ignorant and hateful."

America's bond with Israel is "unbreakable."

He will pursue a two-state solution. "It is undeniable that the Palestinian people, Muslims and Christians, have suffered ... The situation for the Palestinian people is intolerable." Yes, there is a "continued humanitarian crisis in Gaza." But "Palestinians must abandon violence." *Hamas*, especially.

It was an intelligent, balanced speech, which allowed him to walk through several political minefields. But his biggest, most immediate achievement was to have shot down several staples of post-9/11 anti-Muslim rhetoric.

Rejecting the clash of civilizations theory, he said "Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism - it is an important part of promoting peace."

Unlike those who equate the Muslim holy book to Mein Kampf or who invoke it selectively to fan hatred, Obama quoted from the "Holy Qur'an" five times.

In sharp contrast to the populist tone of recent years, he was respectful of Islam and Muslims.

He started by greeting the audience with the Islamic salutation, Assalam-o-alaikum, peace be with you. When mentioning Moses, Jesus and Muhammad, he followed the Muslim tradition of adding, "peace be upon them."

He noted "civilization's debt to Islam," saying it was Muslims who "paved the way for Europe's Renaissance and Enlightenment," developed algebra, pens and printing, and the understanding of how disease spreads and how to heal it.

"Islamic culture has given us majestic arches and soaring spires, timeless poetry and cherished music, elegant calligraphy and places of peaceful contemplation."

He invoked "Islam's proud tradition of tolerance," and especially racial equality, citing the cosmopolitan Muslim rule in Spain.

He noted that the tensions between the West and the Muslim world precede 9/11. They are weighed down by a history of "religious wars" (the Crusades); by "colonialism that denied rights and opportunities to many Muslims;" and the Cold War "in which Muslim-majority countries were too often treated as proxies."

He defended the hijab, but from the point of view of a liberal democracy. "Freedom in America is indivisible from the freedom to practice one's religion ... That is why the U.S. government has gone to court to protect the right of **women** and girls to wear the hijab, and to punish those who would deny it."

Without naming France, which banned the hijab in schools, or those on both the right and the left, who mock the hijab, he said:

"It is important for Western countries to avoid impeding Muslim citizens from practicing religion as they see fit, for instance, by dictating what clothes a Muslim woman should wear. We can't disguise hostility towards any religion behind the pretense of liberalism." And, "I reject the view of some in the West that a woman who chooses to cover her hair is somehow less equal."

He could've been quoting from Quebec's Taylor-Bouchard commission report.

Page 3 of 3

A speech that might change the world OBAMA'S DREAM: President lays out path for Muslim world and West to find peace

hsiddiqui @ thestar.ca

# **Graphic**

AMR NABIL ap EGYPT Men watch at a coffee shop. Egyptians praised Qur'an verses, but worried about substance.

Sucheta Das ap INDIA A Muslim family watches Barack Obama's speech yesterday. Academics there say it is a new start by Washington to repair strained relations.

MOTI MILROD ap ISRAEL An Orthodox Jew watches. Leaders there hope relations with Muslim neighbours will improve.

HAZEM BADER afp getty images PALESTINIANS An elder listens on an old radio. The Palestinian Authority called the speech a "good beginning." *Hamas* noted the change in U.S. tone.

MOHAMED SHEIKH NOR ap SOMALIA A group cheer after Obama quotes a verse from the Qur'an. While moderate Muslims in the country praised the speech, radicals said words are not enough.

Load-Date: June 5, 2009



## Pope's lack of specifics on Gaza, Holocaust disappoint Muslims and Jews

Christian Science Monitor May 12, 2009, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 966 words

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

Dateline: Jerusalem

## **Body**

A chief goal of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the Holy Land - healing tensions with both the Muslim and Jewish worlds - is looking to be a tall order.

After his Monday visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, some Israelis criticized the pontiff for speaking only in general terms about the Holocaust and not mentioning the role of his native Germany and its Nazi regime. Many Jews around the world were outraged earlier this year when he lifted the excommunication of four right-wing bishops, one of whom has denied the Holocaust, in a bid to reestablish the Roman Catholic church on its traditionalist foundation.

But the pope's mission of mending fences with Muslims is arguably a tougher one, especially after he quoted a medieval Catholic text in 2006 that depicted Islam as inherently violent. He faces not only lingering Muslim resentment over that speech, but also Palestinian bitterness over a lack of progress on gaining statehood as well as the January war in Gaza - a new nadir in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

At a meeting of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders on Monday night, the Palestinian Authority's chief Islamic judge took the microphone unannounced and called upon Muslims and Christians to unite against Israel.

In a visibly angry speech not preapproved by the meticulous event schedulers, Sheikh Tayseer Tamimi accused Israel of murdering <u>women</u> and children in Gaza and making Palestinians refugees, and declared Jerusalem the eternal Palestinian capital. He also accused the Israelis of having "desecrated" the Old City's holy sites and said they had turned the city into "a prison."

Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said in an official statement that in "a meeting dedicated to dialogue, this intervention was a direct negation of what a dialogue should be." He added: "We hope that such an incident will not damage the mission of the pope aiming at promoting peace and also interreligious dialogue."

On a Tuesday tour of Jerusalem's holy sites, the pope visited the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock with the top Palestinian cleric, Grand Mufti Muhammad Ahmad Hussein. Their dialogue was held away from the television cameras, amid extremely tight security. Afterward, the grand mufti said his part of the conversation focused on "our sufferings and we asked for justice in this Holy Land." He said he hoped the visit will contribute to peace. Asked how the pope responded, he said: "We felt he was receptive."

The tense parleys and terse words are a testament to the fact that the pope is walking not just on holy ground, but into explosive territory. On Wednesday, he visits Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus and now a West Bank city that is overwhelmingly Muslim. During his visit to the Aida Refugee Camp, which abuts a towering wall that is part of Israel's West Bank security barrier, Palestinians hope to throw a spotlight on their situation. He will also visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

On Thursday, he is also scheduled to hold mass for 40,000 people in Nazareth, followed by another on Friday at the Holy Sepulchre as he wraps up his visit to Israel.

Muslims, too, want specifics

Similar to critical Israelis, some Muslims are looking for more specifics from the pope over past grievances. A senior Muslim cleric in the Palestinian Authority, Sheikh Ishaq Taha, says that while the pope has made efforts to repair the damage done to the Vatican's relations with the Arab world after his 2006 speech, it would be helpful if he made further clarifications. In a lecture, the pope read from a 14th-century text in which the Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologos said: "Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

The Vatican later explained that the pope did not intend to offend, nor did he endorse the words as his own.

"I hope during this visit, the pope will use the opportunity to show his respect for Islam, because there are many who have not heard it," Sheikh Taha says. Palestinians, he adds, will also be listening for a stronger statement on Palestinian suffering at the hands of Israeli policies. They feel they have been hampered from being able to show the pope a variety of sites and to highlight issues such as home demolitions.

"The reason this visit is so important is because of the hope that he will contribute to the peace process," says Taha. "But let's not forget that the occupation has intervened in his visit and has prevented him from arriving at certain locations." Palestinian Authority officials were prevented by Israeli police from having their own press conference on the pope's visit at an East Jerusalem hotel on Monday.

Hard-liners look for criticism of Gaza war

Harder-line Islamists say they expect little out of the pope's visit. Sheikh Mahmoud Musleh, of <u>Hamas</u>, says that Palestinians were disappointed that he didn't criticize Israel more forcefully during the war in Gaza in January.

"He said he considered it an act of self-defense for Israel and did not say that it was a breach of human rights, or an act of excessive force. This adds fuel to the fire of his comments he made about our prophet two years ago," says Sheikh Musleh in an interview in his Ramallah office.

"We find it strange that he is biased toward our enemy," Musleh says. "He has to stay an honest broker and not be biased. We will forgive him once we see he has gone on the right track."

In Gaza, a parliament member from <u>Hamas</u> charged that Pope Benedict was "the most pro-Zionist pontiff in the history of the Catholic Church." Younis al-Astal said that other Muslim leaders' meetings with the pope were pointless because "Islam doesn't accept half solutions."

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Load-Date: May 12, 2009



## WITH POMP, ARCHBISHOP IS INSTALLED

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

April 16, 2009 Thursday

4 State / Suncoast Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 9A

Length: 425 words

## **Body**

#### **NEW YORK**

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, a congenial cleric with a taste for baseball and fast food and a firm commitment to Roman Catholic orthodoxy, took his place Wednesday in the nation's most influential Catholic pulpit, as the 10th archbishop of New York. Dolan, 59, who led the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for the past seven years, was officially inaugurated in a three-hour Liturgy of Installation at St. Patrick's Cathedral that put on full display all the pageantry in the arsenal of the 2,000-year-old Catholic Church. At a news conference hours earlier, Dolan said he would challenge efforts to legalize gay marriage in New York state. Gov. David Paterson is expected to introduce such a bill today.

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## WASHINGTON

U.S. experts asked to leave North Korea

The United States said Wednesday that American experts working at North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear plant have been asked to leave the country, heightening tension after the North's firing of a rocket earlier this month over U.S. ally Japan. State Department spokesman Robert Wood said U.S. officials monitoring the disablement of its Yongbyon nuclear plant were preparing to leave.

\*\*\*

### **CLEVELAND**

Demjanjuk said to be in pain after custody

John Demjanjuk was exhausted and in pain after an aborted attempt by immigration enforcement officers to deport him to Germany, and a U.S. court should consider whether the 89-year-old man would even survive an overseas flight, his son, John Demjanjuk Jr., said Wednesday. Germany has an arrest warrant accusing Demjanjuk of being a guard at a Nazi death camp during World War II.

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#### Elsewhere

## WITH POMP, ARCHBISHOP IS INSTALLED

IRAN: Scientists have cloned a goat and plan future experiments they hope will lead to a treatment for stroke patients, said Dr. Mohammed Hossein Nasr e Isfahani, head of the Royan Research Institute. The <u>female</u> goat, named Hana, was born early Wednesday.

PAKISTAN: The Supreme Court granted bail to hard-line Islamic cleric Maulana Abdul Aziz, who was arrested shortly before the Pakistani military raided the Red Mosque in Islamabad nearly two years ago, his lawyer said.

ISRAEL: An Israeli government official said the country is unlikely to cooperate with a Gaza war crimes investigation because it distrusts the U.N. agency sponsoring the investigation. Gaza's <u>Hamas</u> rulers said they would work with the U.N. Human Rights Council.

INDIA: Soldiers fanned out on Wednesday, a day before Indians start a monthlong election expected to leave the country with a shaky coalition government. An estimated 714 million people are eligible to vote. Results are expected May 16.

Load-Date: April 16, 2009



# Morning Star February 3, 2009 Tuesday

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**Length:** 2090 words **Byline:** Uri Avnery

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I should be happy, therefore, that, at long last, somebody is ready to put that action to a judicial test, even if he seems to have been thwarted by political pressure. But I am sorry that this has happened in Spain, not in Israel.

Israeli TV viewers have lately been exposed to a bizarre sight. Army officers appearing with their faces hidden, as is usual for criminals here when the court prohibits their identification. Paedophiles, for example, or attackers of old **women**.

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Immediately after the ceasefire, Defence Minister Ehud Barak promoted a special law that would give unlimited backing by the state to all officers and soldiers who took part in the Gaza war and who might be accused abroad of war crimes.

I do not object to trials abroad. The main thing is that war criminals, like pirates, should be brought to justice. It is not so important where they are caught. This rule was applied when Israel abducted Adolf Eichmann in Argentina and hanged him for heinous crimes committed outside its territory and, indeed, before it even existed.

But, as an Israeli patriot, I would prefer suspected Israeli war criminals to be put on trial in Israel. That is necessary for the country, for all decent officers and soldiers of the Israeli army and for the education of future generations of citizens and soldiers.

There is no need to rely on international law alone. There are Israeli laws against war crimes.

Enough to mention the immortal phrase coined by Justice Binyamin Halevy, who served as a military judge in the trial of the border policemen who were responsible for the 1956 massacre in Kafr Kassem, when dozens of children, <u>women</u> and men were mown down for violating a curfew which they did not know about.

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My list of suspects includes politicians, soldiers, rabbis and lawyers.

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Another example: the shelling of the United Nations school full of refugees from which there had been no shooting, something that the army admitted after the original pretexts had been disproved.

These are "simple" cases. But the spectrum of cases is far wider.

A serious judicial investigation has to start right from the top - the politicians and senior officers who decided on the war and confirmed its plans must be investigated about their decisions. In Nuremberg, it was laid down that it is a crime to initiate a war of aggression.

An objective investigation has to find out whether the decision to start the war was justified or if there was another way of stopping the launching of rockets against Israeli territory.

Without doubt, no country can or should tolerate the bombing of its towns and villages from beyond the border. But could this be prevented by talking with the Gaza authorities? Was our government's decision to boycott *Hamas*, the winner of the democratic Palestinian elections, the real cause of this war? Did the imposition of the blockade on 1.5 million Gaza Strip inhabitants contribute to the launching of the Qassams?

The war plan included a massive attack on the civilian population of the strip. The real aims of a war can be understood less from the official declarations of its initiators, than from their actions.

If, in this war, some 1,300 men, <u>women</u> and children were killed, the great majority of whom were not fighters, and if about 5,000 people were injured, most of them children, if some 2,500 homes were partly or wholly destroyed, if the infrastructure of life was totally demolished, this clearly could not have happened accidentally. It must have been a part of the war plan.

The things said during the war by politicians and officers make it clear that the plan had at least two aims, which might be considered war crimes.

First, to cause widespread killing and destruction in order to "fix a price tag," "to burn into their consciousness," "to reinforce deterrence" and, most of all, to get the population to rise up against <u>Hamas</u> and overthrow their government. Clearly, this affects mainly the civilian population.

Second, to avoid casualties to our army at literally any price by destroying any building and killing any human being in the area into which our troops were about to move, including destroying homes over the heads of their inhabitants, preventing medical teams from reaching the victims and killing people indiscriminately. In certain cases, inhabitants were warned that they must flee, but this was mainly an alibi action - there was nowhere to flee to and often soldiers opened fire on people trying to escape.

An independent court will have to decide whether such a war plan was in accordance with national and international law or whether it was a crime against humanity and a war crime.

This was a war pitching a regular army with huge capabilities against a guerilla force. In such a war, too, not everything is permissible.

Arguments like "the <u>Hamas</u> terrorists were hiding within the civilian population" and "they used the population as human shields" may be effective as propaganda, but they are irrelevant. That is true for every guerilla war. This must be taken into account when a decision to start such a war is being considered.

In a democratic state, the military takes its orders from the political establishment. But that does not include "manifestly" illegal orders over which the black flag of illegality is waving. The Nuremberg trials decided that there was no such excuse as "I was only obeying orders."

The personal responsibility of all involved, from the chief of staff, the front commander and the division commander, right down to the last soldier, must be examined.

From the statements of Israeli soldiers, one must deduce that many believed that their job was "to kill as many Arabs as possible," meaning that there was no distinction between fighters and non-fighters. That is a completely illegal order, whether given explicitly or by a wink and a nudge. Yet the soldiers understood this to be "the spirit of the commander."

The rabbis have a place of honour among those suspected of war crimes. Those who incite to war crimes and call upon soldiers, directly or indirectly, to commit war crimes may be guilty of a war crime themselves.

When one speaks of "rabbis," one thinks of old men with long white beards and big hats who give tongue to venerable wisdom. But the rabbis who accompanied the troops are a very different species.

In the last decades, the state-financed religious educational system has churned out "rabbis" who are more like medieval Christian priests than the Jewish sages of Poland or Morocco. This system indoctrinates its pupils with a violent, totally ethnocentric tribal cult which sees in the whole of world history nothing but an endless story of Jewish victimhood. This is a religion of a chosen people indifferent to others, a religion without compassion for anyone who is not Jewish which glorifies the God-decreed genocide described in the biblical book of Joshua.

The products of this education are now the "rabbis" who instruct the religious youths. With their encouragement, a systematic effort has been made to take over the Israeli army from within. The kibbutzniks who were dominant in the army not so long ago have been replaced by kippa-wearing officers. Many of the lower and middle-ranking officers now belong to this group.

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This material includes political incitement, such as the statement that the Jewish religion prohibits "giving up even one millimetre of eretz Israel," that the Palestinians, like the biblical Philistines from whom the name Palestine derives, are a foreign people who invaded the country and that any compromise such as that indicated in the official government programme is a mortal sin. The distribution of political propaganda violates, of course, army law.

The rabbis openly called upon the soldiers to be cruel and merciless towards the Arabs. To treat them mercifully, they stated, is a "terrible, awful immorality." When such material is distributed to religious soldiers going into war, it is easy to see why things happened the way they did.

The planners of this war knew that the shadow of war crimes was hovering over the planned operation. The attorney general was a partner to the planning. This week, chief army attorney Colonel Avichai Mandelblut disclosed that his officers had been attached throughout the war to all the commanders from the chief of staff down to the division commander.

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Load-Date: April 9, 2009



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Load-Date: April 9, 2009



## Israeli soldiers admit Gaza abuses

The Irish Times

March 20, 2009 Friday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 12

Length: 404 words

Byline: TOBIAS BUCK in Jerusalem

## **Body**

ISRAELI SOLDIERS have provided the most damning indictment yet of the army s conduct during the recent Gaza war, claiming they committed serious abuses against civilians, including the shooting of unarmed <u>women</u> and children.

One incident, in which a Gaza woman was killed by Israeli sharpshooters, was described as cold-blooded murder by a soldier who served in the conflict.

In response to a string of testimonies compiled by an army training school, published in the media yesterday, Israel s military advocate general has ordered a criminal investigation.

The revelations are likely to further undermine Israel s image, already dented by the war in January. Palestinian and international human rights groups have long claimed that Israeli forces operating in the Gaza Strip committed grave violations against the civilian population. More than 1,400 Palestinians were killed during Israel s three-week assault on the *Hamas*-controlled strip.

Claims of war crimes, as well as the mounting international effort to prosecute Israeli officials and soldiers for alleged violations, have met angry denials from the government and army.

Speaking on the night Israel ended its offensive, prime minister Ehud Olmert applauded the army for its great sensitivity in exercising its force, adding that few countries would have behaved with such restraint.

That claim has been undermined by the testimony of Israel's soldiers. In a 35-page eyewitness report compiled by the head of a military preparation programme, soldiers reported cases in which troops shot civilians and vandalised homes. Several said there was a general disregard for the safety of civilians.

I felt there was a lot of thirst for blood, one soldier is quoted as saying. This is the beauty of Gaza. You see a person walking down a street or path; he does not have to be with a weapon. You just have to see him with something, and you shoot him. Another soldier said: The atmosphere in general how should I say this? the life of the Palestinians is much less important than the life of our soldiers. One officer described the behaviour of soldiers occupying a Palestinian house, highlighting abuses including writing sentences on the walls like Death to the Arabs, taking family pictures and spitting on them, burning everything that reminds us of the family.

Talking about the IDF being a moral army that s not the case in the field. (Financial Times)

## Israeli soldiers admit Gaza abuses

Load-Date: March 20, 2009



## We cannot ban the freedom to be objectionable

Sunday Express
April 5, 2009 Sunday
U.K. 1st Edition

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Section: NEWS; 45 Length: 936 words

# **Body**

RECENT weeks have seen a sort of unofficial race among various governments to see who can most righteously ban whom from whose territory and on what complacent grounds. Recently, the Canadian authorities announced that British Member of Parliament George Galloway would not be permitted to keep his appointment for a speaking tour he had arranged in four cities, including Toronto and Ottawa. Canada's immigration minister, Jason Kenney, said that the ban had more to do with actions than with words.

Galloway had indeed, on a recent trip to Gaza, called for the Egyptian armed forces to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak but it was the announced purpose of Galloway's trip to the Gaza Strip, the delivery of a convoy of material aid to the <u>Hamas</u> leadership, that prompted Kenney to deny him permission to land on the grounds that he had delivered "aid and resources to? a banned illegal terrorist organisation".

Galloway has in the past issued calls for foreign politicians to be banned from British soil, as in the case of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of France's extreme-Right National Front, and he was not conspicuous in protesting in February, when the British Government deported Geert Wilders, a Dutch politician whose party holds nine seats in parliament, after the latter's arrival at Heathrow airport.

Wilders has made a short film called Fitna, freely available on the internet, which shows scenes of violence and cruelty intercut with some of the more lurid injunctions of the Koran. He has referred to the Muslim holy book as comparable to Mein Kampf and has, in keeping with the new intolerant spirit of the times, called for it to be banned.

When invited to broadcast his film on a small Dutch Muslim station, he declined. Nonetheless, he was invited by a member to come and screen Fitna at the House of Lords and, given that he has no record of violence or its incitement, it's hard to see how his presence in London was in any sense a police matter.

The hasty ban on Wilders, which was obviously adopted by Gordon Brown's Government as a gesture of appeasement to the very active Muslim fundamentalist wing in British politics, made it almost inevitable that the same government's decision to invite some representatives of Hezbollah to London would itself have to be reversed.

The plan had been to get some civilian spokesman of the party's Lebanese wing to meet with offi cials and academics to discuss possible areas of common interest.

In fact this was in line with the British Government's recent decision to resume contacts with Hezbollah in Beirut, on the assumption that a distinction can be made between its elected parliamentary wing and its military one.

## We cannot ban the freedom to be objectionable

Even if you think that this is based on a naive assumption, the British are at least entitled to try it.

Now, though, they find that one ban leads to another, for the sake of appearances and "even-handedness", so that having refused hospitality to one Dutchman, they are compelled to deny themselves the pleasure of sitting down with one or two Lebanese.

Geert Wilders has already visited the United States, where he addressed the Conservative Political Action Committee. Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> offi cials will not be visiting Washington at any early date, though George Galloway has been allowed to come and go as he pleases.

There is currently an argument about whether we can risk giving a job or a visa to Tariq Ramadan, a Muslim author whose supposed "moderation" is seen by some (including me) as a cover for some quite extreme apologies for such things as suicide-murder and the stoning of <u>women</u>. There are two questions in Ramadan's case. The fi rst concerns whether he should be given tenure on an American campus and the second whether he should be allowed to visit the United States at all. The second call seems a fairly easy one.

What is at stake in all these cases is not just the right of the people concerned to travel and to take their opinions with them. It is also the right of potential audiences to make their own determination about whom they wish to hear.

As a journalist, I can go visit Hezbollah spokesmen and report back on what it's like and what they say but why should a reader have to take my word for it? The British House of Commons has room for a man as appalling as George Galloway; why should Canadians not have the chance to make up their own mind about him? If Geert Wilders is persuasive enough to get himself elected to parliament in The Hague, is there any reason to believe that the British people are so lacking in robustness that they need to be protected from what he has to say?

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The risk of allowing all opinions by all speakers may seem great but it is nothing compared with the risk of giving the power of censorship to any official.

Load-Date: April 8, 2009



# The IDF fog machine at work

The Jerusalem Post April 2, 2009 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 15

Length: 922 words

Byline: LARRY DERFNER Highlight: Rattling the Cage

## **Body**

Now that the IDF says there was nothing to those soldiers' stories about <u>women</u> and children getting shot to death deliberately, on orders, during the war in Gaza, I want to update what I wrote a week ago. Then, I presumed the soldiers from the Rabin pre-military academy knew what they were talking about. Now I'm not sure. It's very possible the two shooting incidents described by "Aviv" and "Ram" never happened and were based on unfounded rumors, as the IDF's internal investigation concluded.

But it's also possible there was something to them.

Still, neither I nor any other journalist who presumed that the soldiers' stories were accurate have anything to apologize for or retract. If I had it to do over again, knowing only what I knew before the IDF investigation came out, I'd write the same column I wrote last week. More importantly, though, even if the old woman, the mother and the two children in question never were shot, it would hardly alter the big picture emerging from Operation Cast Lead that Israel, in the main, acted callously toward civilian life.

I DON'T WRITE off the army's probe. I don't think IDF internal investigators would tell bald-face lies; I don't think they would calculatedly turn black into white. But neither, of course, can this be considered an impartial probe. Those soldiers claimed their comrades shot and killed two <u>women</u> and two children who'd entered a no-go zone, and did so under orders.

I think the IDF might be willing to expose a couple of loose cannons who'd done such a thing, but to find that they were acting under orders would be catastrophic for this country. I don't believe IDF internal investigators could reach such a conclusion even if it were true. That's why in-house investigations of purported scandals are inherently suspect - because the investigators are inherently biased.

But again, even if those shootings never took place, what does it say that at least some IDF soldiers evidently thought that those were their orders? In the excerpts of the discussion published in Haaretz, the soldiers disagreed over whether it was right to shoot Palestinians in such circumstances, but there was no disagreement that those were their orders.

After Aviv talks about how his comrades shot an old, unarmed woman ("The order was to take that woman out, the moment you see her...") his comrade "Zvi" says the following: "Aviv's descriptions are accurate, but it's possible to understand where this is coming from. And that woman, you don't know whether she's... She wasn't supposed to be

## The IDF fog machine at work

there, because there were warnings and there were bombings. Logic says she shouldn't be there. The way you describe it, as murder in cold blood, that isn't right. It's known that they have lookouts and that sort of thing."

ZVI ISN'T saying they weren't ordered to shoot Palestinians in the no-go area on sight, he's not saying such killings didn't take place - he's saying they were ordered, they did shoot and it was all justified.

This is what's so hypocritical about the public's outrage over the coverage of the soldiers' statements and the public sense of vindication from the IDF probe: People were angry that Israel was made to look bad, but as for the morality of what those soldiers described, most of the outraged public had no problem with it. Read the talkbacks. Ask around.

Regarding the media's widespread assumption that the soldiers' recollections were credible, why shouldn't the media, especially here, have assumed that? Journalists, certainly here, publish IDF soldiers' war stories all the time. They believe them as a matter of course, and so does the public. I've written up accounts by IDF soldiers about being attacked by the enemy, about being tortured by the enemy, and I believed them and I'm sure readers did, too.

I believed and still believe the stories told by soldiers from Operation Cast Lead about being ordered not to shoot civilians, about going out of their way to help them. The IDF isn't a monolith; different units, different commanders and different soldiers behave in different ways.

There cannot be one journalistic standard for the treatment of "positive" war stories and another for "negative" war stories, yet that's what the public seems to demand. Well, too bad for the public.

But beyond the automatic credibility that goes to IDF soldiers, there's another reason why these particular stories rang true, and why even conclusive proof that they were false shouldn't make any Israeli feel vindicated - because you don't need Aviv's, or Ram's or Zvi's accounts to know that Operation Cast Lead was a travesty.

Even if you assume that every single Gazan, human rights NGO and foreign journalist was telling nothing but pure lies, what we know from military and government officials themselves is bad enough.

We bombed any number of Gazan government buildings and courthouses because they were "symbols of *Hamas* power." We bombed a graduation ceremony for traffic police. We bombed Islamic University because weapons were being developed there. We fired white phosphorous, which burns flesh to the bone, that hit densely-populated areas.

And this is just what the IDF acknowledges; it doesn't include the destroyed families, homes, schools and hospitals which it says were either used by <u>Hamas</u> as "human shields" or ended up as "collateral damage." That's the big picture from Gaza. The statements by the soldiers from the Rabin pre-military academy fit in. Now the IDF investigation casts doubt on those statements. But it doesn't change the big picture.

# Graphic

Photo: DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAK and Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi meet with soldiers in the north on Tuesday. The IDF isn't a monolith; different units, different commanders and different soldiers behave in different ways. (Credit: AP/Defense Ministry, Ariel Hermoni)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



# Old fashioned censorship

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

April 1, 2009 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: Q: QUERIES - QUIBBLES - QUIRKS; Pg. A15; Christopher Hitchens

Length: 960 words

Byline: Christopher Hitchens, For The Calgary Herald

## **Body**

Recent weeks have seen a sort of unofficial race among various governments to see who can most righteously ban whom from whose territory and on what complacent grounds. Recently, the Canadian authorities announced that British MP George Galloway would not be permitted to keep his appointment for a speaking tour he had arranged in four cities, including Toronto and Ottawa. Jason Kenney, Canada's immigration minister, said the ban had more to do with actions than words.

Galloway had indeed, on a recent trip to Gaza, called for the Egyptian armed forces to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak. But it was the announced purpose of Galloway's trip to the Gaza Strip--the delivery of a convoy of material aid to the <u>Hamas</u> leadership--that prompted Kenney to deny him permission to land, on the grounds that he had delivered "aid and resources to . . . a banned illegal terrorist organization."

Galloway has in the past issued his own calls for foreign politicians to be banned from British soil, as in the case of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of France's extreme-right National Front. And he was not conspicuous in protesting in February, when the British government deported Geert Wilders, a Dutch politician whose party holds nine seats in parliament, after the latter's arrival at Heathrow Airport.

Wilders has made a short film called Fitna, freely available on the Internet, which shows scenes of violence and cruelty intercut with some of the more lurid injunctions of the Qur'an. He has referred to the Muslim holy book as comparable to Mein Kampf and has, in keeping with the new intolerant spirit of the times, called for it to be banned. When invited to broadcast his film on a small Dutch Muslim station, he declined. Nonetheless, he was invited by a member to come and screen Fitna at the House of Lords and, given that he has no record of violence or its incitement, it's hard to see how his presence in London was in any sense a police matter.

The ban on Wilders, which was obviously adopted by Gordon Brown's government as a gesture of appearsement to the very active Muslim fundamentalist wing in British politics, made it almost inevitable that the same government's decision to invite some representatives of Hezbollah to London would itself have to be reversed.

The plan had been to get some civilian spokesman of the party's Lebanese wing to meet with officials to discuss possible areas of common interest--this was in line with the British government's recent decision to resume contacts with Hezbollah in Beirut, on the assumption that a distinction can be made between its elected parliamentary wing and its military one.

## Old fashioned censorship

Even if you think that this is based on a naive assumption, the British are entitled to try it. But now they find that one ban leads to another, so that having refused hospitality to one Dutchman, they are compelled to deny themselves the pleasure of sitting down with one or two Lebanese.

Wilders has already visited the U. S., where he addressed the Conservative Political Action Committee. Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> officials will not be visiting Washington at any early date, though Galloway has been allowed to come and go as he pleases. (This might change, given the number of questions raised by two authoritative reports on his participation in the abuse of the United Nations' "oil for food" program.)

There is currently an argument about whether we can risk giving a job or a visa to Tariq Ramadan, a Muslim author whose supposed "moderation" is seen by some (including me) as a cover for some quite extreme apologies for such things as suicide-murder and the stoning of <u>women</u>. There are two separate questions in Ramadan's case: The first concerns whether he should be given tenure on an American campus and the second whether he should be allowed to visit the U. S. at all. The second call seems a fairly easy one.

What is at stake in all these cases is not just the right of the people concerned to travel and to take their opinions with them. It is also the right of potential audiences to make their own determination about whom they wish to hear. As a journalist, I can go visit Hezbollah spokesmen and report back on what it's like and what they say, but why should a reader have to take my word for it?

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Christopher Hitchens Is A Columnist For Vanity Fair And Slate Magazine, Where This Column Originally Appeared.

Load-Date: April 1, 2009



# Israeli rivals claim election victory; Voting closes with political uncertainty

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)
February 11, 2009 Wednesday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A11

Length: 383 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

## **Body**

Both Tzipi Livni's ruling Kadima party and Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud challenger declared victory as Israel's general election came to a tight finish early today, setting the stage for a power struggle.

According to a final ballot count, Kadima won a razor-thin victory, gaining one more seat than right-wing rival Likud.

Israel's central election commission said Kadima won 28 seats in the 120-member Knesset, followed by Likud with 27.

Avigdor Lieberman's ultra-nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party came in third with 15 seats -- its best-ever showing -- and the centre-left Labour party fell to 13, its worst performance in any Israeli election. The ultra-Orthodox Shas party came in fifth with 11 seats.

However, the party with the most seats does not necessarily lead the next government.

"Today, the people have chosen Kadima," Livni told party supporters in Tel Aviv as she vowed to become Israel's second *female* prime minister.

"Israel does not belong to the right in the same way that peace does not belong to the left," the 50-year-old Livni

But it was Netanyahu who claimed victory and told a cheering crowd of supporters "the people want to be led in a different way."

"The national camp led by the Likud has won an unambiguous majority," Netanyahu, 59, said in Tel Aviv.

"I am certain that I will be able to form the next government.I can unite all forces of this nation and lead Israel."

The former prime minister's confidence that he had been returned to the office he held from 1996 to 1999 stemmed from a surge in support for other right-wing parties as well as Likud.

This made it more likely that he, rather than Livni, would be able to form Israel's next coalition government.

Israeli rivals claim election victory; Voting closes with political uncertainty

The real kingmaker is likely to be Avigdor Lieberman, the blunt, extreme right-wing leader of Israel Beiteinu. The Russian-speaking immigrant from Soviet Moldova and his party were arguably the biggest winners on the night, improving their standing from 11 to 15 seats.

Lieberman's main campaign theme was that the country's substantial Arab minority must take an oath of loyalty to the Jewish state. In a speech to campaign workers, he also promised to crush <u>Hamas</u>, which continued on Tuesday to sporadically fire rockets into Israel.

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Log on for the latest news out of the Israeli election at calgaryherald.com

Load-Date: February 11, 2009



# Huge JI women rally demands Israel's war crime trial

The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

January 20, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 423 words

## **Body**

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami <u>Women</u> Wing took out a large rally of <u>women</u> and children from Mansoorah on Tuesday to condemn Israeli aggression on unarmed Palestinians in Gaza and demanding war crimes trial of Israel for committing genocide of civilians with Phosphorus bombs and other chemical weapons.

The rallyists led by wife of JI ameer Qazi Hussain Ahmad and other leaders marched up to Multan Chungi carrying banners and placards with slogans condemning Israeli aggression and expressing solidarity with the Palestinian Muslims.

Other leaders participating the rally included Sameea Raheel Qazi, president of JI <u>women</u> wing Punjab Humera Tariq, vice president Humera Ihtesham, Lahore president Rahat Bashir, vice president Naushaba Ahsan, Samina Bajwa, Begum Hashmi, Muteea Awais, president <u>women</u> commission Afia Sarwar and Tahira Munir. The rallyists were addressed by JI naib ameer Hafiz Idris, Deputy secretary general Dr Farid Paracha, Director Foreign Affairs Abdul Ghaffar Aziz, ameer JI Lahore Amirul Azeem, and Amanullah Khan.

They paid glowing tributes to Palestinians for valiantly combating the highly equipped Israeli army with their bare hands and sheer spirit of Jihad in order to protect the first Qibla of Muslim world. They said Palestinians and <u>Hamas</u> has proved once again that wars are not fought on the basis of arms but with the spirit of Jihad and belief on The Almighty Allah. They said with the blessings of Allah the unarmed Palestinians remained successful against the highly equipped Israeli army and defeated its US supplied chemical and biological bombs.

They held 57 Muslim rulers responsible for Muslim genocide since they never did anything to save unarmed Muslim people against enemy armies despite having 40 per cent resources of the world and having deposited 1150 billion dollars in US banks. They said the Muslim rulers are accustomed to luxurious living exploiting all the resources of Muslim world just for their own comforts and satisfaction. They demanded of the Muslim rulers to constitute a joint army of Muslim world for fighting against the enemies if they cared for religious honour and self respect.

The JI leaders also condemned the western NGOs running on heavy donations from the western countries for keeping a criminal silence over cold blood killing of innocent men, <u>women</u> and children in Gaza but they always raised hue and cry for backing the runaway girls. They also invited the whole Muslim world to adopt one Palestinian family like it has been announced by the Muslims of Jordan.

Load-Date: January 30, 2009



## THE AFTERLIFE

The Times (London)

January 31, 2009 Saturday

Edition 1

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Section: MAGAZINE; FEATURES; Pg. 16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,25

**Length:** 6727 words **Byline:** Tony Blair

## **Body**

Since leaving office 19 months ago, Tony Blair has rebuilt a life almost as frantic and globetrotting as the one he lived in Downing Street. Amid criticism of his role in the Middle East peace process, Ginny Dougary and photographer Nick Danziger join the former Prime Minister on the road to discuss Gaza, Catholicism, doubt, Iraq, money and Cherie

It's an exhausting business interviewing Tony Blair. For a start, everyone has an opinion about him and feels the need to express it, usually with some force. Cab drivers, handymen and t he like - certainly in the UK - call him all sorts of unprintable names.

Their main complaint is Iraq, as is everyone else's, but they also blame him for the spendspend- spend culture which in their opinion has landed us in the mess we're in now.

Move from the hectoring to the chattering classes and the arguments against him become even more vociferous. The general impression, however unfair, is that he has singlehandedly failed to bring peace to the Middle East, has achieved nothing in his role there as special envoy, earns far too much money, owns too many houses, and swans around the world raking in the loot for consultancies and speeches, probably at the taxpayers' expense.

This anti- Blair hostility could not be more different to the reception I witness him receive in Israel and, indeed, more surprisingly, Palestine - such as it is - where he is hugged, kissed, implored to pose for innumerable photos and sign autographs. All of this is before the outbreak of hostilities in Gaza.

When I ask him what it feels like to be so love- bombed, he mutters, and it is hard to read the expression on his face: "Well, someone's got to love me." One of his bodyguards tells me that these pop- star scenes happen wherever "the Boss" travels in the world, except for one country. But even here, Blair says, it's better than it was.

His staff - there are 70 of them around the globe - are all young and dynamic and fiercely bright. They seem to do everything - think, talk, move - at three times the speed of normal human beings. Blair's team in Rwanda, one of two charity- funded African projects, whose brief is to assist President Kagame in modernising his country, is particularly peppy.

## THE AFTERLIFE

Then there is Blair himself, who has positively bionic energy levels and sometimes gets a kick out of other people's failure to keep up. He doesn't like it much, not surprisingly, when I teasingly (but truthfully) say that, in this way, he reminds me of Jeffrey Archer.

Man on a mission Blair has always struck me as a man in a hurry, only now he seems to be in a race almost against himself. In one of our interviews, I ask him the childlike question: does he want to save the world? (This was also before Gordon Brown inadvertently revealed his own Superman aspirations.) Blair, who quite likes the simplicity of such questions, laughs and replies: "I wouldn't be in politics unless I thought there was a specific purpose of making the world a better place. So the childish answer to the childish question is, 'Yes.'" He goes on to say something that would have been rather unpolitic to express when he was Prime Minister: "I don't actually like the business of politics at all. Some people like the political interplay of working it all out. Even though I say it myself - I can do the political campaigning pretty well, I never actually enjoyed it. I'm far more interested in the problem; in solving the problem.

"Those problems take on tragic proportions a month after our trip, when <u>Hamas</u> fails to renew the six- month ceasefire and sends more rockets into Israel, with devastating repercussions. Blair was at home in the country with his family over Christmas but, he tells me, "I was on the phone to the Arabs, the Americans and the Israelis the whole time." He returned to the Middle East on January 2 and says, when he phones me later from Abu Dhabi, that he has been on four or five separate visits to the region in a fortnight.

I ask him whether he is surprised by what has happened, since the previous month he had been cautiously optimistic about progress, but he says: "No. I've been saying for some time that what was needed was a completely different strategy. What has happened has been very shocking and very sad - the scenes of carnage - but that is war, I'm afraid, and war is horrible. But although it may sound absurd, on one level, to talk about the possibility of peace, we have got to get that process right back on track." That process should be helped immeasurably by President Obama's early appointment of former Senator George Mitchell as full- time envoy in the Middle East.

Mitchell and Blair go back a long way, having worked closely together on brokering the historic peace deal in Northern Ireland, and when I meet our former PM for a final time as we go to press, it is clear from the tenor of his conversation that he believes this will strengthen rather than sideline his position: " First of all, it's obviously good for me because we've worked together so closely, but also because I think he's a very sensible, wise, but also tough person.

And in relation to Gaza, we will have a better chance of getting a strategy there that offers people the possibility of rejoining the West Bank on the right terms." During our five days together in mid- November, and in several meetings subsequently, there is ample opportunity to observe the former PM at close quarters - and we speak often, in short, snatched bursts and longer one- to- one sessions. Although he is always relaxed - as he seems, indeed, in all the sessions that I am able to witness with the heads of state of the various countries on our trip - it is only when he has a chance to unwind, without constant interruptions, that you glimpse his humanity unmasked by that slightly all- too- ready actorish fluency.

Blair's schedule is as lunatic, if not more so, than when he was in office, but he's a different man to the one we were accustomed to seeing in the final stretch of his tenure. The look of bruised defiance and exhaustion which shadowed his eyes has been replaced with that old bright blue sparkle of optimistic certainty.

He seems happy. There is something about him that makes me think of a man caught in the grip of a postponed midlife crisis, in a positive as well as a disconcerting sense. He has the glow of the newly- in- love; in love with the world and, for the most part, the feeling is reciprocated.

There is also something of a grand folie - however important the work and the seriousness of his approach - about the Herculean scale of the task he has set himself: sorting out the Middle East, Africa, climate change, his sports foundation, his faith foundation, " making a case for faith as a force for good in the world". And in order to be able to do this work pro bono ( as well as keep up his hefty mortgage payments and make good his debts), he needs to generate an enormous income - estimated at Eur 12 million since he left office. He's achieved this by giving

## THE AFTERLIFE

speeches (Blair is said to be the highest- paid speaker in the world, earning a reported \$250,000 for a 90- minute talk), a teaching stint at Yale (on faith and globalisation), as well as delivering what he describes, with an almost embarrassed ironic flourish, as "my memoirs". All of which might help to explain why, at 55, he's in such a hurry.

When I ask Blair how often he manages to see his wife and son Leo, now 8, he replies: " At the moment, not nearly as much as I should.

I know..." Honestly, Tony, I scold him, do you want your marriage to fail? "No, I don't!" An easy laugh. "There's clearly got to be a major recalibration." Is Cherie not saying to you, "Hey!" More laughter: "Yes, she is." Don't you miss her? "Of course I miss her!" I say that he's always seemed to go at things at a breakneck speed, but now there seems to be an added urgency to his frenetic pace. "Well, it is partly true," he concedes, "but it's also because I'm building a new life. When we left [Downing Street], all I had was a mobile phone and Vic and Catherine [his old staffers] and even they weren't getting paid.

"Eighteen months on, we've got 70- odd people around the world employed in various guises, and offices in the centre of London, and my two foundations established. So I'm starting, like, a whole new enterprise. But I wouldn't be happy any other way." Body language If there's one, somewhat irreverent, lingering snapshot that exemplifies Tony Blair's time management, it's of him walking past my seat on the James Bond- ish Gulfstream IV - all cream leather upholstery and burnished gold accourtements - distractedly undressing on the way to the loo, white linen shirt out, flies undone, although he flatly denies the latter when I later point it out.

His body language is interesting. Although recent photographs reveal a slackening of that resolute jaw line, Blair still manages to retain a movie- star glamour. But when he is tired or off- guard, his left foot has a tendency to turn inwards which gives him an oddly vulnerable, pigeon- toed gait. Sitting behind him on the plane, with his socks runkled down to reveal a stretch of bare ankle, this was particularly pronounced, and as he scribbled and scratched away revising a chapter of his memoirs, he resembled.

a schoolboy swotting away at his homework.

All the hours in the gym have paid off - the Blairs have installed one in their London home - and our former PM now has a positively streamlined physique. He holds himself occasionally like someone who has recently shed a lot of weight; with a mixture of pride but because he is temperamentally disinclined towards strutting, also a slightly conflicting awkwardness.

I am surprised by an occasional theatrical tendency: he calls his <u>female</u> staffers "darling" and, by day two, I, too, have become one of his darlings. I also catch him using the c- word to the outgoing Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert (the punchline of a jokey anecdote) and he reveals that what I had apparently mistaken for flashes of intolerance are what his son Leo refers to as "a Daddy moment", when he "zones out... which drives Cherie mad".

There is a new sense of weightlessness at a deeper level, as well. Unshackled from the burden of office, Blair should be free to express himself in whatever way he pleases, but he is still feeling his way in this regard.

It's an intriguing time to capture him; the wings are definitely unfurled but he hasn't quite got the confidence yet to take flight. I still feel the intervening presence of Alastair Campbell admonishing him that, "We don't do God!" when I try to get him to talk about his conversion to Catholicism, for instance.

Still, he does eventually talk in a far less buttoned- up way about various subjects that were off- limits in the past-from what attracted him to Cherie to his doubts and deep anxieties over Iraq and Dr David Kelly's untimely death, his own background and what formed him, and so on. We spend a great deal of time, inevitably, discussing the seeming intractability of the Middle Eastern conflict and his view of the new world order.

It's important to remember, when reading the criticisms of Blair not making an impact on the peace process, particularly in light of the past weeks' warfare, that his remit as Quartet's special Middle East envoy is to work for the Palestinians on law and order, strengthening its security capability and developing its economy, to prepare them

for statehood. " It isn't to do the political negotiation," he says. " However the whole thing is so intermingled and the one thing I never have a problem with is talking about politics with anyone."

Brief encounters Our first full day together starts with a breakfast meeting with Ehud Olmert. When Blair introduces us, Olmert wraps his guest in a bear hug, strokes his neck and declares, "I love this guy!" TB then has short sessions with all the key players: Benjamin Netanyahu (former Israeli Prime Minister, chairman of the opposition, and hardliner; tipped to be next PM); Tzipi Livni (foreign minister, and acting Prime Minister); Lt General Ashkenazi (Chief of Staff of the Israel Defence Forces); and Ehud Barak (Defence Minister).

What does Blair hope to achieve by such brief encounters: is it just a general bonding exercise to facilitate better communications? "Particularly at this moment in time, when you're working up to an Israeli election and a new President of the United States, it's about working out where people really are, what it is they're hoping for and what are the prospects of them being serious about negotiation for peace," he says. "And, actually, today has been good in the sense that I've met all the key Israeli players and all of them are saying at least - and I think meaning - that they want to continue with the process of negotiation, and that they understand the need to make the changes to help the Palestinians do it." This was just six weeks before the outbreak of war.

When I later ask Blair about the Israeli action, he says, "The Israelis did not want to go in at this point in time, but it was *Hamas* who did not renew the truce and it was *Hamas* who started firing rockets." Is it right to think that the key to moving ahead is to get both sides - and, crucially, *Hamas* to acknowledge Israel's right to exist - to concede to the two- state solution and then to build on the precise terms from that base? "That is one thing, but if I have made any contribution to this in the last year in terms of strategy, it is an understanding that that in itself is not enough. The difficult thing is that what each side says about the other is true," Blair says. "The Israelis have a genuine security problem and the Palestinians have a genuine problem with the Israeli occupation, and those two things are linked, so unless you find a way to work out that problem you'll never get a political negotiation to succeed."

The Northern Ireland factor There are useful parallels, here, that can be drawn from the long, frustrating years of negotiating the peaceful settlement in Northern Ireland - which once seemed as impossible to resolve as the Middle East conflict does now. " In the end, we got the IRA to a minimum point - and the minimum point was an acceptance that a united Ireland could only be achieved by exclusively peaceful means. Some people would say the sad thing about Northern Ireland was that it took a state of exhaustion on both sides for them to eventually agree, but I think it's more that the IRA came to an understanding that, just as the British couldn't beat them militarily, they couldn't beat the British." When will you feel real frustration if you don't see real progress? "We won't get a new Israeli government probably until March - so probably this time next year [November 2009].

But in the meantime, there's lots you can do." The next day offers an opportunity to witness what Blair means. We head off in convoy through the arid, stubbled landscape, pale ochre earth dotted with olive and almond trees, the homes looking more ramshackle and poorer as we approach Ramallah, six miles north of Jerusalem, the unofficial capital of the Palestinian Authority.

Blair is to address the leaders of the new security force, as part of an initiative he has been working on with the Palestinian Prime Minister, Salam Fayyad, and the US generals Jim Jones and Keith Dayton. The atmosphere is sombre, even uneasy, and Blair is going to have to work hard to convince his audience that he really is on their side.

As he takes to the stage, Blair opens with the greeting of "Salaam alaykum" ("Peace be upon you") and a few of the men smile as they reply, "Alaykum as-salaam" ("And upon you be peace"). It's an extraordinary speech, with no notes, and demonstrates our former PM at his most heartfelt, engaging best.

After explaining his role in Quartet (a grouping of the UN, EU, Russian Federation and the US set up to encourage the Middle East peace process, for which Blair acts - unpaid, he says - as special envoy), he talks about his work over the past year and how well he knows "the problems, the challenges and, indeed, the injustices that the Palestinian people face". He highlights the importance of people being able to live freely in their own land but notes that, "A state is not just about a homeland, it is not just a map; a state is also a frame of mind," and draws on the

role he played in Northern Ireland, establishing an agreement and an authority and rule of law that was recognised by all the people, not just some of the people.

"There will be many challenges ahead, not least the occupation - but I know you have the will and determination to take your place in the community of independent nations... and I want to say to you that whatever we can do to help, we will... and that our desire in the international community is that bit by bit the occupation will be lifted, and that our aim is to support you as you build your state." After respectful but unecstatic applause, he is asked: "Why didn't this happen when you were in power, Your Excellency?" which gets a big laugh. Blair joins in and pulls one of his Rory Bremner gee- whiz facial shrugs: "I knew I was going to get some interesting questions!

Actually, I was interested in Palestine but I had quite a lot of law and order problems in my own country," which gets another laugh, and the mood of the audience shifts towards him. " It was my aspiration as Prime Minister [ to address the Palestinian predicament] but now it's my mission." As more questions are asked, Blair rattles off the funds that have been raised to illustrate the level of support worldwide and addresses the humanitarian suffering in Gaza. He mentions his talks with the Egyptians in Sharm el- Sheikh, whose leaders are acting as go- betweens with <code>Hamas</code>, as well as his communications with Barack Obama, " who has assured me personally that the issues here will be a priority right from the beginning of his administration". By now, his suit jacket is undone, his eyes are wide with conviction and the hand gestures are multiplying.

After many more questions, he concludes: "We have got to be the people here whose hearts are up and that is the only way forward." Afterwards, there are amazing scenes as Blair is surrounded by the men who looked so leaden and impassive when he arrived. They all want to shake his hand, and everyone wants to be photographed with their heads cocked towards his. He grins and grins; his teeth clenching and unclenching.

Man in the middle Later we reconvene for another interview back in the American Colony hotel, Blair's apparently luxurious digs, an oasis of slightly faded splendour surrounded by potholed, derelict streets. Before we return to the Israel- Palestine conflict, it seems worth revisiting how Blair's views have developed towards the region from his early days as Prime Minister.

It is clear, at least, that he wasn't doing some sort of PR spin when he told the Palestinians that he was always interested in their plight..

In 2002, for instance, Blair was at odds with George Bush over the Middle East - despite being called his poodle - and distanced himself from the US President's call for Arafat to be ousted, saying: "It's for the Palestinians to elect their own leaders. We have got to negotiate with whoever is elected by the Palestinians." Blair was criticised for his pro- Arab stance after urging Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to continue peace talks after suicide bombings in Tel Aviv. In 2003- 4, the Israelis under Sharon withdrew from Gaza; Israeli settlers who refused to budge were forcibly removed by Israeli soldiers and their homes were demolished. In 2006, <u>Hamas</u> won its surprise victory in the Palestinian parliamentary elections. The following year, Fatah was driven out of Gaza by <u>Hamas</u>.

Blair's take on his initial distancing from Bush is, "What happened really was this: Bill Clinton tried heroically to get an agreement, couldn't get one and then came the intifada [September 2000], which is the most important thing. It's important to emphasise that because I hadn't quite appreciated the degree to which the intifada altered everything.

- "Therefore I understand why, when George Bush came in, he thought there wasn't much point. However, the fact is that you were always going to have to return to the peace process at some point, and my basic view about these situations is that you never fail to grip them. You grip them the whole time.
- "The bigger point," he continues, " is that in 2004, when Sharon withdrew from Gaza which was extraordinary there were only two people who welcomed it at the time: Bush and me. And because it was done unilaterally, everyone else, basically, condemned it.
- " It was an interesting example of the degree to which I was often pinned between a view from America that was not always expressed in a way that I would express it, but actually had some point to it namely, that there is a real

threat and we do have to be serious about this - and the rest of the international community who, at that time, almost didn't want to acknowledge the threat.

" It was a middle ground on which I was standing, which was fairly lonely for most of the time." Last July, Blair was to have visited Gaza but the trip was curtailed at the last minute because the Israeli security service had received " detailed and credible" intelligence that there was to be a planned assassination attempt on his life by a militant organisation.

After the three- week war, I ask him again whether he will reconsider visiting Gaza and he says, with some steel in his voice, "I will go into Gaza now because it's terribly important that the community there knows that the international community cares. I would have gone in before, but when you are with ...

staff, you have to think about the safety of the people who guard you, let alone mine, and the intelligence was completely credible, I'm afraid." Given that he criticised Bush for trying to remove Arafat back in 2002 - I repeat his quote, "We have got to negotiate with whoever is elected by the Palestinians" - does that mean he changed his view when <u>Hamas</u> was elected? "Erm... certainly my basic predisposition is that in a situation like this you talk to everybody," but he repeats the Quartet position that there can be no talks, official or unofficial, with <u>Hamas</u> until they renounce violence and recognise Israel. "I have always thought that there is a distinction between the difficulty of negotiating with <u>Hamas</u> as part of the peace process about the two- state solution if they won't accept one of the states, and talking to <u>Hamas</u> as the de facto power in Gaza." Could I say, perhaps, then, that I suspect that you have spoken to <u>Hamas</u> in an unofficial capacity and you could give a Francis Urquhart- type response? "Er... er..." Blair smiles. Is it tricky? "It is tricky, yes." OK, I'll just smile back at you then.

When Blair talks about America as not expressing views in the way that he would necessarily express them, I take it he is referring to Dubya's "Let's go get those bad guys" cowboy rhetoric and the neocons' comic-book melodrama of the "Axis of Evil".

Although Blair is too sophisticated to use this lingo, he does seem to see the world in pretty black and white terms. Unlike David Miliband, who believes there is a series of un- unified, quite independent armed struggles, Blair's view is that it is a parabola of implacable hostility.

As he tells me: "I think we still have our eyes closed to the nature of what is going on and I see a complete link between what is going on in Palestine with what is going on in Lebanon, Iran, Pakistan, Somalia - and this is one fight, basically. Terrorism is now a very powerful weapon of war and conflict." So I ask him another childlike question: does he believe in good and evil? "I do believe in good and bad, yes, good and evil, I suppose," he says. "Obviously, I believe they [ the terrorists] are bad and I think our basic values system is good. But from a practical, political point of view, it's more sensible to see it as a struggle about modernity and globalisation.

Fundamentally, I think theirs is a reaction against the modern world, which is why their attitudes to <u>women</u> and to how people live and work are so backward." We revisit this battle between good and evil when we are in Rwanda. It is my first time in an African country and the photographer, Nick Danziger, who has travelled widely in the region, points out its eerie silence in comparison to any of the other countries we have visited. As we drive through the deep valleys flanked by emerald mountains, there is a hushed solemnity about the people we pass - including prisoners from the genocide carrying long trunks of wood, still rebuilding the homes they had destroyed - and I am struck by the fanciful notion that the majestic landscape itself is still in mourning.

On the plane journey, I ask Blair if his Tigger- like optimism is ever dented by Eeyore- ish gloom. Does he ever descend into depression? He says that, of course, he has his dark moments. When we talk in the hotel, I ask him about this in the context of the genocide: does he sometimes despair about our endless capacity for brutality and bloodshed? "Yuh, absolutely," he says, and talks about his visit to the genocide museum in Rwanda.

"What is fascinating about it is that you see the extraordinary capacity to do evil that humankind has, but there are also stories of people who sheltered people, who gave their own lives to other people, who did the most selfless things. And so I deal with the possibility of hope in the sense that I am convinced that people, given the right circumstances, want to live peacefully with each other. I am personally convinced of that." Those who cannot

forgive Blair for Iraq - and there are plenty of them, not counting the extremists - say that he is responsible for atrocities of his own. That there is nothing he can say now or do to justify the actions he took and the subsequent loss of lives. I ask him whether he believes that history will vindicate him over that decision to invade, and there is a big pause before his weary answer: "I don't know. Nobody knows. So there's no point in answering it in the end." Are you ever haunted by it? "I'm not haunted by it, but of course I reflect on it, and am troubled by it, and feel a great sense of responsibility for it.

Of course I do." Love and hate Blair has experienced the extremes of being both the most loved and subsequently most hated Labour Prime Minister since the Second World War. I wonder what such a dramatic fall from grace feels like. " It's not nice particularly to have people distrusting your motives or saying you've lied about things, but the most difficult thing in any set of circumstances is the sense of responsibility for people who have given their lives and fallen - the soldiers and, indeed, the civilians.

"If I didn't feel that, there really would be something wrong with me, and there is not a single day of my life when I do not reflect upon it..." his voice goes very quiet, as though he had retreated into his own private thoughts, "... many times. And that's as it should be." But after another moment of silence, he bucks up: " On the other hand, you have to take the decision - and I look at the Middle East now and I think, well, if Saddam and his two sons were still running Iraq, how many other people would have died and would the region be more stable?" I can still remember the moment the former PM first entered my radar; it was back in 1994 when John Smith was leader of the Opposition, and this young Labour MP appeared on Question Time, blue eyes blazing, fiercely articulate, firing on all cylinders.

Significantly, perhaps, I can't recall anything he said but was struck by him having a weirdly Thatcher- like aura of conviction and moral certainty.

For all Blair's achievements, it is that unshakeable belief in the rightness of his views that has bothered me ever since. Back in

London, I ask him if he ever suffers from doubt. " Do I ever suffer from doubt?" he repeats. " Who doesn't suffer from doubt? Of course I suffer from doubt." Do you ask yourself whether you have done the right thing? " Of course!" But never about Iraq? " Of course. You ask that question the whole time.

You'd be weird if you didn't ask that question." Is your conscience clear over the death of Kelly? " Absolutely. That was utterly tragic but, you know, we did put ourselves through six months of the most intensive inquiry that any government has ever submitted itself to." Was that one of your dark moments? " Yeah. Yeah...because I felt very, very sorry for him and his family. It was a terrible time." Although most of our interviews focus on knotty issues, there are lighter moments; while Blair enjoys locking horns and being challenged, he is also quite playful. On the plane we talk about Cherie's book and I tease him about her disclosure about Leo's conception in Balmoral.

I ask him to repeat his response, since it had tickled me, on the record: "Yes, 'Shock horror! Married politician has sex with wife!' It's like everything to do with Cherie... people go over the top. I don't know why but they've got a thing about her." I wonder whether he remembers what it was precisely that attracted him to Cherie when they met as young lawyers all those years ago. There is another longish pause, and then, "Yeah, she was a mixture of obviously very smart and serious and knew far more about the law than I did, but she had quite a feminine, almost giggly side to her as well. So there was a combination that I really liked of someone who was both smart and fun.

" I don't think I could have settled down and lived with anybody I didn't respect in terms of the mind and a capable human being and all the rest of it. No, yuhhhhh, we had a very good time..." he smiles.

It is noticeable how often Blair mentions the people he admires in terms of their braininess. He says that his wife definitely has the better brain: " Cherie's just really clever.

She got the top first at the bar exams and was streets ahead of me in brain power. But although she is more confident intellectually than me, I think I might be more confident than her in other ways. She's got a certain insecurity as a result of her background. In one sense, I had quite a difficult childhood because of all the illness

there was [ his father had a stroke at 40, which robbed him of his speech for three years; shortly after, his sister was hospitalised for two years with a form of rheumatoid arthritis] but, actually, it was a very settled childhood in terms of my family."

Clinton, Bush and Obama When we talk about Clinton, Blair wants to point out something about the former US President that he believes gets overlooked: "The thing that is most remarkable about him - and he has many remarkable qualities - is his intellect. The quality of his intellect is extraordinary." In what way exactly? "His ability to grasp an issue, then mould and remould and explain it - it tends to get eclipsed by the fact that he is also a tremendous politician and so, because he expresses himself in very simple and direct ways because he is a great communicator, people miss the intellect. I think Obama has something of the same quality, actually. I think he's got a high- grade intellect." How can he explain the conundrum of George Bush; just how dumb or smart is he? Blair becomes uncomfortable, his eyes darting away. "Um... Well, people say that they want a politician who just speaks his mind, and then he speaks his mind and they say, 'Oh, we don't want that - we want someone who speaks like we expect a politician to speak.' So I think that's a problem for him." When we speak on the phone after Bush has presented Blair with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his support in the War on Terror, I ask him whether it is slightly awkward for him to have that relationship reinforced at a time when the outgoing President is so unpopular around the world.

- "Firstly, I am not a fairweather friend," Blair says. "And also it is the greatest civilian honour that can be awarded. I'm not a great one for honours but it was very kind of him and I was proud to accept it on behalf of all the people who took military action." He then reiterates the comments he made in our interview in London: "I think that people will eventually understand the nature of the decisions he took at an extremely difficult time. The fact of the matter is that decisions like those made after 9/11 are really, really tough. And I think that people will find this out as we get into the Obama presidency, because the expectations change but the problems don't and the problems are tough." Blair is confident that he will enjoy a good working relationship with the new American President. They have met half a dozen times since their first encounter, when Obama was on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.
- " He was introduced to me then," Blair recalls, " as someone who was very clever and a great prospect for the future; it was always obvious that he had something different about him." Prior to the inauguration, it was Obama's speech on race that particularly struck a chord with Blair. " I found that very, very moving. I think that was when I understood that he had real political depth and imagination because it was not an ordinary speech. It showed a complete understanding of why people might feel as they feel but that actually it is time to move on. The thing he does really brilliantly is to explain why certain sentiments are inconsistent with the future and can be put to one side.
- " Prejudice, certainly, but also that he understands that very partisan politics doesn't really work any more and doesn't meet either the needs of the time or the mood of the time." Isn't that a bit like your philosophy, I ask, thinking how human it is to find someone especially brilliant if their approach seems to mirror your own? On the evening of Obama's inauguration, at least one American pundit compared the euphoric mood in the United States to that of Britain in 1997. " Yuh, I think there is a new generation of political leaders who find the very traditional pigeonholing rather redundant, actually.

Who have undergone this strange experience - certainly for me, but I think in a sense for Obama, too - which is growing up with a Left politics that was the politics of ideology, and then as we've grown to political maturity and taken positions of power, we find that it's the Right that's got ideology. Over time, the Centre Left became quite practical and the Right suddenly got ideology which I think still dogs it today." Although Blair is in a new mood of openness, there are limits, as I find when I try to get him to talk about his conversion to Catholicism - which is almost on a par with his response when I ask him whether he has, like Jimmy Carter, ever " committed adultery in his heart". (" Now, Ginny, this is one place we're really not going to go... That's private! There are some human questions which it's better not to answer.") But before we deal with matters of the spirit, I need to address the more worldly concerns of mammon.

We know that Blair has never had a problem with champagne socialism and he reiterates his view that, " It would be disastrous if the Labour Party ever went back to the days when they had a problem with people who are wealthy supporting them." As for his own considerable earning power, he does not feel uncomfortable, he says, because, " I

left office with a lot of debt, and I've got a big operation to support, and I do a lot of stuff pro bono and it's not coming out of public funds." He does not, he says, have a property portfolio: " I've got a house in London and a house in the country, and I'm probably not alone in that regard. It's true that I have a place in the constituency [ Sedgefield], but that is now the centre for my sports foundation." I suppose people disapprove of the country residence because it seems to be rather grand, if not grandiose. " They mistake the pavilion for the stately home which gets photographed but is not, in fact, the place we live in. I

mean, it's a very nice house but it's not the stately home! Anyway, to be honest, I'm very happy with it, so I don't feel guilty about having it. Sorry, but it's as simple as that really." Have you still got the Bristol flats? "They're either sold or in the process of being sold... yuh." How can you not know! "I do actually, but I don't really want to talk about it because you get a whole load of ridiculous stuff out of it each time." Have you still got mortgages? "Of course, I've got mortgages and I also bought at... [A big, rueful laugh.] You can almost spot where the housing market is by seeing what I do and doing the opposite. So, yes, I am being affected by the credit crunch."

#### Questions of faith

In Rwanda, when I asked whether he found his faith a solace, he said, "Yes, I do, but I find it more of a strength than anything else. But my view of faith is not a very exclusive or narrow one. I think what people find difficult nowadays is to reconcile faith sometimes with very strict interpretations of doctrine of organised religion. But I think people can understand faith a lot more easily, and a level of spiritual values." All of this was delivered with a great deal of swallowing and mumbling into his chest.

But what was it about Catholicism that had persuaded him to convert? First, he seems to suggest that his conversion was really a pragmatic matter to formalise him tagging along to church with the rest of the family. I understand why he couldn't have "come out", so to speak, as a Catholic when he was Prime Minister, as he says: " If I hadn't been Prime Minister, I would have done this several years before" - he tells me he had been attending Mass for seven years - "but it would have caused the most extraordinary rigmarole. There would have been no end to the speculation." But that doesn't explain his reticence now.

Back in London, in the snowy- carpeted Hempel- esque plush of the Belgravia office, we return to this and I say that he sounded rather glib about the whole business. Can he try harder to explain? After some flailing around, he says, with a struggle: "Look, the thing that motivates and drives me is my religious faith. I am a member of the Catholic Church but you would misunderstand me if it became defined in terms of specific rituals or acts. It is about values and beliefs; it's about God and humanity." As we go to press, there is a prevailing mood of excitement as well as anxiety as we watch every move of the newly inaugurated American President for signs of how the world is going to reshape. A spokesman from Mahmoud Abbas's office claims that Obama has spoken to the Palestinian leader before any other world leaders. The Israelis declared a unilateral ceasefire; joined by <u>Hamas</u> for a seven-day period only. Blair makes it clear to me that he feels his hands have been tied by his role with Quartet, not helped by "the US administration being at its very tail end and Israeli politics being in a state of paralysis since the middle of last year because of all the allegations [corruption charges against Olmert which precipitated his resignation].

" Although we did achieve things in the last year, it was obviously frustrating and I was on a steep learning curve. It took us ten years to deliver peace to Northern Ireland - so, of course, you can't deliver peace in a situation as complex and as difficult as the Middle East overnight. That's not gonna happen, but I think that the bitterness and grief of the last few weeks will fade eventually and, at last," says Tony Blair, who, like someone else we know, chooses to be audacious about hope rather than resigned to despair, "we have now got the possibility of a quantum leap forward."

'When we left Downing Street, all I had was a mobile phone and Vic and Catherine'

He sees Cherie and Leo ' not nearly as much as I should. There's clearly got to be a recalibration'

- ' It was a middle ground on which I was standing, which was fairly lonely most of the time'
- 'There is not a single day of my life when I do not reflect on it [ the loss of life in Iraq ] '

## **Graphic**

Opposite, from left: leaving the Palestinian Red Crescent's HQ on the West Bank; attending Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Day, in Jerusalem, with President Shimon Peres (far left), Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livni (third from left) and Minister of Defence Ehud Barak (far right)

From far left: a private meeting with Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority, in Egypt; Blair's convoy drives past the Israelibuilt wall that separates the West Bank from Israel; a breakfast meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in Jerusalem; a live interview on BBC World News from Israel

Blair meets members of the Palestinian security force in the West Bank

Visiting a passion fruit bottling factory, Rwanda

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS: NBPICTURES. COM

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## Shushan and Gaza

The Jerusalem Post March 13, 2009 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 42

Length: 912 words

**Byline: REUVEN HAMMER** 

Highlight: Tradition Today. The writer is an author and lecturer who serves as the head of the Rabbinical Court of

the Masorti Movement.

## **Body**

The recent Gaza operation is not the first instance of Jews being accused of using excessive force in combating their enemies. The story of Persian Jewry told in the book of Esther that we read this week aroused the same accusation on the part of many non-Jews, including some biblical scholars, and indeed has often been used in anti-Semitic polemics. It has also been the source of discomfort for some Jews. The entire Book of Esther was sometimes reviled as a bloody book, filled with vengeance rather than justice, hardly worthy of being included in the canon of sacred Jewish literature.

The problem centers on Chapter 9, which describes the way in which the Jews of Persia slaughtered their enemies. According to Esther 9:5, "the Jews struck at their enemies with the sword, slaying and destroying." Five hundred men were killed in Shushan (9:6), as were the 10 sons of Haman (9:7). In addition, on the next day the Jews of Shushan killed another 300 men (9:15) (the extra day accounts for Shushan Purim, since their celebration was a day later than that of others). According to 9:16, the Jews in the provinces killed 75,000 of their foes. The number seems staggering, surely a case of overkill!

Of course, many scholars believe this is all fiction; it never happened. Would a king of Persia, no matter how foolish and stupid (as this one is indeed portrayed), really have permitted a group of Jewish exiles from Judea to arm and kill his native Persian citizens? But that, of course, is not the point. It doesn't matter whether it happened or not. What matters is that this book of sacred scripture approves of such killing.

In defense of the book - and I do not think this is mere apologetics - one must realize that the killing is not portrayed as mere vengeance or vindictiveness toward an innocent population, but as an act of self-defense. Critics ignore the fact that the book clearly portrays a situation in which instructions had been given throughout the provinces in the king's name "to destroy, massacre and exterminate all the Jews, young and old, children and womenÉ and to plunder their possessions" (3:13). In other words, there was a huge population of people armed and ready to commit mass murder - genocide against the Jews of Persia. The only way the massacre of the Jews could be stopped was by Jews arming themselves and fighting those enemies.

When the plot against the Jews was revealed, Esther asked the king to revoke that decree (8:5), but he replied that once issued, a king's edict could not be rescinded (8:8). Therefore, new orders were written permitting the Jews "to assemble and fight for their lives; if any people or province attacks them, they may destroy, massacre and exterminate its armed force together with **women** and children, and plunder their possessions" (8:11).

#### Shushan and Gaza

Clearly then, this was an act of self-defense. Only if their enemies attacked them were the Jews given permission to destroy them. If the enemies did not attack, the Jews had no permission to fight at all. It should furthermore be pointed out that whereas the Jews were told they could also exterminate <u>women</u> and children and take plunder, the description of what happened mentions extermination of men but says nothing of <u>women</u> and children, and goes out of its way time and again to specify that - following the ancient example of Abraham - "they did not lay hands on the spoil" (9:11, 15, 16).

In sum, the Jews first asked that the permission given to their enemies to slay Jews be revoked. When that could not be done, they asked for the right of self-defense. They fought only when their enemies actually attacked them. Had their enemies not raised a hand against them, they would not have been slain. In their battle, the Jews exercised restraint and took no plunder.

If any of this sounds familiar and seems to have some resemblance to events of recent times, so be it. The criticisms made against Israel's actions in Gaza are as untenable as those made against the Jews of Persia. 

Hamas openly declared its intentions of destroying Israel and killing Jews, as explicitly as did Haman. Furthermore, unlike Haman, Hamas acted against Israel and its citizens, taking many lives over a period of years both through suicide bombers and through rocket attacks. All Israel's enemies in Gaza had to do to prevent an Israeli attack was to stop attacking Israel. That they refused to do. To the contrary, they deliberately took innocent lives of women and children and would have taken more had they been more successful in their attacks. Without defending every single action, it can be said that at least Israel, by contrast, did what could be done to avoid taking innocent lives and never deliberately did so.

It is nevertheless unfortunate that there have been some Jews, few in number, who have taken the story of Esther as an indication that they could slay anyone they considered an enemy. Baruch Goldstein is a prime example. Whatever his reasons may have been, they were not good enough, and anyone who seeks to defend his actions or those of others like him does so contrary to the teachings of the Book of Esther and to the ethical stance it takes. When we read that book, interpret it and teach it to our youth, it is vital that we make it clear that license is not being given for indiscriminate killing, that we fight only in self-defense and that, even then, we do so with restraint and in strict adherence to a code of high morality inherent in Judaism.

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## *50/50*

Herald Sun (Australia)

January 17, 2009 Saturday

1 - FIRST Edition

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## **Body**

GREAT that Rob Hulls requires former MP Thornley to explain why he quit to the people who elected him two years ago. Pity he did not apply the same standard to Bracks and Thwaites.

John Muir, Vermont

CONNEX cannot be blamed for having to cancel a number of trains through defective track work. The blame lies with the Victorian Government, through Vic Track, for the continuing neglect of maintenance to the rail system.

I.S. (Tim) Dunlop, Alphington

ACCORDING to Life Saving Victoria, there have been almost 500 drownings in Victoria in the past 10 years, but not a single fatal shark attack since 1977. Perhaps it's not the sharks we should be worried about when we go to the beach.

David Scarlett, East Malvern

IF Robert Doyle and others are serious about clearing the CBD of the drunks and alcohol-related problems, it's simple: go back to early opening, early closing.

Barbara Parkinson, Kensington

A COUPLE of weeks ago the trains broke down in the rain, now they don't want to work when it's sunny. I bet Jeff Kennett cops the blame.

Tony Webber, Sunbury

OPPOSITION transport spokesman Terry Mulder, in constantly criticising the Brumby Government and Connex, is forgetting it was his government that privatised public transport and did nothing to improve services or update infrastructure.

Keith, Braybrook

LYNNE Kosky has achieved the impossible by making her predecessor, Peter Batchelor, look good in the transport portfolio.

Eamon Veaney, Abbotsford

50/50

I HAVE an idea. Instead of banning the religious hijab, how about we replicate the Middle Eastern punishment for robbers? That would solve the problem.

Julie, Murrumbeena

I'VE seen many comments claiming that because ``Paki" is an abbreviation, it cannot be offensive. It has been used as a pejorative in the UK for years. And is ``Abo" not considered offensive here?

Robert White, Melbourne

SO Kevin 747 is heading overseas again. Maybe they should make Julia Gillard prime minister and Rudd the travelling salesman. He's good at selling.

Gordo, Keilor

AS there seems to be no legitimate use for lasers, why not ban the importation and sale of them. Perhaps we may then avert an airline disaster or a serious injury to a sportsman.

Arch, Frankston

IF an army were to advance behind a wall of <u>women</u> and children, firing as it went, it would surely be condemned. Why, then, do <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah escape condemnation for using <u>women</u> and children as shields?

Brian Meadows, Ballan

Load-Date: January 16, 2009



Dayton Daily News (Ohio) January 20, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: OPINIONS; Pg. A11

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## **Body**

public, well aware of the risks, can choose to smoke anyway. Raw milk deserves equal treatment: lift bans, add health-warning labels and let the consumer choose.

Bill Russo

Beavercreek

Regulate raw milk same as nicotine

Re "Dairies expand supply of raw milk," Jan. 1: The situation described in this article regarding the increasing popularity of raw milk - in spite of the sour economy, the risk of illness and the illegality of its sale in 25 states - suggests that regulatory standards be reexamined to see how well they serve today's consumer interests. A simple comparison will illustrate.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that from 1998 to 2005 there were 39 outbreaks of illness associated with unpasteurized milk and cheese, leading to an estimated 831 illnesses, 66 hospitalizations and one death. According to the National Environmental Health Association, milkborne illness represents less than one percent of all U.S. foodborne illness outbreaks.

Unpasteurized dairy products are blamed. Banning the sale of unpasteurized milk products is the given solution. By comparison, the adverse health effects of smoking account for an estimated 438,000 U.S. deaths annually, more than all deaths from HIV, illegal drugs, alcohol, motor vehicles, suicides and murders combined, according to the CDC.

The solution: warning labels on cigarette packs and perennial anti-smoking campaigns. Nicotine in all forms, even secondhand, has been proven deadly, yet its sale is not banned. The

End the violence against Israel

Re "Israel to escalate conflict," Jan. 11: As a concerned American, I support an end to violence such as the constant rocket attacks of Israel by <u>Hamas</u>, the suicide bombings of innocent Israeli citizens for many years, the killing of Israeli athletes during the Munich Olympics, as well as the "I want Israel to be wiped off the face of the Earth" rhetoric by the president of Iran and many other threats against Israel that are made almost daily here and abroad.

Who is really responsible for the invasion of Gaza? How would our great country react if we were threatened and had hundreds of rockets raining down on our innocent <u>women</u> and children? We would react as Israel has.

Yes, let's put an end to all terrorist organizations in the world and then maybe then we'll all have peace.

We call on U.S. leaders to help put an end to the rocket attacks on Israel and help find a solution that allows all parties involved to co-exist in peace.

Gerald Hardenbrook

Miami Twp.

Load-Date: January 23, 2009



Dayton Daily News (Ohio)
January 14, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: OPINIONS; Pg. A11

Length: 408 words

## **Body**

Israel has right to defend itself

I have a difficult time understanding why it is OK for Arab terrorists, with their suicide bombers and rockets that kill innocent men, **women** and children, to expect Israel won't defend itself.

Never again will we sit by and allow our Jewish brothers and sisters to be annihilated by those who are taught nothing but ethnic hatred.

In 1948, there was no Palestine, but the Jews were finally given a state of their own from a small sliver of the British-owned Palestine Mandate. On that day, five Arab states attacked. The attacks then and now are not about land. They are about destroying the entire Jewish population. In the 60 years that followed, Arabs have waged a continuous war to destroy the Jewish state.

Leftists, such as Jimmy Carter, portray Israel as the aggressor when all it is doing is defending its land and people.

The Dayton Daily News gives very one-sided coverage of what is happening. <u>Hamas</u> started firing rockets into Israel. I cannot think of another country that would be expected to sit by and do nothing.

Jan Berman

Englewood

Nonsmokers are on power trip

Re "Protect workers by keeping smoking ban," Dec. 31, 2008: This letter is sanctimonious. Smoker bashing is a popular indoor sport these days. Part of it is that many people do not like the smell of tobacco smoke. A more insidious motive may be "power." Nonsmokers (saints) can look down their noses at smokers (sinners) standing outside in the rain, cold or snow. What an ego trip!

Before the draconian law forcing smokers outside, there were plenty of smoke-free establishments. But that was not enough - the nonsmokers had to impose their preferences onto the whole population. They comprise a majority of Ohio's population, so the "will of the voters" was predetermined. I just wish as many voters were nondrinkers, so that we could get rid of the bars and drunken drivers.

There should be indoor places for smokers to go.

We all live in an environment where, if there are jobs, there is smog, acid rain, polluted urban air from vehicle exhausts, soot from coal-burning public utilities, radon and more. Anybody who wants "clean air" had better put themselves into a plastic bubble.

Some say smoking is not safe. Neither is alcohol usage, driving a car, walking down the street, or cutting your lawn with a power mower. I wish nonsmokers would quit pretending to be saints.

Doug Ball

Kettering Visit DaytonDailyNews.com/opinion for more commentary.

Load-Date: January 16, 2009



## INSIDE: Villagers tell of Israeli 'war crimes' in Gaza

The Observer (London) (England)

January 18, 2009

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## **The Observer**

Section: OBSERVER HOME PAGES; Pg. 1

Length: 969 words

Byline: Fida Qishta Khuza'a and Peter Beaumont London

## **Body**

ISRAEL STANDS accused of perpetrating a series of "war crimes" during a 12-hour assault on a southern Gaza village last week in which 14 people died.

In testimony collected from residents of the village of Khuza'a by the Observer, it is claimed that Israeli soldiers entering the village:

Attempted to bulldoze houses with civilians inside

Killed civilians trying to escape under the protection of white flags

Opened fire on an ambulance attempting to reach the wounded

Used indiscriminate force in a civilian area and fired white phosphorus shells

Subjected a youth being held captive in a house to humiliating treatment.

The allegations, which would all constitute breaches of the Geneva Conventions if upheld, are among the most serious to be levelled against Israeli soldiers in relation to a single incident in the present assault on Gaza.

They came as Israel's security cabinet was last night poised to announce a unilateral ceasefire in its assault on Gaza.

But the killing continued in the hours before the meeting, with the United Nations refugee agency for Palestinians calling for a war crimes investigation after Israeli forces killed two children when they shelled a school being used as a refugee centre in northern Gaza.

It was reported last night that Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, had given a "positive response" to a ceasefire proposal from Egypt. But it was not clear if the cabinet intended to approve an early withdrawal of ground forces or would remain to try to minimise <u>Hamas</u> rocket fire.

### INSIDE: Villagers tell of Israeli 'war crimes' in Gaza

Amid rising outrage over how it has conducted itself in Gaza, the Israeli army also announced that it was investigating "at the highest level" five recent attacks against civilian targets in Gaza, including two UN facilities and a hospital.

Concern over what occurred in Khuza'a in the early hours of Tuesday was first raised by the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, which notified the Israeli military and Red Crescent. Although an Israeli military spokesman told the Observer he had "no information that this alleged incident took place", witness statements collected in the village and from the local hospital were consistent in their detail and with testimony gathered by B'Tselem.

There was also strong visible evidence that Khuza'a came under a sustained attack from two directions from tanks and bulldozers that smashed some buildings to pieces. Pictures taken by photographer Bruno Stevens following the Israeli assault showed very heavy damage - and still burning phosphorus - that appeared to corroborate some of the villagers' claims.

"Many, many houses were shelled and they used white phosphorus," said Stevens, one of the first western journalists to enter Gaza. "It appears to have been indiscriminate." He added that apartments near the village not hit by shellfire had been set on fire and tracked vehicles had been driving among the houses.

Khuza'a is around 500 metres from the border with Israel. According to B'Tselem, its field researcher in Gaza was contacted by Munir Shafik al-Najar, a resident of Khuza'a, last Tuesday who said Israeli bulldozers had begun destroying homes at 2.30 in the morning. When Rawhiya al-Najar, 50, stepped out of her house waving a white flag, so that the rest of the family could leave the house, she was allegedly shot by Israeli soldiers.

The second alleged incident took place on Tuesday afternoon when Israeli troops ordered around 30 residents to leave their homes and walk to a school in the village centre. The same witness reported that after they had walked about 20 metres, troops fired on the group, killing three.

Further detailed witness accounts of what happened were supplied in interviews given to a Palestinian researcher who had been working for the Observer, following the decision by Israel to ban foreign media from the Gaza Strip.

Iman al-Najar, 29, said she watched as bulldozers started to destroy neighbours' homes and saw terrified villagers fleeing their houses as masonry collapsed around them. She added that villagers ran from house to house as each house was razed.

"By 6am the tanks and bulldozers had reached our house," Iman said. "We went on the roofs and tried to show them we are civilians with white flags: children, <u>women</u>, men. We don't have any weapons. We are not fighters. The soldiers started to destroy the houses even if people were in them."

Describing the death of Rawhiya, Iman said she encouraged her neighbours to try to escape by carrying white flags and said they were ordered by Israeli soldiers to move to the centre of the town. As they turned into the road, Israeli troops who had occupied a building opened fire. At the front of the group, says Iman, was Rawhiya al-Najar.

A further witness to what allegedly took place in Khuza'a was Marwan Abu Raeda, 40, a paramedic working for Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis.

"At 8am we received a phone call from the people in Khuza'a," he told the Observer . "They told us about the injured woman. I went immediately. I was 60 or 70 metres from her when the Israeli forces started to shoot at me." Twelve hours later, when Rawhiya was finally reached, she was dead.

"She was still clutching the white flag," says Abu Raeda, who took her body to the morgue.

After Rawhiya's shooting, Iman says she and her group fled to her uncle's house where they took shelter from the continuing heavy firing. Iman said she ended up in an area of rubble not far from the house where a large group of people had sought cover in a deep hole in the debris of demolished houses.

INSIDE: Villagers tell of Israeli 'war crimes' in Gaza

It was then, she said, that bulldozers began to push the rubble from each side: "They wanted to bury us alive. When the bulldozers got closer, they started to move the wreckage of the demolished houses on top of us."

Will *Hamas* still dominate Gaza? World, 48-49

Observer Comment, 36

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6** 

Load-Date: January 19, 2009



## Growing demand to investigate charges of war crimes committed by Israel; POLITICS: Gaza Killings Trigger Call for War Crimes Probe

IPS (Latin America)

January 22, 2009 Thursday

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**Length:** 1062 words **Byline:** Thalif Deen

## **Body**

But there are fears that any such move may be shot down by the United States, and possibly by other Western nations, which continue to politically temper their criticism of Israel despite violations of all the known international conventions protecting *women*, children, the wounded and the dying in war zones.

'On an inter-governmental level, the war crimes process is essentially subject to geopolitical control, which means in practice that the criminal wrongdoing of the most powerful [the U.S. government] and its closest friends [Israel] get a free pass,' Richard Falk, a professor of international law and a U.N. human rights expert, told IPS.

Despite widespread condemnation, this practice of 'geopolitical impunity' is likely to shield Israel from formal scrutiny with respect to the alleged crimes of war and crimes against humanity associated with its military operations in Gaza since Dec. 27, he added.

Falk, who is the U.N. Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, was detained and expelled from an airport in Tel Aviv last month when he was on a U.N.-mandated assignment to probe human rights in the occupied territories.

As of Tuesday, the Palestinian death toll had risen to more than 900, mostly civilians, compared with over 10 Israelis, including those killed by *Hamas*'s rocket fire.

The London-based Amnesty International has asked the Security Council 'to take firm action to ensure full accountability for war crimes and other serious abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law.'

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay told a special session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva that accountability must be ensured for violations of international law.

'I remind this Council that violations of international humanitarian law may constitute war crimes for which individual criminal responsibility may be invoked,' she said.

At the special session Monday, the HRC adopted a resolution calling for an 'urgent independent international fact-finding mission' to investigate all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by Israel.

Asked specifically about charges of 'war crimes' in Gaza, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon refused to express his view on the unbridled killings of civilians.

## Growing demand to investigate charges of war crimes committed by Israel POLITICS: Gaza Killings Trigger Call for War Crimes Probe

'That's something which the International Criminal Court (ICC) or other international organisations will have to determine,' he told reporters Monday, on the eve of his weeklong peace mission to the Middle East.

But the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), which is calling for an international commission of investigation, points out that Israel has not ratified the statute of the ICC.

'Activating the ICC jurisdiction for these crimes implies for the U.N. Security Council to refer the situation to the ICC,' in order for the ICC prosecutor to initiate an investigation, FIDH said in a letter to the 15-member U.N. body.

But any such Security Council action will most likely be vetoed by the United States, a longstanding ally of Israel.

Besides the ICC, which was established in 2003, there have been special criminal tribunals or special courts created to prosecute war crimes or genocide in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Lebanon, Cambodia and East Timor.

'There certainly should be a tribunal,' Michael Ratner, president of the New York-based Centre for Constitutional Rights, told IPS.

While it would look at war crimes committed by all parties, <u>Hamas</u>'s actions pale in comparison to the murders committed by Israel, he said.

'The continued impunity of Israel for crimes it has committed encourages it in perpetrating gross violations of humanitarian law,' said Ratner, who is also adjunct professor law at Columbia University.

'A tribunal is essential, [but] the United States will likely veto such a Security Counsel resolution. By doing so, it is enabling and condoning war crimes,' he warned.

Stephen Zunes, professor of politics and international studies at the University of San Francisco, said: 'A strong case can be made for an investigation into war crimes committed by Israeli armed forces.'

Since the Gaza Strip is legally a non-self-governing territory, the United Nations has a particular responsibility to ensure that those guilty of war crimes are prosecuted, he added.

'Such prosecution, however, would be more appropriate if pursued through the International Criminal Court, which did not exist at the time special tribunals were set up for Yugoslavia, Cambodia and Rwanda,' Zunes told IPS.

By pursuing cases through the ICC rather than a special tribunal, it would lessen the likelihood of charges that the United Nations was once again unfairly singling out Israel for violations of international humanitarian law, he added.

Falk said 'the most that we can expect are fact-finding and investigative missions' established by the Human Rights Council in Geneva (as proposed in its Special Session) and by the General Assembly (as an outcome of an upcoming Ninth Special Session).

'I think these symbolic steps are important, and they will undoubtedly be opposed by the United States and Israel, and Israel will in all likelihood not allow such initiatives to enter Gaza,' he said.

This will confirm concealment, a virtual admission of guilt, and will still enable authoritative reports and recommendations for a criminal accountability mechanism to be established, which the General Assembly has the authority to do under Article 22 of the U.N. Charter, Falk said.

There are some other possibilities for establishing legal responsibility and criminal accountability, especially well-organised civil society initiatives.

He pointed out that one model would be the tribunal process associated with the Iraq War, with sessions in some 20 countries, and a culminating Iraq War Tribunal held in Istanbul, Turkey in June 2005.

Growing demand to investigate charges of war crimes committed by Israel POLITICS: Gaza Killings Trigger Call for War Crimes Probe

'There exists the political climate to organise such a tribunal process for Gaza, and it will have worldwide resonance.'

In the course of such a democratically conceived grassroots tribunal process, there would also be an opportunity to consider the implications of the U.S. role in providing vast military assistance and unconditional diplomatic support to Israel, as well as to consider the relative passivity of Europe, Arab neighbours, and others, he added.< © 2009 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

Load-Date: January 22, 2009



## A tough test for `smart power'

Weekend Australian

January 17, 2009 Saturday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 21

Length: 1626 words

Byline: Geoff Elliott

## **Body**

Israel and the Palestinians will be the first challenge for Hillary Clinton, the new face of US diplomacy, reports Washington correspondent Geoff Elliott

SMART power pops up everywhere in the US. There is a group promoting clean energy solutions: the smartpower.org website boasts that it is the ``nation's award-winning, non-profit marketing organisation on clean energy and energy efficiency". Then there is the Smartpower seven-speed blender, which ``instantly crushes ice at any speed with no liquid added".

But now the brand ``smart power" is being used for one of the biggest and most difficult sales pitches there is: repackaging US foreign policy. The Washington establishment has adopted the phrase to chart a new course for the US in Barack Obama's administration and to try to end the most controversial approaches of the Bush administration.

This version of smart power burst into the headlines this week. Hillary Clinton, in confirmation hearings before fellow US senators for the role of secretary of state, used the words to lay down the markers for what many hope is a new era of US foreign policy. This would include resetting Washington's approach to the challenges and threats presented by 9/11 and al-Qa'ida's sophisticated and metastasising terror network.

And, of course, trying to resolve the crisis in the Gaza Strip. It is an approach that combines the US military muscle with its enormous diplomatic resources that for many years atrophied under the Bush administration, particularly in George W. Bush's first term, when the invasion of Iraq dominated.

Now, as Israel tries to bomb <u>Hamas</u> into submission, the position in the Middle East looks, as usual, a knot too difficult to untie, even for smart power.

``As intractable as the Middle East problems may seem -- and many presidents, including my husband, have spent years trying to work out a resolution -- we cannot give up on peace," Clinton told the US Senate foreign relations committee. ``The president-elect and I understand and are deeply sympathetic to Israel's desire to defend itself under the current conditions and to be free of shelling by <u>Hamas</u> rockets." But she warned of the tragic toll ``paid by the suffering of Palestinian and Israeli civilians".

Clinton and Obama are, like the Bush administration, pushing for a two-state solution but one with first reference to Israel, Clinton noting ``our determination to seek a just and lasting peace agreement that brings real security to

### A tough test for `smart power'

Israel; normal and positive relations with its neighbours; independence, economic progress and security to the Palestinians in their own state".

"We will exert every effort to support the work of Israelis and Palestinians who seek that result," she said. "It is critical not only to the parties involved but to undermining the forces of alienation and violent extremism around the world."

Clinton is seen as a staunch ally of Israel, particularly since becoming a New York senator, putting behind her, for instance, controversies such as embracing Yasser Arafat's wife Suha in 1999 after the latter had denounced Israel (Clinton later condemned the remarks when she saw an official translation, but the damage was done and it almost derailed her bid for the senate).

Obama has remained studiously quiet on the outbreak of hostilities in Gaza, saying only that he is ``deeply concerned". But the Arab street's criticism of Obama already -- and the burning of his poster image in Iran over the past week -- points to something that most people accept: Washington's position on Israel is likely to change little from that of the Bush administration, save for what Clinton and Obama say is a determination to engage in a Middle East peace process from day one.

"The answer is, how do we begin to rebuild some sense of co-operation and, dare I say, even trust and confidence-building measures so that we can get back to this work of the slow but steady building of the capacity of the Palestinian Authority?" Clinton said.

But there's a red line the incoming Obama administration won't cross.

"I think on Israel you cannot negotiate with <u>Hamas</u> until it renounces violence, recognises Israel and agrees to abide by past agreements," Clinton said. "That is just for me, you know, an absolute. That is the US Government's position, that is the president-elect's position."

In Clinton's formulation, a new Obama administration will be about matching its military muscle with diplomatic grunt: not too hard, not too soft. Thankfully, no one dubbed it the Goldilocks doctrine.

"I believe that American leadership has been wanting, but is still wanted," said Clinton who, ever the A-grader, was poised and utterly prepared. The requisite approval of her appointment by the full Senate is expected as early as next week.

"We must use what has been called smart power, the full range of tools at our disposal -- diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal and cultural -- picking the right tool or combination of tools for each situation.

"With smart power, diplomacy will be the vanguard of our foreign policy. This is not a radical idea. The ancient Roman poet Terence declared that, 'In every endeavour, the seemly course for wise men is to try persuasion first.' The same truth binds wise <u>women</u> as well."

The State Department under her charge, she said, would be ``firing on all cylinders to provide forward-thinking, sustained diplomacy in every part of the world".

In truth, this has been under way for some years under incumbent Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, whose tendency towards the realist school in foreign policy -- rather than the more hard-headed wing of the Bush administration as exemplified by Vice-President Dick Cheney and former defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld -- found more voice in Bush's second term.

In the past few years Bush has pursued, despite the setbacks and typical recalcitrance in Pyongyang, a diplomatic solution on North Korea's nuclear threat and even allowed the State Department to prise open the door to Iran in the few diplomatic encounters we know of (and presumably more we don't). This is despite these two countries being dubbed, alongside Iraq, the ``axis of evil" by Bush in 2003.

#### A tough test for `smart power'

This outreach has been at odds with the kind of policies advocated by Cheney who, contrary to usual form, has been all over the airwaves in the past few weeks as he sets about trying to make his case for some of the more controversial policies of the Bush administration, such as the Guantanamo Bay military prison and the invasion of Iraq that he is so closely associated with.

But in the realist school also is Bob Gates, the Bush administration's Defence Secretary, who replaced Rumsfeld and whom Obama has asked to stay on. Gates has been a key behind-the-scenes player to push the President to embrace greater use of soft power, a point that Clinton acknowledged.

She said Gates had been "particularly eloquent in articulating the importance of diplomacy", citing his internal lobbying to add resources to the State Department and elevating the role of the diplomatic corps.

In a capital always fighting for its own patch and budget, Gates has acknowledged his support for the State Department in this way was unusual for a Defence chief. Gates, in an extraordinary speech last July, warned of the ``creeping militarisation" of US foreign policy. He said: ``Our civilian institutions of diplomacy and development have been chronically undermanned and underfunded for far too long, relative to whatwe traditionally spend on the military and, more importantly, relative to the responsibilities and challenges our nation has around the world."

Over the next 20 years, Gates predicted, ``the most persistent and potentially dangerous threats will come less from emerging ambitious states than from failing ones that cannot meet the basic needs -- much less the aspirations -- of their people."

In Obama's approach, Clinton said, the State Department would be fully empowered to spread health and prosperity in places of human suffering, playing a part in helping thwart terrorism.

The original approach under Bush had been to try to fast-track countries to democracy at the point of a gun if necessary, blaming the lack of rights and dignity for the reason for the armies of disenfranchised youth attracted to radical Islamists and al-Qa'ida and to take up the cause of martyrdom.

For all the lofty debate about Clinton's approach, there's also the personalities involved and how she works with her conqueror, along with the role of her husband, former president Bill Clinton. It means her tenure will be under a microscope and her language parsed at every occasion to look for real or imagine slights and differences against the president. While Clinton has proven to be a formidable ally already for Obama, many wonder if it remains a thin veneer over a deeper ambition.

"The risks are that she will privilege her own political self-interests above the interests of the administration, and that president Clinton's activities and comments put a stick in the administration's spokes," says Michael Fullilove, director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy and a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution, the Washington-based think-tank. "The opportunity" for Obama, Fullilove adds, "is that Hillary Clinton is utterly formidable: smart, disciplined and very strong.

"Her international celebrity will bring with it prestige, at least in the first instance. She is not a strategic thinker in the style of Henry Kissinger, but she doesn't need to be: she needs to be an operator.

``The thing to watch is whether Obama and Hillary will allow any cracks of light to show between them, or whether they'll manage to maintain a united front."

Load-Date: January 16, 2009



## International: Iraq: Tamil Tiger teenage girl led the way with the slaying of Rajiv Gandhi: Female suicide bombers

The Guardian - Final Edition
June 12, 2009 Friday

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# theguardian

Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 19

Length: 404 words

Byline: Stephen Khan, Rory McCarthy, Jerusalem and Luke Harding Moscow

## **Body**

The sudden emergence of <u>female</u> suicide bombers in Iraq in 2007 shocked a country already inured to violence. From late 2007 to late 2008 there were 33 <u>female</u> suicide bombings. In the four preceding years there had been only two or three. But Iraq was not the first conflict to generate <u>women</u> desperate enough to sacrifice themselves.

#### Sri Lanka

Of the 200 or so suicide bombings carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in their civil war with the Sri Lankan government at least 60 are thought to have involved *female* attackers. The first, on 21 May 1991, remains among the most politically devastating suicide missions ever launched. The target - former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi - was killed by a 17-year-old girl known as Dhanu.

Black Tigers, as the Tamil suicide bombers liked to be known, introduced suicide belts to make their task easier and *female* volunteers were said to have been enthusiastic to wear them, with dozens putting their names forward for each mission. In February this year 26 people were killed by a *female* Black Tiger at a checkpoint in the north of the country as the LTTE made its desperate last stand against government forces.

#### Palestine

The Palestinians, too, have had <u>female</u> suicide bombers. The first came in January 2002, at the height of the second intifada. Wafa Idris was a divorced paramedic who had been wounded at work by rubber-coated bullets fired by Israeli troops. She detonated a bomb she was carrying in Jerusalem and killed an elderly Israeli man. A month later Dareen Abu Aysheh, 21, a student, blew herself up at a roadblock in Ramallah, injuring Israeli policemen. The following month Ayat al-Akhras, 18, from the Deheishe refugee camp near Bethlehem, killed two people when she blew herself up in Jerusalem.

The number of suicide bombings has since decreased significantly, but occasionally <u>women</u> are still involved. Three years ago a 70-year old great-grandmother and <u>Hamas</u> loyalist, Fatma al-Najar, blew herself up in Gaza near a group of Israeli soldiers during a major military incursion of the strip.

International: Iraq: Tamil Tiger teenage girl led the way with the slaying of Rajiv Gandhi: Female suicide bombers

### Russia

The Kremlin's second war in Chechnya created a new breed of <u>female</u> suicide bombers known as black widows who carried out a string of attacks in Russia from 2000-04. Of the 50 terrorists who took part in the theatre siege in Moscow in October 2002, 18 were <u>women</u>. Other bombers targeted the capital's cafes and hotels, as well as trains and planes.

Load-Date: June 15, 2009



## Female suicide bombers: Tamil Tiger teenage girl led the way

Guardian.com

June 11, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 426 words

## **Body**

#### **ABSTRACT**

Iraq, Sri Lanka, Palestine and Russia have all been plagued by female suicide bombers

#### **FULL TEXT**

The sudden emergence of <u>female</u> suicide bombers in Iraq in 2007 shocked a country already inured to violence. From late 2007 to late 2008 there were 33 <u>female</u> suicide bombings. In the four preceding years there had been only two or three. But Iraq was not the first conflict to generate <u>women</u> desperate enough to sacrifice themselves.

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### Female suicide bombers: Tamil Tiger teenage girl led the way

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### Stephen Khan, Rory McCarthy

Load-Date: June 11, 2009



## Peace activists barred from Gaza; Canadians in Egypt hoping to deliver medical supplies, toys

The Toronto Star May 26, 2009 Tuesday

Copyright 2009 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A18

Length: 407 words

Byline: Oakland Ross, Toronto Star

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

## **Body**

Nine Canadian peace activists were again barred from entering the Gaza Strip from neighbouring Egypt yesterday, along with a shipment of medical supplies and children's toys they hope to deliver to the territory's long-suffering people.

It was the third day in a row the Canadians had been turned back by Egyptian border guards stationed at Rafah, on the border between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Gaza.

"It's a struggle each day," delegation leader Sandra Ruch said from the Egyptian town of El-Arish near the border. "We've already lost three days of our itinerary."

Allied with a U.S. peace group called CodePink, the Canadians are part of a larger international initiative aimed at drawing world attention to the plight of Gaza's 1.5 million people, most of whom depend on international relief to survive.

Israel controls two of Gaza's land borders as well as its access to the sea and has imposed a partial economic blockade for several years. The Israelis tightened the blockade considerably after the militant Islamist group <u>Hamas</u> took power nearly two years ago.

Egypt also shares a border with Gaza, with one crossing point. The Egyptians mostly keep that border closed, too. "If we don't get in, we're going to demonstrate in downtown Cairo," said Pam Rasmussen, CodePink's international coordinator. "We want the Israeli government and the Egyptian government to know we're not going to leave them alone."

Rasmussen plans to lead a group of nearly 70 U.S. peace activists into Gaza later this week.

Yesterday, more than 50 additional activists, mostly Americans, converged on the border region, adding to the confusion there.

"Most people run into difficulties at the border, to be honest with you," said Rasmussen, who managed to enter Gaza from Egypt in March. "They're having a pileup at the border right now."

Peace activists barred from Gaza Canadians in Egypt hoping to deliver medical supplies, toys

Ruch said she and her group - eight <u>women</u> and a man - hope to deliver \$2,000 (U.S.) worth of medical supplies, plus soccer and other recreational supplies for children.

She said the group has received clearance and support from senior Egyptian authorities, but still cannot seem to persuade border officials to let them through.

In addition to poverty and isolation, the people in Gaza must cope with outbreaks of war. In response to almost daily salvoes of rockets fired by Palestinian militants, Israel unleashed a three-week military offensive in January that left more than 1,300 Gazans dead. Thirteen Israelis were also killed.

Load-Date: May 26, 2009



## OBAMA IN CAIRO; THE PRESIDENT'S FRESH START WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 5, 2009 Friday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2009 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B-6

Length: 425 words

## **Body**

President Barack Obama's speech in Cairo on the need for a "new beginning" in America's approach to the Muslims of the world was, in short, a masterpiece.

It was delivered yesterday at Cairo University, in the largest city in the Arab world, before thousands of people, including Egyptian dissidents, whose presence the American Embassy had requested and President Hosni Mubarak's government had approved.

He cast the speech in terms of his trip to the Middle East and Europe with skill and sensitivity. He preceded Cairo with a visit to Saudi King Abdullah, whose proudest title is keeper of Islam's two holiest places, Mecca and Medina. Mr. Obama will follow Cairo with a visit to Buchenwald, a German concentration camp where Jews were slaughtered during the Holocaust.

The president's speech took on a lot of spiky issues, including the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, <u>women</u>'s rights, the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, nuclear aspirations, democracy, religious freedom and economic opportunity.

The most urgent action item was his clear commitment to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He made a pledge to have the patience to achieve a resolution of the problem, with two states, Israel and Palestine, finally in place. He mentioned the role of the Palestinian organization <u>Hamas</u>, acknowledging its support among the Palestinians but stating the responsibilities it had to work toward an agreement.

Mr. Obama was clear on Israeli settlements. He said, simply, "The United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements."

He showed awareness of the problem in U.S.-Muslim relations fomented by two U.S. wars in Muslim-majority countries, Iraq and Afghanistan. He called Iraq "a war of choice" and pledged to carry out his promise to remove all U.S. troops from its cities this month and from the nation as a whole by the beginning of 2012.

He was careful in his comments on Iran, aware that it will hold elections in a few days, and he acknowledged that the United States overthrew a democratically elected government in Iran during the Cold War. With respect to Iran's nuclear ambitions, he urged the need for adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. (Iran has signed it; Israel has not.)

### OBAMA IN CAIRO THE PRESIDENT'S FRESH START WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD

The speech had two particularly poignant points. One was on <u>women</u>'s rights. "I do believe that a woman who is denied an education is denied equality," he said. Another was his comparison of the Koran, Talmud and Bible on the value of peacemakers. A fair conclusion from the Cairo speech is that this president aspires to be one.

Load-Date: June 5, 2009



## **WORLD DIGEST**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 24, 2009 Wednesday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 1060 words

Byline: From news services

Dateline: 0

## **Body**

#### Pakistani warlord's rival is shot to death

The only challenger to Pakistani warlord Baitullah Mehsud from within his own tribe was gunned down Tuesday, dealing a huge blow to efforts to eliminate the leader of the Pakistani Taliban. Qari Zainuddin, the sole leader to emerge from Baitullah's own Mehsud clan to openly resist him, was shot as he slept at his headquarters Tuesday morning in Dera Ismail Khan, a town on the edge of the extremist-controlled South Waziristan region, close to the Afghan border. He was killed by one of his own guards, almost certainly working for Baitullah.

Drone said to kill 60 - An airstrike in Pakistan believed to be carried out by a U.S. drone killed at least 60 people at a funeral in South Waziristan, residents of the area and local news reports said. Details of the attack remained unclear, but if the reports are accurate and if the attack was carried out by a drone, the strike would be perhaps the deadliest since the United States began using the aircraft.

Fighting said to tie up insurgents - Pakistan's military offensive against insurgents appears to be sapping money and weapons that might otherwise be going to militants fighting on the other side of the border in Afghanistan, a U.S. commander said. "I think there's a definite impact, and I think it almost can't be overstated," said Col. John Spiszer, commander of troops in northeastern Afghanistan along the Pakistani border.

Kim gives son key role - North Korean leader Kim Jong II has put his youngest son in charge of the country's spy agency in a move aimed at handing the communist regime over to him, a news report said. Kim visited the headquarters of the State Security Department in March, along with his third son, Kim Jong Un, 26, and told agency leaders to "uphold" the son as head of the department, the Dong-a Ilbo newspaper reported. Kim also gave them five foreign-made cars, each worth some \$80,000, as gifts.

Swedish ambassador visits 2 U.S. reporters in North Korea - The U.S. says the Swedish ambassador in North Korea has visited two American reporters sentenced to 12 years of hard labor. State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters that the ambassador, who serves as the U.S. protecting power in Pyongyang, visited the <u>women</u> Tuesday in Pyongyang. The ambassador's last meeting with Euna Lee and Laura Ling was June 1.

Short- to medium-range missile test likely, analysts say - An impending missile test threatened by North Korea is expected to launch short- to medium-range missiles rather than a long-range missile similar to one tested in April,

#### WORLD DIGEST

according to U.S. intelligence reports. U.S. defense and counterproliferation officials say intelligence suggests that North Korea is likely to fire short- and medium-range missiles, based on the splashdown zone referenced in the notice and other activities that are consistent with such launches.

U.S. tails Korean ship - An American destroyer tailed a North Korean ship as it sailed along China's coast, U.S. officials said, amid concerns the vessel is carrying illicit arms destined for Myanmar.

Iran expels 2 British diplomats - Iran expelled two British diplomats Tuesday after bitterly accusing Britain of meddling and spying. The government also dealt a fresh blow to the opposition by making clear it will not hold a new vote despite charges of fraud. State TV said hard-line students protested outside the British Embassy in Tehran, where they burned U.S., British and Israeli flags, pelted the building with tomatoes and chanted: "Down with Britain!" and "Down with USA!" Witnesses said about 100 people took part.

Berlusconi denies paying <u>women</u> for sex - Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi has told a gossip magazine he has never paid a woman for sex, denying the latest allegations stemming from his purported fondness for young models and starlets. Berlusconi gave his first direct response to the claims in an interview with Chi magazine to be published today. Previously, he had simply dismissed as "garbage" and a smear campaign reports that an acquaintance of his had paid at least three <u>women</u> to attend parties at his residences.

Flight 447 black boxes still not found - French military ships searching for the black boxes of Flight 447 have detected sounds in the Atlantic depths but they are not from the Air France plane's flight recorders, French officials said.

Former hostage getting divorced - An attorney for the husband of celebrated former hostage Ingrid Betancourt confirmed that the couple are getting a divorce and he said it should be complete in six to eight months. Neither Betancourt nor estranged husband Juan Carlos Lecompte are commenting on reports of acrimony published last week by the society magazine Caras.

Mugabe supporter is blocked - Zimbabwe's mines minister, who is on a list of officials close to President Robert Mugabe barred from the West, has been kept from attending an investment conference in London, state radio and British officials said . Obert Mpofu is among politicians and leaders of Mugabe's party targeted under travel restrictions imposed by Britain, the European Union and the U.S.

Kyrgystan makes deal with U.S. - The former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan tentatively approved a deal that should allow the U.S. to continue shipping military hardware and troops crucial to operations in Afghanistan through an air base in the Central Asian state. U.S. forces had in February been ordered out of the Manas air base.

Stomach stapling reduces cancer in <u>women</u>, study finds - <u>Women</u> who have their stomachs stapled not only lose weight, they also may reduce their cancer risk by up to 40 percent, according to a study by Swedish researchers being published today by the medical journal Lancet Oncology. But the surgery didn't have the same effect in men; there was virtually no difference in the cancer rates in men who had the surgery and those who did not.

Israel frees <u>Hamas</u> leader - Israel freed the most senior of dozens of <u>Hamas</u> politicians in custody, prompting speculation it was a prelude to a deal for the release of an Israeli soldier held by Palestinians for three years. However, Israeli officials insisted the Palestinian parliament speaker, Abdel Aziz Duaik, was let go because his three-year sentence was nearly at an end and that his release was not related to a swap involving the Israeli soldier, Sgt. Gilad Schalit.

Load-Date: June 25, 2009



## Obama calls for an end to 'suspicion and discord' in address to Muslim world

Scotsman

June 4, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 1065 words

**Highlight:** US PRESIDENT Barack Obama today called for a "new beginning between the US and Muslims" and said together they could confront violent extremism across the globe and advance the search for peace in the Middle East.

## **Body**

"This cycle of suspicion and discord must end," he said in a widely anticipated speech in Egypt, an address designed to change relations after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the war in Iraq.

In a gesture, Mr Obama conceded at the beginning of his remarks that tension "has been fed by colonialism that denied rights and opportunities to many Muslims, and a Cold War in which Muslim-majority countries were often treated as proxies without regard to their own aspirations."

· Full text: Barack Obama's speech to the Muslim world

"And I consider it part of my responsibility as president of the US to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam wherever they appear," he said.

At the same time, he said the same principle must apply in reverse. "Just as Muslims do not fit a crude stereotype, America is not the crude stereotype of a self-interested empire."

Mr Obama spoke at Cairo University after meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the second stop of a four-nation trip to the Middle East and Europe.

The speech was the centrepiece of his journey, and while its tone was striking, the president also covered the Middle East peace process, Iran, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the violence struggle waged by al-Qaida.

Mr Obama arrived in the Middle East yesterday greeted by a new and threatening message from al Qaida leader, Osama bin Laden. In an audio recording, the terrorist leader said the president inflamed the Muslim world by ordering Pakistan to crack down on militants in Swat Valley and block Islamic law there.

But the president said the actions of violent extremist Muslims are "irreconcilable with the rights of human beings," and quoted the Koran to make his point.

#### Obama calls for an end to 'suspicion and discord' in address to Muslim world

"Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism - it is an important part of promoting peace," he said.

The White House said Mr Obama's speech contained no new policy proposals on the Middle East, and he issued an even-handed call to Israel and Palestinians alike to live up to their international obligations.

"<u>Hamas</u> must put an end to violence, recognise past agreements, and recognise Israel's right to exist," he said of the organisation the United States deems as terrorists.

"The Palestinian Authority must develop its capacity to govern, with institutions that serve the needs of its people," Mr Obama said.

"At the same time, Israelis must acknowledge that just as Israel's right to exist cannot be denied, neither can Palestine. The United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements" on the West Bank and outskirts of Jerusalem, he said. "It is time for these settlements to stop."

As for Jerusalem itself, he said it should be a "secure and lasting home for Jews and Christians and Muslims ..."

Mr Obama also said the Arab nations should no longer use the conflict with Israel to distract its own people from other problems.

He trod lightly on one issue that President George Bush had made a centrepiece of his second term - the spread of democracy.

Mr Obama said he has a commitment to governments "that reflect the will of the people." And yet, he said, "No system of government can or should be imposed upon one nation by any other."

#### OBAMA ON...

### **IRAN**

Mr Obama said the United States will proceed with courage, rectitude and resolve when dealing with Iran.

He acknowledged the US role in overthrowing the democratically elected Iranian government during the last century and said it would be difficult to overcome decades of mistrust.

But he said he has made clear to Iran's leaders that he wants to move forward and build a future together.

Mr Obama said the United States was willing to move forward with mutual respect and without preconditions and that approach would prevent a nuclear arms race in the region.

He said no single nation should decide which countries have nuclear weapons.

### MIDDLE EAST

Israelis and Palestinians must find a way to live side by side, peacefully as two independent states, Mr Obama said, arguing that this solution ultimately was the only way to end bloodshed and violence.

He recognised the long US alliance with Israel, calling the bond "unbreakable." But he also said "the situation for the Palestinian people is intolerable."

He said America would support any efforts by any parties that recognise the legitimate aspirations of both the Israelis and the Palestinians. He added that the "United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements."

And he called on Palestinians, particularly the <u>Hamas</u> faction, to "abandon violence" and recognise Israel's right to exist.

Obama calls for an end to 'suspicion and discord' in address to Muslim world

#### THE KORAN

Mr Obama's speech was laced with references to the Koran and his Muslim roots.

He quoted the Holy Koran as commanding, "Be conscious of God and speak always the truth." He said he shared that conviction. The president noted that while he is a Christian, his father had come from a Kenyan family that "includes generations of Muslims."

He pointed to a Muslim - Keith Ellison, a Minnesota Democrat - as the first to be elected to Congress, saying he took the oath the Koran that Thomas Jefferson had kept in his personal library.

Mr Obama also quoted from the Bible and the Jewish Talmud in making his argument for better relations between the US and the Muslim world.

#### WAR AND PEACE

The United States has no intention of keeping its troops in Afghanistan and America seeks no permanent military bases there, Mr Obama said.

He called it costly and politically difficult to continue the conflict, but said there were still violent extremists in Afghanistan and Pakistan determined to kill Americans.

He stressed that the US would not weaken its commitment to rooting out terrorists, adding that military might must be paired with diplomatic efforts.

Mr Obama also discussed Iraq saying that the United States learned from that war that America needs to use diplomacy and build international consensus to resolve problems whenever possible.

#### **WOMEN** AND ISLAM

President Obama said women should have the right to choose whether they want to be equal with men.

He said he did not believe that <u>women</u> must make the same choices as men in order to be equal. And he said he respects <u>women</u> who choose traditional roles, but <u>women</u> should have that choice.

Mr Obama promised that the United States will partner with Muslim countries to support expanded literacy for girls and will help young **women** pursue jobs through a micro-financing programme.

Load-Date: March 14, 2011



# <u>Iran: root of ME terrorism; Guest columnist Arnold Roth rebuts Gwynne</u> <u>Dyer's comparision of Israeli and South Korean reactions to the threat of nuclear attack, published in yesterday's Kalgoorlie Miner.</u>

Kalgoorlie Miner (Western Australia)

June 2, 2009 Tuesday

First Edition

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Section: KAL; Pg. 8 Length: 1007 words

# **Body**

COMING of age in Melbourne during the 50s and 60s turns out to have been an invaluable precursor to living, as my wife and I and our children do, in the Middle East.

Our apartment is in the suburbs of Jerusalem. We moved here in the late 80s when our oldest was 10. Making our home here was and is literally the fulfillment of a dream.

My mother and father were among the statistical fly-speck of Europe's Jews who survived what the Nazis and their many helpers served up to them. But in saving their own lives, they lost almost everything else to the Third Reich's whirlpool of hatred: their parents, their homes, their freedom, their youth.

But not their future. Neither of them managed to spend a single day inside a high school. But they dedicated themselves as parents to ensuring my brother and I missed out on none of life's privileges.

They bestowed a powerful optimism, a willingness to love life and get on with it on us and - along with other Jewish survivors like them - on an entire generation of post-Holocaust children.

Life was too comfortable and safe for me at the time to see this for the extraordinary life-affirming bravery that it is.

Then in August 2001, our 15-year-old daughter died.

Malki was two when we moved to Israel. Though she had no time for or interest in politics, she grew up with a deep personal appreciation of her people's history, and of the dramatic grace and grandeur of its troubled, beautiful land.

She developed a passion for working with special-needs children, and grabbed every opportunity to be close to them. She embraced life, and faced it with a wide and lovely smile. During the summer between 10th and 11th grades, she volunteered at a camp on the shores of the Sea of Galilee that challenged children with disabilities. She adored the experience. We have some gorgeous photos that were given to us by her friends.

A day or two after returning home, she and her best friend and thirteen other people, most of them children and <u>women</u>, were blown to pieces by a powerful guitar-case bomb carried into a pizza restaurant in the centre of the city by a religious fanatic in the service of <u>Hamas</u> jihadism.

Iran: root of ME terrorism Guest columnist Arnold Roth rebuts Gwynne Dyer's comparision of Israeli and South Korean reactions to the threat of nuclear attack, ....

Israel, whose national consciousness was formed in large part by the horrifying experiences of my parents' generation, is grappling today with life-and-death threats funded, ideologically inspired and in large measure equipped by one source: the Islamic Republic of Iran. For people living far from these events, it must be hard to keep track of who <u>Hamas</u>, Hizbullah, Islamic Jihad, Fatah and the other terror organisations are and the differences among them.

Reading about their political and ideological aspirations, it must be doubly confusing for an observer located far away to confront the perverse morality that characterises their actions: the notion attacks on <u>women</u> and children, attacks on bus stops and restaurants, attacks on defenceless and unarmed non-combatants - that these are the highest quality attacks, the greatest achievement of jihadism. In all the years of their terrorist thuggery, they have rarely attacked soldiers or military installations.

Gwynne Dyer's smooth, confident tones are those of an informed observer. As a military analyst and published commentator on international relations, Dr Dyer must have reviewed the open-source intelligence on Iranian missiles, on years of Iranian disinformation in the face of nuclear watchdog inspections, on Iranian holocaust-denial. He must know of the central role Teheran plays today, this month, this morning, in equipping the terrorists of Gaza and Southern Lebanon with missiles and explosives whose sole function is to be lobbed anywhere in the direction of Israeli homes, shopping centres and schools.

Despite knowing these things, his slightly bizarre thesis is that Israelis like me have nothing to fear from the Iranians and their nuclear program, and if we think differently, it's because of our hysteria. We need to act more like the South Koreans, whose territory for decades has been patrolled and protected by tens (and sometimes hundreds) of thousands of American service personnel, so that the world can become a better, saner place.

The analysis looks and feels very different when it's happening to you and to those you love. Very much unlike South Korea, the land in which I live is regularly under attack from people driven by a religious or ideological (or both) indoctrination based on a profound and absolute hatred of everything that characterises my neighbours and me. So deep, so imponderable is this hatred, that they are willing to send human bombs into our midst, knowing this will cost the lives of some of their own children.

They do it, we have learned, because the joy of seeing their enemy suffer eclipses the pain of their losses.

Nothing I learned from my parents or from my murdered daughter has helped me understand that mentality. The gulf between the society we are building here in Israel and the one the jihadists want to create is expressed pointedly by a quotation ascribed to an Iranian mullah:

"We have the patience needed to destroy the Jews and spread Islam throughout the world. After all, we have been weaving carpets for thousands of years. The decadent West doesn't understand what patience is."

In the face of this kind of threat, you need to choose your role models and your values very carefully. Gwynne Dyer expresses disdain for Israeli concerns about a powerful, committed, exceedingly well-equipped enemy with a clear and explicit agenda.

On behalf of those of us living in the cross hairs, there are some lessons I wish he and some other experts like him would learn. Sometimes, as I have found, those insights can come from unlikely places.

Arnold Roth is general manager of an Israeli company developing a new hybrid-electric vehicle technology. He and his wife Frimet founded the Malki Foundation ( <a href="www.kerenmalki.org">www.kerenmalki.org</a>) in their daughter's memory. It provides support for hundreds of Israeli families of all faiths who care at home for a special-needs child.

Load-Date: June 1, 2009

Iran : root of ME terrorism Guest columnist Arnold Roth rebuts Gwynne Dyer's comparision of Israeli and South Korean reactions to the threat of nuclear attack, ....



# Israel: Welcome to the promised land

The New Zealand Herald May 26, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: TRAVEL; General

Length: 1033 words

# **Body**

The cab driver doesn't have much time for the past. "History schmistry," he says. "You can't dig a hole around here without a group of archaeologists gathering. Less history, we'd have less trouble."

On land which has seen Jewish, Persian, Roman, Byzantine, crusader, Mamluk and Ottoman wars, revolts and divine revelations, the state of Israel last year turned 60 amid calls to wipe her off the face of the planet. Hardly the way to treat a sexagenarian.

The recent battles between Israel and <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza are the latest in a long line of conflicts between Arabs and Jews in the region, going back 100 years.

With their fraught history, Israelis may be forgiven for skimping on pleasantries. Customer service is in its infancy, driving is suicide. Yet despite all the shouting and passionate overtaking, the prickles are all on the outside. Like a desert cactus, Israel is sweet on the inside.

This Promised Land is heavenly. White-sand beaches slouch into the Mediterranean and red sands blanket the vast Negev Desert. With so many places of historical and biblical significance, practically the entire country is a Unesco world heritage site and, after years of uprisings and conflict, the people here know what it means to "live in the now".

The streets vibrate with life, and a population of Mediterranean and eastern European descent makes for some of the most beautiful people you'll ever see.

Tel Aviv is called the White City for its 1930s Bauhaus boxes but the architecture runs to anything from European Rothschild to Beirut bourgeois, Russian low rent, and bastardised LA hi-tech.

Donning stilettos and leopard print at Allenby St, it morphs into the red city where saggy-balconied apartments provide a gorgeously decadent backdrop to late dinners surrounded by Russian speakers, before even later nights over coffee and bottles of Arak; then dancing until dawn in Tel Aviv's ballistic nightclubs.

Hummus is a national obsession - every restaurant boasts the best in Israel, but take care ordering it in a Kiwi accent, as it sounds like <u>Hamas</u>, which is obviously a lot less popular. Yemen, Polish, Italian and Moroccan restaurants cater for those with plenty of shekels but most fun is the ubiquitous spiced meat shwarma washed down with a Maccabbe beer, eaten while people-watching at a pavement table.

Louche and laid-back, Tel Aviv's blissed-out culture is hard won for the youth who spend three years in the army.

Israel: Welcome to the promised land

Things were bad here during the 2000 intifada but Tel Aviv-ites are coolly indifferent. "If something really serious happens tell me, otherwise I'm going to the beach," said one young woman at the height of the attacks.

Today, Israel is extremely security conscious but you get used to side arms, bag searches and metal detectors and even being frisked by a voluptuous *female* soldier toting an M16 won't faze you after a while.

Shopaholics sashay Dizengoff's designer mile, and hedonists head to Sheinkin St, the centre of all things boho and home to the art market. Walk the length of the beach promenade to the old city of Jaffa, where Andromeda was sacrificed to a sea monster and Jonah met the whale.

Winding into the surprisingly verdant Judean mountains, the road to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv is like driving through a time warp. The roadside is littered with the bones of rusted army vehicles from the wars of 1948, '56, and '67.

One of the oldest cities in the world, Jerusalem has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52, and captured then recaptured 44 times.

The Old City is home to the Temple Mount, Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Dome of the Rock. The global head offices of monotheistic beliefs jostle in narrow labyrinths running between the Arab, Jewish, Christian and Armenian quarters. Pungent wafts of incense, spices and fresh halva vie for sensory attention with colourful displays of Russian icons, Egyptian leather, Armenian pottery and bedspreads wearing Jesus' face.

Commerce tussles with piety like Jacob wrestled the Angel. The Via Dolorosa, believed to be the path Jesus walked to his crucifixion, is, ironically, the site of the most aggressive stallholders.

The Greek and Armenian clergy who share the Church of the Holy Sepulchre recently had an almighty punch up over right-of-way around the Basilica. In Jerusalem, religious passion seems to exude from the cobblestones.

The city's ultra-conservatism is evident everywhere. Like a flock of humourless crows, the city's large Orthodox population are the Amish of the Mediterranean. In homage to a 600-year-old European tradition, the Haredim wear millstone-shaped beaver fur kolpiks, long black coats with shoes and stockings, black felt fedoras and side-locks in 35C heat.

A city that feminism forgot, <u>female</u> movie stars are whited out of billboards in Jerusalem and the sexes are segregated on some bus routes. Bare shoulders are pornographic so cover up to avoid the hisses of hairy-chinned matriarchs.

An hour by bus from Jerusalem, the mountain-top refuge of Masada stands as it fell 2000 years ago; the site of a siege to conquer a Jewish rebellion defying Roman rule in 74CE. Rising 470m from the Judean desert and overlooking the Dead Sea from the vantage point of a flat topped mesa, Jordan glimmers in the east. On the western side the ancient red stone ruins of Herod's palace afford a sentry's view of the road to the Old City.

From 2km up the winding Snake Path, the plains below are etched with the wonky stone squares of the Roman camps, encircling the mountain and cutting off the escape route of the renegades. Masada held out for three months.

Building a huge earth ramp to the summit to transport a battering ram, the Romans stormed the fortifications only to discover a mass suicide. After the rout, the Jews scattered into the diaspora for the next 2000 years. "Masada will never fall again" chant graduating Israeli Defence Forces soldiers today and they mean it.

"Israel wins its wars because it has to," said a cafe owner on Ben Yehuda St in Tel Aviv. Passionate, bloody-minded and parochial, he reminds me of New Zealanders of my father's generation. "Why are you in such a rush?' he asks. "Sit down, stay while and enjoy, because tomorrow, who knows?"

Load-Date: May 25, 2009



# Disproportionate response does no good

Kamloops Daily News (British Columbia)

April 15, 2009 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: OPINION; Pg. A6

Length: 420 words

Byline: Dennis Peacock, The Daily News

# **Body**

In 1948 Jewish zealots from the Stern Gang massacred some 300 Palestinians at the village of Deir Yasin, proving that they would kill with the best of them.

But this action is in many ways understandable. Many of the Jews who took part in this particular killing would have seen their friends, perhaps their whole families, disappear into the fires of Dachau and Buchenwold. Not much room for compromise here!

Forward to 1982 -- Israeli forces invade Lebanon to ally themselves with the Christian Phalange and destroy the PLO. They engage the Syrians who earlier came in to do the same!

Israeli bombardment of Beirut causes some 20,000 deaths. Then when things turn bad the Israeli army "bugs out" so fast it leaves its Christian allies in the lurch to be in turn slaughtered by Muslim forces such as the Druze: Hezbollah is the product of this ill-thought Israeli action.

Forward to 2006 when in response to the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers Israel once again launches a poorly thought out campaign into Lebanon. They bomb bridges, roads, an oil depot, a UN observer post which kills four UN observers.

Ironically this action more or less ended when the Israeli army was fought to a standstill by Hezbollah, the very force that Israel sought to destroy but missed in its frenzy to bomb everything in sight! Hezbollah formed out of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and became the great hero of many Lebanese just at a time when the Syrians had been forced to withdraw from Lebanon. As the noted journalist and historian Robert Fisk pointed out, Israeli's tendency to overreact has caused it a lot of trouble.

2008-2009, the Gaza invasion. Palestinians some 700 killed! Ten Israelis! At least one UN observer. Disproportionate or what? So why the stupid cartoon Jan. 8, The Daily News editorial page?

Is it because of a toadying to Israel Canadian press? Is it because the editor's name is Rothenburger? I want to know!

If <u>Hamas</u> or Hezbollah are somewhat snakelike it is largely a reptile of Israelis' own making. Hezbollah especially consists of those young men (and some <u>women</u>) who watched their parents being killed and homes destroyed in Lebanon by Israeli forces in 1982-83.

## Disproportionate response does no good

Ironically this one-sided nonsense in the long run does Israel itself no good! They know they can have over 200 plus atomic weapons of mass destruction and not be forced to account for them!

And they can pull overreactive follies like Lebanon in 2006 and this ongoing Gaza nonsense and be excused for them. I want to know why!

Dennis Peacock

Clearwater

Load-Date: April 15, 2009



# <u>Israelis killed 'innocents': General; Commander admits tactics to save</u> soldiers added to toll of January war

# Ottawa Citizen March 24, 2009 Tuesday Early Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 439 words

Byline: Dan Williams, Reuters

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

# **Body**

Israeli officers' efforts to protect troops from Palestinian fire during the war in the Gaza Strip may have contributed to unwarranted killing of civilians, a commander of the offensive said on Monday.

Already facing censure over the January war's death toll, Israel is under renewed pressure to defend its conduct after accounts by veterans surfaced last week suggesting there had been frequent and sometimes lethal disregard for the innocent.

Tzvika Fogel, a reserve brigadier-general who was mobilized to help oversee the 22-day campaign, described Israel's practice of deeming anyone who failed to heed orders to leave a combat zone as a potential <u>Hamas</u> querrilla.

Soldiers still had to take a "reasonable" view that a person in their sights was a genuine threat before shooting, he said. But he added: "If you want to know whether I think that in doing so we killed innocents, the answer is, unequivocally, yes.

"It would be very dishonest of me if I told you that would have been impossible," he told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"But if there were such incidents, they were exceptional. That wasn't the general mood or the policy."

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), which said it identified all the dead, says 1,417 Palestinians were killed, including 926 civilians, of whom 313 were children and 116 were <u>women</u>. Many died in air and artillery bombardments. The Israeli military has provided no such figures of its own.

Israeli media last week quoted soldiers reporting widespread disregard for the safety of Palestinian civilians. One said he heard of a sniper shooting dead a woman and two children who strayed from a route troops ordered them to follow. Military officials noted that that soldier was not an eyewitness.

Richard Kemp, a retired British army colonel, voiced understanding for Israel's tactics in Gaza, but said its long-term credibility may hinge on bringing any violators of the laws of war to justice.

Israelis killed 'innocents': General; Commander admits tactics to save soldiers added to toll of January war

"I'm not unsympathetic to the idea that people sometimes behave outside the rules. Combat is a very strange situation. But I don't think you can say that because of that, you accept that the rules can be broken," Kemp told Reuters from London.

Fogel said: "If we have testimony that very clearly shows someone behaved inappropriately and did not do the right thing, I have no doubt there would be legal proceedings."

Chief-of-staff Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi also promised on Monday that soldiers would be held to account for their actions.

Yet Israel's military has rarely prosecuted personnel over killing civilians, despite ample allegations from Palestinians and human rights groups about such crimes.

Load-Date: March 24, 2009



# The trouble with censorshp; Like eating potato chips, censorship is hard to stop once you get the taste

The Gazette (Montreal)

April 1, 2009 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A17; CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS

Length: 978 words

Byline: CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS, Freelance

# **Body**

Recent weeks have seen a sort of unofficial race among various governments to see who can most righteously ban whom from whose territory and on what complacent grounds. Recently, Canadian authorities announced that British MP George Galloway would not be permitted to keep his appointment for a speaking tour he had arranged in four cities, including Toronto and Ottawa. Canada's immigration minister, Jason Kenney, said that the ban had more to do with actions than with words.

Galloway had indeed, on a recent trip to Gaza, called for the Egyptian armed forces to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak. But it was the announced purpose of Galloway's trip to the Gaza Strip - the delivery of a convoy of material aid to the <u>Hamas</u> leadership - that prompted Kenney to deny him permission to land, on the grounds that he had delivered "aid and resources to ... a banned illegal terrorist organization."

Galloway has in the past issued his own calls for foreign politicians to be banned from British soil, as in the case of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of France's extreme-right National Front. And he was not conspicuous in protesting in February, when the British government deported Geert Wilders, a Dutch politician whose party holds nine seats in parliament, after the latter's arrival at Heathrow airport.

Wilders has made a short film called Fitna, freely available on the Internet, which shows scenes of violence and cruelty intercut with some of the more lurid injunctions of the Quran. He has referred to the Muslim holy book as comparable to Mein Kampf and has, in keeping with the new intolerant spirit of the times, called for it to be banned.

When invited to broadcast his film on a small Dutch Muslim station, he declined. Nonetheless, he was invited by a member to come and screen Fitna at the House of Lords and, given that he has no record of violence or its incitement, it's hard to see how his presence in London was in any sense a police matter.

The hasty ban on Wilders, which was obviously adopted by Gordon Brown's government as a gesture of appeasement to the very active Muslim fundamentalist wing in British politics, made it almost inevitable that the same government's decision to invite some representatives of Hezbollah to London would itself have to be reversed.

The plan had been to get some civilian spokesman of the party's Lebanese wing to meet with officials and academics to discuss possible areas of common interest - this was in line with the British government's recent

The trouble with censorshp; Like eating potato chips, censorship is hard to stop once you get the taste

decision to resume contacts with Hezbollah in Beirut, on the assumption that a distinction can be made between its elected parliamentary wing and its military one.

Even if you think that this is based on a naïve assumption, the British are at least entitled to try it. But now they find that one ban leads to another, for the sake of appearances and "even-handedness," so that having refused hospitality to one Dutchman, they are compelled to deny themselves the pleasure of sitting down with one or two Lebanese.

Geert Wilders has already visited the United States, where he addressed the Conservative Political Action Committee. Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> officials will not be visiting Washington at any early date, though George Galloway has been allowed to come and go as he pleases. (This might change, given the number of questions raised by two authoritative reports on his participation in the abuse of the United Nations' "oil for food" program.)

There is currently an argument about whether the U.S. can risk giving a job or a visa to Tariq Ramadan, a Muslim author whose supposed "moderation" is seen by some (including me) as a cover for some quite extreme apologies for such things as suicide-murder and the stoning of <u>women</u>. There are two separate questions in Ramadan's case: The first concerns whether he should be given tenure on a U.S. campus and the second whether he should be allowed to visit the United States at all. The second call seems a fairly easy one.

What is at stake in all these cases is not just the right of the people concerned to travel and to take their opinions with them. It is also the right of potential audiences to make their own determination about whom they wish to hear. As a journalist, I can go visit Hezbollah spokesmen and report back on what it's like and what they say, but why should a reader have to take my word for it? The British House of Commons has room for a man as appalling as George Galloway; why should Canadians not have the chance to make up their own mind about him? If Geert Wilders is persuasive enough to get himself elected to parliament in The Hague, is there any reason to believe that the British people are so lacking in robustness that they need to be protected from what he has to say?

The underlying premise of the U.S. First Amendment is that free expression, when protected for anyone, is thereby protected for everyone. This must apply especially in tough cases that might raise eyebrows, such as the ACLU's celebrated defence of the right of U.S. Nazis to demonstrate in heavily Jewish Skokie, III., in the late 1970s.

One of the effects of the "war on terror," and of one of its concomitants, namely the attrition between the Muslim world and the West, has been an increasing tendency to make exceptions to free-speech principles, either on the pretext of security or of avoiding the giving of offence. We should have learned by now that however new the guise, these are the same old stale excuses for censorship. We might also notice that if one excuse is allowed, then all the others are made "legitimate" also. The risk of allowing all opinions by all speakers might seem great, but it is nothing compared with the risk of giving the power of censorship to any official.

Christopher Hitchens is a columnist for Vanity Fair and Slate Magazine, where this column originally appeared.

# Graphic

Photo: AARON LYNETT, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE; People pack a Toronto church to listen to George Galloway, who was barred from Canada.;

Load-Date: April 3, 2009



# Inside the Times, January 29, 2009

The New York Times

January 29, 2009 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 406 words

# **Body**

International

A CALMER, SAFER BASRA

Offers an Opportunity for Women

Prompted by improved security conditions, thousands of <u>women</u> in Basra are running for council seats in the provincial government. But even with so many hurdles crossed, there are still more if they get elected. Page A5

#### POPE REACTS TO ANGER OVER BISHOP

Pope Benedict XVI was quick to avow his feelings of solidarity with Jews and to once more condemn denial of the Holocaust. But tensions have not abated after his decision to welcome back to the church a bishop who said recently that he believed no more than 300,000 Jews died during World War II. Page A5

#### IRAN'S LEADER SEEKS U.S. APOLOGY

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran asked for the United States to apologize for its treatment of Iran over the past 60 years. The request came after President Obama said that there was room for progress in dealing with Iran. Page A6

#### CHINA DETAINS 81 IN SWEEP

China arrested 81 people during a security sweep of Tibet in the weeks leading up to the 50th anniversary of the region's failed uprising that forced the Dalai Lama into exile, according to state media. Page A6

#### RAGE OVER IRELAND PAYMENT PLAN

A plan for reconciliation for Northern Ireland provoked outrage on both sides of the conflict. A central article of the plan is payments of \$16,800 to the families of each of the 3,700 people killed during 30 years of violence. Much of the anger over the plan came from a provision to extend those payments to members of paramilitary groups killed by their own bombs. Page A10

#### U.S. ENVOY TO MIDEAST URGES TRUCE

Despite urging by George J. Mitchell, President Obama's special envoy to the Middle East for the consolidation of a cease-fire, Israel and *Hamas* continued to trade strikes. Page A10

Kallnach Journal

What Does Shock Rock Have In Common With Switzerland?

It seems odd that this staid, sleepy village in Switzerland would produce a drink so loved by the shock rocker Marilyn Manson. But Mr. Manson's love of this beverage dovetails nicely with this village's specialty, the production of absinthe. So nicely, that Mr. Manson himself has sponsored a brand of the drink called "Mansinthe." Above, a handful of absinthe's key ingredient, wormwood. Page A11

#### U.S. REBUKED AT ECONOMIC FORUM

At the World Economic Forum, several leaders from the former communist bloc made it clear that they placed the blame for the world's current economic turmoil directly on the United States. Page A12

http://www.nytimes.com

# **Graphic**

PHOTOS (pg. A2

pg. A3)

Load-Date: July 15, 2011



#### The Jerusalem Post

February 3, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1108 words

Byline: Joe Frankl, E. Munk, Jack Cohen, Alex Rose, The Editor notes, M. Schaeffer, David Safier, Aryeh

Newman, C. Pinto, Trevor Davis **Highlight:** Readers' Letters

# **Body**

No more Mr. Nice

Sir, - The recent spate of anti-Semitic manifestations seems to have shocked us all ("Jews in Cyprus witness spike in anti-Semitic acts," February 2). It shouldn't have; it was predictable, and Israel shares the blame for it. Why? We acted outside the expected parameters.

The world had come to expect Jews to be "reasonable," to keep a low profile when provoked, or respond minimally. It became used to hearing Ehud Barak threaten a "major retaliation" for missile attacks, then do nothing.

After eight years of our southern cities being bombarded, the worm turned. How dare Israel suddenly change established patterns with Operation Cast Lead?

Far from returning to appeasement mode, we must show we mean business and maintain deterrence by responding forcefully and, yes, "disproportionately" to every terrorist attack.

The message will soon hit home, in Gaza and internationally: Israel hits back. Hard. Mr Nice has gone.

JOE FRANKL

Savyon

People who live

in glass houses...

Sir, - How weak the conscience of the international community is when it comes to "violations" by anyone other than Israel.

For the record: In 1915 the Turks carried out one of the most barbaric acts of genocide ever on the Armenians during which they massacred more than 60,0000 civilians. They also deported a population of some 1.5 million to Syria and Mesopotamia. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

More recently they bombed Kurdish civilians repeatedly, the reason being that this people wants independence from Turkey. Up until this day they have not withdrawn from part of Cyprus, which they invaded and subsequently "annexed" in their dispute with Greece.

Are we to be taught lessons by such people? ("'Turkey can't broker peace talks with Erdogan as PM," February 1)

E. MUNK

Jerusalem

...shouldn't

throw stones

Sir, - I accuse the Turkish PM of hypocrisy. We Jews, who suffered a genocide of our own during WWII, have restrained ourselves in relation to the genocide carried out by the Turks against the Armenians during WWI because we were persuaded that it was politic not to affront our Turkish ally.

However, following "Erdogan storms off stage after bitter spat with Peres at Davos" (January 30), where he accused our president as a symbol of Israel of "killing people" and added that "it is very wrong and it's not humanitarian," let us compare the numbers:

In the Gaza war, some 1,300 people were killed, of whom around 1,000 have been documented by Israel as <u>Hamas</u> terrorists. Consequently, the number of civilians killed was only about 300. While this is tragic, it is about time Turkey owned up to the systematic murder of more than a million Armenian civilians, including <u>women</u> and children.

The reason was clearly to remove the Armenians from their land within the Turkish Empire. Turkey has never admitted this atrocious crime, never paid reparations to its Armenian citizens, and has not returned the stolen land.

#### **JACK COHEN**

#### Netanya

Sir - It is rather unfortunate that Shimon Peres did not present Prime Minister Erdogan, prior to the Davos World Economic Forum, with a copy of the Farewell Israel DVD.

The Jerusalem Post is to be commended for providing this DVD free with its weekend edition. It is undoubtedly one of the best presentations available making the case for Israel based on factual history, and should be distributed worldwide.

There is a definite need for a wake-up call relative to the growing establishment of militant Islam in most Western nations. The world failed to respond to the early signs of the Nazi regime; shame on us if we do not heed the words Never Again.

#### **ALEX ROSE**

#### Ashkelon

The editor notes: The DVD insert was paid-for advertising, and not a Jerusalem Post editorial product.

#### **Election forecast**

Sir, - Re "Election candidates agree only on the need to stop Iran from going nuclear" (February 1): Congratulations to The Jerusalem Post and the other sponsors of the pre-election panel held at Jerusalem's Great Synagogue.

There was so much hot air inside it met the cold air outside and resulted in rain - which the country certainly needs more than any promises made that evening.

#### M. SCHAEFFER

Jerusalem

Forum for the unfair?

Sir, - In "Winners and losers in Gaza: A Palestinian perspective" (February 2) Palestinian intellectual Daoud Kuttab calls Israelis "war criminals fighting a one-sided war" without once referring to <u>Hamas</u> for its crimes against humanity on its own people.

As a long-time subscriber to the Post, I am bothered by your giving a forum to the twisted rhetoric and propaganda of a questionable journalist who seems to believe that Al Jazeera International is a fair and balanced network and that the IDF is a group of "chickens."

Why not balance the scales by allowing someone from Kach to pen an article on their views?

#### **DAVID SAFIER**

Jerusalem

Silent service

Sir, - Joseph David's acceptance of the lack of God- talk at our official public functions ("We don't mention God," Letters, February 1) reminded me of the talmudic plea my father would cite in response to my frequent teenage expressions of doubts about God's existence: "Would that they (Israel) forsook Me, but kept my mitzvot."

After all, in the megilla that we shall be reading next month on Purim, God is not mentioned except for the oblique reference that relief and deliverance will be forthcoming from "another place."

#### ARYEH NEWMAN

Jerusalem

Cream of chicken

Sir, - Osem's chicken soups have been discovered to have milk products in them, and Osem decides to recall them due to possible allergies? ("Osem recalls soup products over milk-powder concerns," February 2.)

What about kosher concerns? Osem has kashrut certification, and it is appalling to think of what this means for the millions of kosher-keeping citizens, like myself, here and abroad.

C. PINTO

Ra'anana

Good witch

Sir, - Your correspondent should chill out a bit over having seen Margaret Hamilton (the Wicked Witch of the West) in a coffee commercial ("Witch's power," Letters, February 2).

The late actress was in fact a truly good soul who for years was a popular guest at schools and on TV talk shows until her death in 1985. Except for her infamous role in The Wizard of Oz, she always played kindhearted characters. She took the witch's part to be in on a great motion picture.

I must admit that the movie scared me out of my wits when I first saw it - I was eight - and over the years I have come to feel it is too frightening for children younger than 10.

On the other hand, I think we as adults should be less agitated by movie characters and more by the truly evil real people out there, and maybe boycott their brand of coffee.

In any case, too much caffeine isn't good for you.

TREVOR DAVIS, Asseret

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



# <u>ISRAELIS ARE JUST DEFENDING THEMSELVES</u>

The Capital Times (Madison, Wisconsin)

January 21, 2009 Wednesday

ALL EDITION

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Section: THE CAP TIMES; Pg. 36

Length: 1059 words

# **Body**

Dear Editor: The European press complains about the disproportion of the Israeli defense against the Palestinian <u>Hamas</u> terrorists, but if they want proportionality, give Israel a population of 300 million residing in 22 countries, similar to the Arab Muslims who surround and ambush Israel instead of the 5.5 million Jews in one single country.

What has been happening in Israel is the equivalent of Kristallnacht - the night of the broken glass - when on the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938, gangs of Nazi youths roamed through Jewish neighborhoods, breaking windows of Jewish businesses and homes, burning synagogues and looting. These acts of intimidation were designed to frighten the Jews into leaving Germany.

Despite the chronic intimidation by <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah, Israelis will not allow themselves to be annihilated by those who refuse to recognize their right to exist, and we would not allow it either were we in a similar position.

John Anderson Merrimac

Surgeon general pick wrong on mad cow

Dear Editor: Recent criticism of Dr. Sanjay Gupta, the CNN medical correspondent who is reportedly Barack Obama's choice for surgeon general, is due either to his close ties with pharmaceutical sponsors or his infamous attack on a popular supporter of single-payer health care. But I am deeply concerned with his apparent lack of awareness regarding public safety in the handling of meat which might be contaminated with the prions that cause Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of mad cow disease.

Reliable information on CJD is especially crucial to people who live close to areas known to harbor deer herds infected with chronic wasting disease. Though the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources responsibly publishes precautions for butchering and consuming meat from harvested deer, the likelihood of contracting CJD from ingesting improperly butchered meat rises sharply if a false sense of safety results from erroneous information spread by other traditionally trustworthy sources.

In a 2006 interview, Gupta not only denied that any human CJD cases have ever occurred in this country, but recklessly advised that normal cooking would destroy any infectious agents. Both statements are contrary to widely available and well-established data.

Though CJD deaths remain lower in the U.S. than in many other countries, Gupta's claim that it simply doesn't occur here leaves the impression that human crossover is virtually impossible. Misinforming the public by

#### ISRAELIS ARE JUST DEFENDING THEMSELVES

contradicting well-established findings that prions cannot be destroyed by cooking is both irresponsible and negligent.

Joe Rogozinski Oxford

Comparing ageism to racism, sexism wrong

Dear Editor: Barbara Quirk's claim that elder abuse and negative depictions of senior citizens in the media point to a larger pattern of discrimination is plain wrong. Elder abuse is a terrible crime that, like all crimes, reflects poorly on the society in which it occurs. Theft is also rampant in society; does this mean that we as a society hate property holders?

The Constitution was adopted in 1787, legally giving white male citizens (elderly included) the right to vote. In 1920 **women** were given the right to vote and the Voting Rights Act helps ensure that racial minorities can exercise their right to vote.

Perhaps if the elderly used their long-held voting right to vote for candidates who actually care about protecting the unprotected instead of consistently voting for reactionary and ideologically bankrupt candidates who pander to tradition and nativist "patriotism," this country might be a kinder place for all. As it is my generation (I am 21) and that of my parents will have to spend our lives cleaning up the social ills of sexism and racism that previous generations signally failed to address in due time.

Ben Moser Madison

PHLEGM the answer for Madison's left

Dear Editor: Legislative Democratic majorities, nationally and statewide, have accompanied the Obama tsunami.

Justifiably atwitter, the Madison left should be considering how best to spend this avalanche of political capital. Further handcuff local businesses? Shifting the blame for the Overture Center debacle? What to do when all the red pedestrian flags are on the other side of the street? The possibilities are limitless.

Instead, a very public hissy fit between two Madison liberals, Mayor Dave and Ald. Brenda Konkel, has ensued. Trouble in paradise?

Madison's left needs a makeover to show a unified front.

The Progressive Humanitarian Liberal Environmentalist Global Movement - or PHLEGM - could be all things to all things left, inclusive, and good for the environment. Its motto: "When rolling up your sleeves to do the heavy lifting in deciding what's best for everyone else leaves you feeling emotional, PHLEGM is that lump in your throat!" Progressive Dane, step aside.

Paul W. Schlecht Madison

Mayor misguided on bus fare hikes

Dear Editor: Why does Mayor Dave Cieslewicz hate transit so?

Fare increases create a downward spiral. Increased fares lead to reduced ridership, leading to reduced revenue, leading to the ultimate decline of transit service.

Mayor Dave's petulance in demanding a fare increase was compounded by his threat to replace members of the commission.

Transit is not a charity; it is a basic government service. A city survey lists Metro service as one of 15 core city services.

## ISRAELIS ARE JUST DEFENDING THEMSELVES

The Streets Department will keep plowing if the snow keeps falling, regardless of its budget. So too Madison Metro should keep running buses. Let the mayor and the City Council worry about funding.

The mayor's attitude is "it's my way or the highway - and lots of them!"

Al Matano Dane County Board, District 11

Cap Times prompts sneer of disgust

Dear Editor: Once again your paper has given me a sneer of disgust. You say that "Local residents can't wait for W's reign to be over." While that may be true for many, not all area residents share that feeling. It is sad how far off the left your paper has fallen. I have to remind you that not everyone that reads your paper is a white flag-waving, foreign car-driving, left-leaning snobbish Madisonian.

I do wish Barack Obama the best in his presidency but I have to wonder if your paper will rip him to shreds if/when he fails. Will you print daily slanted articles and terribly nasty cartoons of him like you have of George Bush, John McCain and Sarah Palin?

Michael V. Simon Verona

## **Notes**

Some of these letters also appeared on The Capital Times Web site.

Load-Date: January 22, 2009



#### The Jerusalem Post

February 18, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1119 words

Byline: Yoram Getzler, Edward Benz, Ivor Lewis, Judy Prager, Kenneth Besig, Shifra Hoffman, David Rubinger,

Joseph Pincus, Jerusalem Post staff

Highlight: Readers' Letters

# **Body**

#### A stitch in time

Sir, - I would like to encourage Col. Moshe Levi of the Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration to pursue the idea of creating an IDF response team to counter and expose the falsehoods perpetuated by our enemies and eagerly disseminated by the media ("Int'l community was duped by *Hamas*'s false civilian death toll figures, IDF claims," February 16).

In the aftermath of the Second Lebanon War, we learned that many of the media reports that engendered incredible hostility against us were false and, in some cases, staged for media effect. They may have affected the conduct of the war and they affect our image to this day.

It would be a wise move by the IDF to begin now, before the next outbreak of violence, to prepare for the inevitable damaging reporting that will ensue.

#### YORAM GETZLER

Moshav Aminadav

#### Counting the killed

Sir, - Re "UN moves to determine own Gaza war civilian casualty figures" (February 17): Only when Israel is in armed conflict does the world care to get an exact count of how many Israel killed - never how many Israelis were killed.

In the last decade, the US is known to have killed over 100,000 civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Russians have killed thousands of Chechen rebels. The Lebanese have killed hundreds of al-Qaida fighters. We won't even touch on the mass killings in Africa. Yet no one seems to want to know exactly how many, and if these killings were unlawful.

#### **EDWARD BENZ**

**New York** 

A neutral

fact-finder?

Sir, - A group of UK members of parliament is to visit Gaza on a fact-finding mission ("UN launches inquiry into Israeli bombings of its Gaza sites," February 16). Significantly, it will be headed by Richard Burden, Labour member for Birmingham Northfield constituency.

Mr. Burden is wholly committed to the Palestinian cause. He heads or participates in any parliamentary or other organization dedicated to criticizing Israel and regularly writes articles highly critical of Israel in the press, rarely if ever attributing blame to Palestinian terrorism.

Mr. Burden is more seriously anti-Israel than many of his Islamic associates - which puts a question mark over the objectivity of any report he endorses from Gaza.

**IVOR LEWIS** 

Netanya/Birmingham

The impending

prisoner swap

Sir, - As the Israeli security cabinet once again agonizes over which murderers to release in exchange for Gilad Schalit, the absolute necessity of introducing the death penalty for mass killers cannot be avoided. These people are beyond reform, and on their release will immediately return to their previous agenda, killing Jews.

Why should the IDF risk life and limb to catch these monsters, only to have to repeat their efforts? ("Olmert worried *Hamas* wants to drag out Schalit talks 'indefinitely,'" February 17.)

JUDY PRAGER

Petah Tikva

Sir, - While I respect those who support the prisoner swap - it is, after all, an emotional issue - I would suggest that they ask themselves if they, personally, are willing to risk death in a terrorist attack planned by Marwan Barghouti after the terror chief and his followers are freed in exchange for Gilad Schalit.

Because if past experience with these Palestinian terror chiefs is any indicator, we can start counting our dead within days of their release.

KENNETH BESIG

Kiryat Arba

Sir, - Although our organization is adamantly opposed to the release of Arab terrorist prisoners, if the government is determined to implement this exchange, it must first demand that the Red Cross fulfill its obligation to see if our man is alive and in good mental and physical condition.

Under no circumstances should Israel repeat the grievous mistake of the previous exchange in which we gave the enemy live Arab terrorists and received the dead bodies of our martyred soldiers.

SHIFRA HOFFMAN, Founder

Victims of Arab Terror Intl.

Jerusalem

Livni's sacrificial hour

Sir, - This is what I want to say to Tzipi Livni:

If Israel's future is your highest interest - and I believe it is - the need of the hour is that you make a great and painful personal sacrifice. That you give up something you have honestly earned and truly deserve: the right to become prime minister.

By forgoing this right you will enable Binyamin Netanyahu to head a centrist block made up of Kadima, the Likud and Labor, a combination of sane parties with the strength and wisdom to face the fateful and probably painful decisions due in the not too distant future.

It is not because you are not worthy to lead. It is because you cannot do it alone. It will take Netanyahu, heading the cabinet, to avoid cries of "traitor" again resounding in Israel's streets.

The differences between your three parties are not huge. You all essentially want the same thing; but, unfortunately, only one of you can be premier. And it must be Bibi - not because he is better, but because he will not have to face a storm of abuse from his right.

Let Lieberman head the opposition; with Netanyahu at the helm, he and his 14 unknown MKs will not be able to divert the ship of state from its course. A few thousand orange ribbons on a few thousand cars - you will be able to deal with that.

I believe the people of Israel will have reason to be grateful to you for generations if you make the courageous decision to give up your well-deserved victory ("Netanyahu, Livni seek 'savior' to end coalition crisis," February 16).

#### **DAVID RUBINGER**

Jerusalem

WTA's missed

opportunity

Sir, - "Pe'er 'shocked' after Dubai visa refusal" (February 16) was strikingly reminiscent of what happened to Gretel Bergmann, a German high jumper of Jewish lineage. On June 30, 1936, one month before the Summer Olympics, she tied the German national record by jumping 1.60 meters. Two weeks later she received a letter stating that her performance was not sufficient to compete on the international level, and that she was being removed from the German national team. Bergmann was denied her right to play in a sporting event for which she was obviously overqualified.

In Pe'er's case, the <u>Women</u>'s Tennis Association had a grand opportunity to make a strong and memorable statement. Unfortunately, it failed mightily. Despite offering his sympathies to Pe'er and her family, WTA chief executive Larry Scott did not choose to cancel the tournament over this gross and blatant discrimination, stating only that the organization would "review appropriate future actions with regard to the future of the Dubai tournament."

JOSEPH PINCUS

Alon Shvut

#### CORRECTION

The UN's report on Gaza casualties, as reported in yesterday's "UN moves to determine own Gaza war civilian casualty figures," began before the IDF showed its information on the Gaza dead to The Jerusalem Post, and is being led by OCHA - the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



# <u>Tunnel effect on an Egyptian town; Rafah's economy is based on</u> underground supplies to Gaza

The International Herald Tribune
January 31, 2009 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 1034 words

Byline: Michael Slackman - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: RAFAH, Egypt

# **Body**

From the rooftops you can see tall buildings, and trucks pulling through streets teeming with people. You can hear generators humming, and the rumble of construction gear. From the rooftops, you can see Gaza.

But down below on the streets here, it is quiet, the kind of quiet that says people have been driven out. Stores were long ago abandoned. The street is buckled in places, and litter is piled along the curb. Residents have fled the war over the border, the heavy pressure from Egyptian security, the emptiness of life in Rafah.

"All we have," said Muhammad Sha'er, as he looked from a rooftop into Gaza, "are the tunnels."

Early Wednesday morning, Israel again bombed the tunnels that stretch under the border from Gaza into Egypt. The bombings followed a 22-day Israeli offensive to stop *Hamas*'s rocket fire, which was followed by international negotiations aimed at ending smuggling into Gaza.

But here in Rafah, people were still trying to smuggle goods through tunnels, hours before and hours after the bombing Wednesday morning. Rafah is a bleak, rutted, dusty town that bears more than passing resemblance to Baghdad after years of international sanctions.

"On the other side, they want to eat," said Ayed el-Sayah, a furniture maker in town, referring to Gaza. "Here we want to eat, too. That's why we have the tunnels."

These are tense days in this shattered town of about 50,000 in the northeastern corner of Sinai. It has become the focus of an intense effort to stop smuggling activities, but the focus has been exclusively on security. Checkpoints have been set up, and the police often stop young men in cars and demand to see identification. The center of the town feels as if it is occupied.

But with every Israeli bomb just over the border, and with every increase in Egyptian security, there is less and less room for any kind of normal life. The streets are filled with idle young men, and children, and old men, all with nowhere to go and little to do. <u>Women</u> stay at home. "We only wish we didn't have to do this, that we had another job or a project, something else we can do," said a 22-year-old, who asked not to be identified for fear of being imprisoned for his work as a smuggler.

Tunnel effect on an Egyptian town Rafah's economy is based on underground supplies to Gaza

The young man graduated with a degree in commerce from the equivalent here of a junior college. He said he began working a tunnel only recently because there was nothing else for him to do to make a living, or to occupy his time.

He and a cousin, 19, who is also a smuggler, were huddled together in a new imported car, one of the fruits of the trade, parked outside a friend's house. It was a chilly desert night, the sky shocked with stars, and the young men were wired and nervous, smoking one cigarette after another.

The broad outlines of the tunnels are well known from the Gaza side. They are about nearly two meters, or six feet, high and a meter wide. They are typically 20 meters or so below the surface, have pulley systems and lighting and ventilation.

Little discussed is how the tunnels work on the Egyptian side, and why state security has been so unsuccessful in finding them. They are begun in Gaza in full view of Egypt's border guards, after all, and nearly everyone here admits to either working in the tunnels or being related to someone who is.

The young men say that most people no longer have the tunnels come up inside their homes, because if they are caught they have no room for denial, and the whole family could be imprisoned. The openings are lined with tarps and filled with sand. When the tunnel owner in Gaza wants to make a run, he phones and the young men assemble a small group of trusted partners. They then dig out the sand, pull out the plastic tarps and pass through food, clothing or whatever has been ordered.

"It is a family affair, but not everyone knows where the hole is," said the 19-year-old. "There are only a very few people you can trust and rely on. You make a deal with four or five other guys and that's it, it stays between you."

The young men said that most tunnels also have a pipe running through, a couple of inches in diameter. They said the pipes were used to funnel fuel, mostly diesel, to Gaza. Even when Israeli bombs managed to damage the tunnel entrances, or cause a collapse, the pipes were often undamaged and the fuel smuggling went on uninterrupted.

They said they did not know anyone who smuggled weapons - only food, fuel and clothing.

There was a time, more than a year ago, when smuggling was extremely lucrative, people here said. One bag of clothing could bring \$200. But when the borders were closed after *Hamas* took control, the number of tunnels exploded from about 30 to between 200 and 300, according to residents here. With that, prices dropped, and that same bag of clothing came down to \$80.

With the recent conflict, prices have risen again, because many tunnels are inoperable and because of the increased risk of getting caught or injured. Driving through Rafah at night, a friend of the smugglers, Ahmed, pointed to a convoy of white pickup trucks, all loaded with cans of fuel. "They are for the tunnels," he said, "all headed to Gaza."

How Ahmed - whose identity also is being hidden to protect him from arrest - could know that the trucks were smuggling fuel when security officials did not was not immediately clear. Ahmed introduced another friend, a smuggler, whose towering new home rose from the desert near Rafah, a mansion by local standards, and an absolute advertisement for his line of work.

On Thursday, the Obama administration's new Middle East envoy, George Mitchell, said that opening Gaza to commercial goods would help stamp out smuggling, of arms as well as goods. But Ahmed and his friends said that the authorities were reluctant to take measures to end the smuggling, of commodities at least. How else, they asked, is anyone here going to make a decent living?

From the rooftop, Sha'er pointed to where Israeli planes bombed Gaza on Tuesday night, flattening buildings, churning up huge mounds of sand. A few hours after the bombs fell, the people of Gaza were back at it, he said, trying to restore the tunnel openings.

"We are farmers," Sha'er said. "But we live off the tunnels."

Tunnel effect on an Egyptian town Rafah's economy is based on underground supplies to Gaza

Load-Date: February 3, 2009



# International aid organisations are demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza; MIDEAST: Israel Ignores U.N. Security Council Resolution

IPS (Latin America)
January 19, 2009 Monday

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**Length:** 1188 words **Byline:** Haider Rizvi

# **Body**

The Council must ensure that the words in the resolution must quickly translate into meaningful change,' said Nicole Widdersheim of Oxfam International, the London-based charity that runs humanitarian operations in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Thursday night, the Security Council passed a resolution calling for unimpeded provision throughout Gaza of food, fuel and medical treatment, as well as intensified international arrangements to prevent arms and ammunition smuggling.

Fourteen of the Council's 15 members voted in favour of the resolution, with only the United States, a staunch ally of Israel, abstaining.

As a result of the Israeli military assault on Gaza, which started Dec. 27, at least 800 Palestinians have been killed and more than 3,000 injured -- about half of them **women** and children.

'Emergency personnel must be granted safe passage so that they can reach the wounded and treat them,' said Jakob Kellenberger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in a statement released soon after the passage of the U.N. resolution.

Aid groups say they are having a great deal of difficulty reaching out to the victims of the war as Israel continues its operations in defiance of the Security Council resolution.

'We are very concerned about the casualties,' said the U.N. humanitarian affairs chief John Holmes Friday. '[We] are unable to provide normal service. On the health side, the situation is extremely deteriorating.'

On Thursday, due to intense shelling and bombing of various parts of Gaza, the U.N. decided to suspend its humanitarian operations. However, the world body resumed its operations in the area after Israeli authorities gave assurances of their cooperation.

In a statement, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, described the Israeli attacks on Gaza as 'intolerable' and demanded that the ceasefire called for by the Security Council 'be implemented immediately'.

Pillay is considering setting up a commission to assess war crimes in the Gaza conflict. 'Violations of international humanitarian law may constitute war crimes for which individual criminal responsibility may be invoked,' she told the Human Rights Council.

International aid organisations are demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza MIDEAST: Israel Ignores U.N. Security Council Resolution

On Thursday, the U.N. General Assembly president, Miguel d'Escoto, strongly criticised the Israeli strategy to use the U.N. to stall a ceasefire agreement until it had archived its military objectives in Gaza.

In a statement, the Israeli foreign minister described her country's fundamental diplomatic objective of gaining time to achieve its goals.

'Gain time for what?' d'Escoto said in a statement. 'So that there can be more killing? So that there can be more destruction and more suffering of innocent people?

According to d'Escoto, the Israeli foreign minister's views on the need for more time were 'almost the same words' uttered by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during the 2006 Israeli invasion into Lebanon.

'I think that it is not unlikely that the timing of this particular incident now is precisely to be able to do whatever they want to do before [U.S.] President [George W.] Bush leaves,' he said.

Like d'Escoto, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon also appeared frustrated at the Israelis' behaviour.

Today, the secretary-general called the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, and expressed his disappointment,' U.N. spokesperson Farhan Haq told IPS, adding that the U.N. chief wants immediate compliance by Israel with the latest Security Council resolution.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly president said he has received a growing number of requests from heads of state and diplomats around the world this week to convene an emergency session to consider the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The world, he said, was 'fed up' with the inability of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council acting on the Assembly's behalf, to 'fulfill its principle and founding objective of averting war and maintaining international peace and security.'

Before the adoption of the Council resolution Thursday, d'Escoto stressed that the international community should not remain 'silent' and warned that a ceasefire in Gaza would not be permanent unless the root causes were fully addressed.

Though pleased with the outcome of the Security Council meeting, the Palestinian envoy, Riyad Mansour, expressed his apprehensions about the world community's efforts to stop the Israeli aggression in Gaza.

'Israel is still violating the U.N. Charter and Security Council's [latest] resolution,' he told IPS. 'It should be forced to be brought into compliance with the resolution.'

On Friday, in a statement, the London-based Amnesty International said it wants the Security Council to establish full accountability for crimes committed in the Gaza conflict and for deployment of human rights monitors.

The rights watchdog said the Council must take 'firm action' to ensure full accountability for war crimes and other serious abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law.

In an open letter to the Council, Amnesty also urged the Council to ensure that international human rights monitors are immediately dispatched to Gaza and southern Israel to investigate and report on continuing abuses by all parties.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has maintained its nearly unconditional support of Israel. In Washington, the House of Representatives voted 390-5, with 22 legislators non-voting, for a resolution that explicitly blamed <u>Hamas</u> for both the breakdown in the ceasefire and the subsequent casualties in Gaza and called for all countries to do the same.

The Senate approved a similar resolution by voice vote Thursday.

International aid organisations are demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza MIDEAST: Israel Ignores U.N. Security Council Resolution

The hawkish lobby group American Israel Public Affairs Committee supported both resolutions, while J Street, the political arm of the U.S. pro-Israel, pro-peace movement, said it neither supported nor opposed them.

The non-binding resolutions call for the administration to 'work actively to support a durable, enforceable, and sustainable cease-fire as soon as possible' and express 'vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders...and its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism.'

It demands that '*Hamas*...end the rocket and mortar attacks against Israel, recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and agree to accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians...'

Both resolutions called for all efforts to protect civilian lives on both sides and address humanitarian needs in Gaza but neither called for an immediate ceasefire.

An anonymous poll conducted by the National Journal of 32 Democratic members of Congress and 36 Republicans on the question of 'How would you characterise Israel's use of force in Gaza?' found that 39 percent of Democrats said Israel's use of force was excessive, while just 12 percent of Republicans said so. Fifty-five percent of Democrats said it was just right, while 82 percent of Republicans agreed with that assertion.< © 2009 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

Load-Date: January 19, 2009



# Why we are here

The Jerusalem Post January 14, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 13

**Length:** 957 words **Byline:** GIL TROY

**Highlight:** Being here will sometimes test our fiber. But a good yarn also means a great story, and we are blessed to be here,now, weaving the tapestry of modern Israel. The writer is professor of history at McGill University and the author of Why I Am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today and Leading from the Center: Why Moderates Make the Best Presidents.

# **Body**

My family and I returned from England on January 2, midway through the second year of our extended Israel adventure. The seventh day of war against <u>Hamas</u>'s rockets added frissons of anxiety to the usual arrival chaos. After an impromptu security check as we deplaned, guards detained one passenger. Our driver met us, saying, "The situation is rough." I told my daughter, "We're going to have to be extra careful wandering around for now." With a 13-year- old's defiant logic, she replied "Then why are we here?"

It was a fair question. We were returning from Limmud - a festival of Jewish learning with 900 sessions for 2,000 participants in five days at a bucolic (if freezing) English campus. In that British bubble, or our usual Canadian cocoon, we never worried about suspicious objects or avoided riding on buses.

I gave my daughter a 5:30 a.m. airport answer: "Because good people don't cut and run when bad guys start bombing."

Of course, the answer goes deeper.

WE ARE here because the Jewish people have only one homeland, only one Jewish place running on Jewish time, where we belong as a people and are not living by anyone else's good graces. There is nothing like Jerusalem on a Shabbat, on Succot, on Yom Kippur. The tranquility, spirituality, community and history enveloping us and enriching our lives here are unique.

We are here because daily life here is also special. Kids roam comfortably, under neighbors' watchful, even prying, eyes, as adults build this small, still fledgling state, with such potential, and yes, much room for improvement. Many of those Israeli traits that Westerners dislike, the pushiness, the incessant improvisations, are the very characteristics that will help win this war and make this experiment work.

We are here because we like Jerusalem's many "meaning junkies," as one friend calls them, seeking more to life than the latest pop culture trends, hoping to root our lives in enduring values.

We are here because when we wander around Jerusalem's Old City or delight in Tel Aviv's modernity, when we remove ancient pots from the ground or buy modern artistic knickknacks, we do it with the heroes of Jewish history

#### Why we are here

sitting proudly on our shoulders: Deborah the prophetess or David the king, Sarah Aaronsohn the Nili spy or Menachem Begin the fighter turned peacemaker, Golda Meir the prime minister who also left America's comforts or David Ben- Gurion, the prime minister who knew when to compromise in accepting the UN partition plan and when to plunge ahead in declaring the state despite American and Jewish calls to wait.

We are here because our great-grandparents dreamed of being here but could not be, because one grandfather fought in the 1948 War of Independence, and another helped smuggle weapons from New York so Israel could be free. For generations Jews have been singing "Next Year in Jerusalem." This is our time to be in Jerusalem, build Jerusalem and be rebuilt by Jerusalem, not sing about it as if it were some impossible dream.

We are here because the fight against terror knows no boundaries; this month it is Sderot and our cousins' kibbutz in the Negev, last month it was Mumbai, seven years ago on 9/11 it was my hometown New York. But here Jews control their own fate, unlike the Lubavitchers in Mumbai who had to wait for the Indian army to get organized, unlike in Montreal where we have to beg to designate firebombing a Jewish day school a hate crime, only to see the perpetrators punished lightly.

WE ARE here because - as I said at the airport - good people cannot flee but must fight evil. Even critics condemning Israel's supposedly "disproportionate response" implicitly concede that a state is justified in responding to 10,000 rockets terrorizing its citizens over eight years. And I for one, am proud of Israel's response - only after years of exhausting diplomatic efforts, only after offering the Palestinians a chance to build Gaza by removing the constant struggle with the settlers and the army, only after na-ve but well-meaning American Jewish philanthropists raised \$14 million to donate the burgeoning hothouses the Israelis developed, inviting Palestinians to make Gaza productive rather than a terror center - which Palestinians then trashed. I am proud of Israel's attempt to minimize civilian casualties even as *Hamas* terrorists cower behind *women* and children, behind mosques, hospitals and UN schools.

We are here because if we flee, who are we; if we let others fight for us, what are we; and if none of us fight, where will we - and the world - be? What values would we stand for if we abandoned Jerusalem, as cousin Daniel continues farming on the Gaza border with rockets flying overhead, as our friend Mickey and thousands of others serve their country, the Jewish people and the civilized world so honorably and selflessly? Israel, the Jewish people's national project, is a rich tapestry. Every day those of us in Israel, temporarily or permanently, add golden threads to this extraordinary old-new artwork. Some threads may be as short as the ones birthright israel participants add in their 10-day stints here, some may only last a year or two, others are lifelong. Others, tragically, are cut short - as we have seen too frequently in this war as well.

This is our moment to spin our Israeli yarn, and add to this magical Jewish tapestry with as many golden cords as we can create for as long as we choose, on our timetable, not cowed by anyone's threats. And yes, being here will sometimes test our fiber. But a good yarn also means a great story, and we are blessed to be here, now, weaving the tapestry of modern Israel - and helping to star in this grand narrative, one of the amazing adventures of 21st century modern democratic life.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



# Is Al Jazeera part of the Muslim Brothers' program?

The Jerusalem Post June 26, 2009 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 28

**Length:** 2273 words **Byline:** ZVI MAZEL

**Highlight:** Commentators in the Arab world have wondered exactly who or what is behind what appears to be the network's main purpose: promoting incitement against Arab regimes, while holding to an extreme Arab nationalist attitude against the US and Israel and extolling conservative - sometimes extremist - Islam. It did not take long for one name to emerge. The writer has served as ambassador to Romania, Egypt and Sweden. He currently directs the Jerusalem Center's Arabic-language Web site - infoelarab.org.

# **Body**

Could Qatar and Al Jazeera's satellite channel located there be secretly manipulated by the Muslim Brotherhood? This is a question frequently asked by Arab media trying to puzzle out the high profile adopted by the ruler of the tiny desert country and the nationalistic and radical Islamic content of the channel he owns.

The Brotherhood exerted a profound influence on the conservative Beduin society of Qatar, which numbered less than 100,000 people in the 1950s. In a paper he wrote in 2007, Abdallah Alnefissi, a well-known Kuwaiti philosopher, explains that the then ruler of Qatar, Ali Ben Abdullah Al- Thani, was so impressed by their piety and morality that he gave them his trust and let them carry out a wide range of religious and cultural activities.

The creed that the Brotherhood was teaching was that of its founder, Hassan al-Banna, and his master theologian, Sayed Qutb.

Their radical Islamic movement was created in 1928 in Egypt but saw itself as endowed with a mission to bring enlightenment to the whole world and reinstate the caliphate - a Muslim empire ruled by Shari'a, Islamic law. As a first step the movement targeted Islamic nations but intended to spread to the rest of the world. Indeed, branches were set up in most Arab countries in the early 1940s.

IN QATAR, the Brotherhood grew more influential when the present emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, deposed his father in a bloodless palace coup in 1995 (he called the old man who was vacationing in Switzerland, told him he was taking over and advised him to prolong his vacation).

One of his first steps was to establish Al Jazeera in 1996, while at the same time closing down the Ministry of Information and abolishing censorship. He also set up the Shura Council, an Islamic version of a consultative parliament - with no real power. In addition, he granted <u>women</u> the right to vote for the few limited political institutions he created. These measures were intended to show that he was both a liberal and a democrat. However, Hamad bin Khalifa still rules alone and appointed a distant cousin, Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer Al-Thani, as chairman of the board of Al Jazeera to keep a close watch on its activities.

Qatar became a hub of political activity, with dozens of important meetings held in its capital city, Doha. A partial list includes the World Trade Organization, 2001; Asian Olympic Games, 2006; Sunni-Shi'a Roundtable, 2007; and the first Arab Commission for Human Rights, 2008. In June 2008 Doha was the scene of negotiations between Hizbullah and representatives of the majority coalition in the Lebanese parliament which brought about the "Doha Agreement," paving the way for a national unity government with Hizbullah given veto power on all decisions.

This could not have been done without heavy pressure being brought to bear on behalf of Hizbullah from Syria and Iran. Their intervention threw light on the rapprochement between the emir of Qatar and the radical Islamic camp in the Arab world. This did not come as a complete surprise. The year before, the emir had stunned and embarrassed the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council by inviting President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran to their yearly summit without asking them, and in violation of the rules since only Arab nations can participate.

At the same time, however, Qatar is host to a number of American military installations which had previously been based in Saudi Arabia. That country had felt compelled to ask the US to help it fight a wave of internal terrorism by evacuating its soldiers in the period following the 9/11 attacks. There are today three US military bases in Qatar.

Thus, while assured of American backing and protection because of the bases, and enjoying an aura of moderation and aspiration to peace because of the Israeli commercial office (until January 2009), Qatar's hyperactive emir took on the stature of a serious player in the Arab arena - and was able to move closer to the extremist camp without serious repercussions.

While some commentators went as far as saying that Qatar was becoming a diplomatic force to be reckoned with at the expense of the dwindling influence of Egypt and Saudi Arabia, it is still a small country populated by Beduin, with no history to speak of, no developed economy and no army. It does enjoy handsome revenues from the export of gas. However, this alone is not enough to put it in a position to mediate in the serious issues troubling the Arab world, such as Iraq, Lebanon, the Palestinians and Iran.

THIS IS where Al Jazeera comes into play. The influential satellite channel brings to Qatar what it lacks to be a serious player. It is generally thought that the creation of a satellite channel in Doha in 1996 marked the beginning of a new era for the Arab world. The emir recruited seasoned personnel fluent in English and Arabic, most of them from the unsuccessful BBC Arabic channel. Soon the new station was broadcasting news and commentary around the clock.

In a matter of years Al Jazeera had assumed a leading role in Arab telecommunications. It is today a vast empire comprising an English news channel, a sports channel, a documentary channel and a children's channel. Its broadcasts can be accessed through cellular phones and it has a Web site updated constantly with the latest news from all over the world. Its latest endeavor is a shortwave radio station broadcasting to the Arab world.

There was never any doubt about the network's political orientation. Al Jazeera immediately launched scathing attacks on Israel during the second intifada and went on to incendiary broadcasts against the US at the time of the Afghanistan conflict and later over Iraq. It was well received by audiences in the Middle East and among Arab communities in Europe. Its reports appeared truthful and factual to its audience.

At the same time it was opening its studios to opposition figures from Arab countries and hosting fascinating debates on the sorry economic and social situation in the Arab world, something that had never been previously seen on television. Politicians, including heads of state, journalists, academics, and religious leaders representing mainline conservative views are confronted with a sprinkling of liberal intellectuals not afraid to speak up publicly.

One of the most provocative programs deals with socioeconomic issues and radical Islam. Though some progressive and liberal views are expressed, they are often interrupted by the moderator, who usually defends nationalist and radical Islamic opinions and does not hesitate to challenge the speakers.

Needless to say, Arab leaders do not like being criticized and see in the broadcasts a threat to the stability of their regimes. Some countries, such as Algeria and Saudi Arabia, did not let Al Jazeera set up offices on their soil; others, who had first allowed it, among them Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain and the Palestinian Authority, closed them down

quickly - but not for long, having come to the conclusion that closure did not help change the contents of the broadcasts.

Saudi Arabia, already on bad terms with Qatar, did take an effective step against Al Jazeera by not letting it broadcast advertisements. Since it is the largest market in the region, this effectively prevents Al Jazeera from achieving financial independence. Saudi Arabia also launched its own satellite channel, Al Arabiya. Though this channel progressed rapidly because of the quality of its programs, it did not overtake Al Jazeera, which remains the one most viewed with an estimated audience of some 60 million.

The meteoric rise of the network and its increasing popularity have led many political and media commentators in the Arab world to wonder exactly who or what was behind what appears to be its main purpose: encouraging opposition and promoting incitement against Arab regimes, exposing the corruption of their leaders and their entourage, while holding to an extreme Arab nationalist attitude against the US and Israel and extolling the values of conservative - and sometimes extremist - Islam. It did not take long for one name to emerge: the Muslim Brotherhood.

THIS HYPOTHESIS is supported by a number of facts. The director-general of the network, Wadah Khanfar, was a member of the organization in Jordan, where he was arrested. Today he is one of the closest advisers of the emir. Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi is also a member of the inner circle of the emir and is known to work closely with Khanfar. Both support *Hamas*. Arab researchers have succeeded in uncovering a number of other Brothers working for the network, but it is surmised that there are many more.

The general consensus is that Qaradawi is the visible tip of the iceberg. In an article published in 2003 in the London-based Arabic daily Asharq al-Awsat, Maamun Fendi, a well-known Egyptian liberal thinker today living in the US, wrote that some 50 percent of the network's personnel belong to the Muslim Brotherhood. He added that their influence in Qatar was rising both in the network and among government circles. According to him, the Brotherhood had intended to hold its world summit in Qatar in 2003 but had to scuttle its plan when it became known. These summits are usually held in a European capital far from Arab countries, in conditions of the utmost discretion, if not secrecy.

Fendi believes that Qatar, by embracing the Brotherhood, an extremist Islamic organization quite popular in the Arab world, while hosting American bases, has found the perfect formula against retaliation by Arab leaders and attacks by all other Arab and Islamic extremists including al-Qaida.

Having vainly tried threats, diplomatic pressure, and closing down its offices, Arab countries made a last, collective effort to curb Al Jazeera's broadcasts. In February 2008 Egypt and Saudi Arabia convened in Cairo an extraordinary meeting of the ministers of information of all members of the Arab League. The purpose was to impose a series of restrictions on all satellite channels in the Arab world. The proposed rules, which were supposed to be applied in all Arab countries, included a sweeping prohibition against insulting a country's leaders or impugning its religious and national symbols.

Infringement of the rules would give countries the right to freeze or cancel the offending network's permit to operate. The rules would have made it possible for the regime to stop the broadcasts at will without having to resort to a court decision. However, Qatar and Lebanon refused to endorse the agreement and it never came into effect. So Al Jazeera keeps on being a threat to Arab regimes.

Al Jazeera leads an all-out war against Israel in which there is no room for true reporting. The purpose is to bring all Arabs to support the Palestinians and, more specifically, <u>Hamas</u>, which is, after all, the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. No efforts are spared to present the Palestinians as the ultimate victims. <u>Hamas</u> representatives are warmly received by news anchors and commentators and they receive far more air time than the Palestinian Authority - a fact often bemoaned by Yasser Arafat who tried vainly to change it.

IN THE course of the Second Lebanon War in 2006, Al Jazeera behaved as a Hizbullah spokesman in all but name. It broadcast all Hizbullah communiques without bothering to check them, as well as footage from Hizbullah's

satellite network, Al Manar, which was deliberately distorting the facts and grossly exaggerating the actual damage. At no time did Al Jazeera take into consideration what Israel had to say about the situation on the ground.

During the Gaza war, a senior Al Jazeera reporter stationed himself at Shifa Hospital, from where he broadcast a stream of carefully selected horror pictures. Once again, they were accepted unreservedly and used to show what was purported to be the endless killing of civilians and especially children.

Al Jazeera has evaded all attempts to curb it and its broadcasts respect no boundaries. In Egypt, following the recent discovery of a Hizbullah plot inside the country, media have included Qatar and its network in the Iranian axis of evil, together with Syria, Hizbullah and <u>Hamas</u>. On April 18, Egypt's Al Ahram described the Qatar/Al Jazeera duo as "the Qatari propaganda network that belongs to the country of Al Jazeera."

"Sudanonline," a Sudanese Web site, goes a step further and links Qatar with the Muslim Brotherhood: "What is dangerous is that their organization has the potential to launch a violent conflict and to try by any available means to take over the country. We are very much afraid that Qatar will be consumed by the fire of that organization if it keeps on letting it act. The Brothers do not know the meaning of friendship and keeping faith. Their history shows, especially in Sudan where they are active, that they are all suckling from the same source - the creed of Hassan al-Banna and Sayed Qutb."

Qatar and Al Jazeera are indeed a very dangerous phenomenon. With the help of the powerful satellite network he created, the emir of Qatar is trying to assume the mantle of a great power, aided and abetted by the Muslim Brotherhood - one of the most extreme movements in the Muslim world. He is seen to be getting closer and closer to Iran, in keeping with the dangerous, revolutionary and wayward vision of the Brotherhood. Indeed, with the Muslim Brotherhood increasingly aligned in recent years with Iran, by repeatedly attacking the Sunni Arab regimes and inciting against them, Al Jazeera is serving as an important instrument for Teheran and its effort to undermine their internal stability.

#### **Graphic**

3 photos: Al Jazeera anchor Ghida Fakhry goes on-air on the first day of the channel's debut of its 24-hour English-language service. Qatari emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani speaks at the the UN. After deposing his father, one of the emir's first steps was to establish Al Jazeera. Emblem of The Muslim Brotherhood. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks at a 2007 news conference in Doha. (Credit: Bloomberg)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



#### We cannot turn a blind eye to the hunger for freedom in Iran; secondglance

The Western Mail

June 25, 2009 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: Pg. 22

Length: 471 words

Byline: David Williamson

#### **Body**

THE spectacle of the mass protests against the official results of the Iranian election astonishes and baffles.

Thousands have taken to the streets to register their disgust at a result they consider implausible.

This takes place two decades after the Tiananmen Square massacres and the fall of the Berlin Wall. Will it result in horrendous bloodshed or a breakthrough for freedom in the Middle East? The protests immediately confront the West - and President Barack Obama in particular - with a dilemma which would furrow the brow of any grandee on Mount Rushmore.

Traditional rules of diplomacy dictate that a country's actions should be determined by national interest.

This was personified by the Nixon White House's decision to open relations with China. Yes, it was a Communist state and Mao Tse-tung's Cultural Revolution had led to the deaths of some two million people, but it was in America's interest to have formal relations with a future economic superpower. Advocates of such strategies argue it led to China's slow adoption of market capitalism which has lifted millions out of poverty.

In the present day, Britain's dealings with Saudi Arabia follow similar principles. We do not harangue the regime about human rights; we need their oil and London and Riyadh face a common threat from al-Qaeda.

On June 11 this year the "roll out" ceremony for the first two Typhoon aircraft constructed for the Royal Saudi Air Force was held at BAE's Warton site. A total of 72 Typhoons will be supplied.

As Labour minister Bill Rammell said: "The Royal Saudi Air Force is getting a fantastic aircraft ... The industrial benefits of the project are also substantial for both nations and will help to sustain several thousand, skilled jobs in the UK and Saudi Arabia over the next 10 years." Saudi Arabia comes to the British negotiating table with a chequebook and the promise of stability. This allows successive UK governments to strike lucrative deals.

The experiment in Iraq demonstrates what an unstable democracy in the Middle East looks like - and the spectacle of *Hamas* winning elections in Palestine proves that people can make choices which terrify the West.

From a cold, "realist" perspective, the US and Britain's primary goal concerning Iran is that it never gets a nuclear weapon and it stops supporting Islamist militants.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the hunger for freedom in Iran secondglance

If a convincingly elected leader - especially one who had greater respect for <u>women</u> and minority rights - pushed forward with a nuclear programme, this would transform the West's headache into a raging migraine.

But the courage of the protesters who long for the rule of law and an end to corruption, repression and fear deserves a response. Just as we cannot ignore a famine in Africa, so we cannot turn a blind eye to the hunger for freedom.

secondglance David Williamson

Load-Date: June 25, 2009



#### Readers write

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

May 25, 2009 Monday

Main Edition

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#### The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: OPINION; Pg. 10A

Length: 480 words

Byline: Joel Finegold, Alby Davis, Etienne Gentin, Adee Weismark

For the Journal-Constitution

#### **Body**

Serve citizens of DeKalb

Sunday's article on Sembler's request for a tax break ("Developer asks for huge tax breaks," Metro, May 17) suggests that significant elements in DeKalb County leadership would throw away millions in order to assist Sembler and its financiers with finishing a development they are threatening to abandon. The article makes me wonder whether the financial woes of campaign financers so completely saturate the will of DeKalb County leadership that they are indistinguishable from the interests of those whom it has pledged to serve first and foremost: the citizens of DeKalb County.

Joel Finegold, Atlanta

Re-examine eating habits

The stark contrast between our frenzied reaction to unfamiliar hazards and our reckless tolerance of familiar ones never ceases to amaze me. Swine flu has captured the headlines, canceled public events and closed dozens of schools. At the same time, we have blithely continued our consumption of meat and dairy products, which have been linked with elevated risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and other chronic diseases that kill millions of Americans annually. Each of us has a shared responsibility for our society's health and welfare. The best time to exercise this responsibility is on our next trip to the supermarket, where we can explore the rich variety of meat-free and dairy-free ready-to-eat frozen dinners, veggie burgers and dogs, lunch "meats," and plant-based cheese, ice cream and milk.

Alby Davis, Atlanta

Shift needed in Mideast

#### Readers write

While people of good faith can argue what constitutes a just and fair settlement to the Arab conflict with Israel, it is impossible to view *Hamas*, the PLO and other terrorist groups as partners for peace. If President Obama wants the many American friends of Israel or Israelis themselves to endorse Palestinian statehood, a fundamental shift in the larger Islamic world regarding Israel, America, Jews, Christians, the West, *women*'s rights, freedom and nonviolence must happen. If, after 16 years of negotiating and being offered over 96 percent of disputed territories, the Palestinians are not even willing to say that Israel is a Jewish state, the prospects for a real and lasting peace remain grim.

Etienne Gentin, Gainesville

Money no basis for kids

Regarding the article, ("Pregnancy falloff economic?" News, May 20), couples were highlighted for not getting pregnant in these economic times. The writers missed the mark, as children are not about money. My wife and I will continue to have children, even though I lost my job recently and will have to scrape money together to pay the bills and put food on the table. I am more than happy to work two and three jobs to make having more children a reality for us, as opposed to those mentioned in the article. I highly encourage others to cut back as well because children are what life is all about.

Adee Weismark, Atlanta

Load-Date: May 27, 2009



#### US Calls for End to Hostilities in Sri Lanka

RTT News (United States)
April 16, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 464 words

#### **Body**

(RTTNews) - In a statement released Thursday, the US government called for an end to the hostilities in Sri Lanka.

The conflict in Sri Lanka revolves around the militant group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, also known as the Tamil Tigers, who are fighting to create an independent Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Founded in 1976, the Tamil Tigers have engaged in an on-and-off civil war against the Sri Lankan government since 1983.

Over the course of the civil war, the Tamil Tigers have been responsible for the assassinations of both Sri Lankan and Indian politicians, committing atrocities against civilians and recruiting child soldiers.

The Tamil Tigers have also carried out more suicide bombings than other high-profile terrorist groups like <u>Hamas</u> and al-Qaeda.

There have been attempts at peace talks over the course of the long war, but none have met with any lasting success.

An attack on Tamil Tiger forces by the Sri Lankan government in 2006 proved to be the most effective yet, severely reducing the area of the country under Tamil Tiger control.

Since the offensive, there has been growing international pressure for the Tamil Tigers to surrender for good, including a joint statement issued in February by the US, European Union, Japan and Norway, which stated that it was only a matter of time before the Sri Lankan government gained full control of the country.

In the statement released Thursday, the US said it is "deeply concerned about the current danger to civilian lives and the dire humanitarian situation created by the fighting in the Mullaittivu area in Sri Lanka."

The US said it calls "upon the government and military of Sri Lanka, and the Tamil Tigers to immediately stop hostilities until the more than 140,000 civilians in the conflict area are safely out."

It further stated that both sides must "immediately return to a humanitarian pause and both must respect the right of free movement of those civilian men, <u>women</u> and children trapped by the fighting."

The US said that Sri Lanka has "an opportunity to put an end to this lengthy conflict," and that the only way to create a lasting peace is through "a political solution that addresses the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankan communities."

"Further killing," the US added, "will not end the conflict and will stain any eventual peace."

#### US Calls for End to Hostilities in Sri Lanka

The US said it urged the Sri Lankan government "to employ diplomacy to permit a peaceful outcome of this conflict," and also called on the government to "put forward a proposal now to engage Tamils who do not espouse violence or terrorism, and to develop power sharing arrangements so that lasting peace and reconciliation can be achieved."

For comments and feedback: contact editorial@rttnews.com

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Load-Date: April 16, 2010



#### <u>Israelis admit killing civilians in Gaza conflict; Soldiers' accounts of</u> shooting unarmed women, children spark calls for inquiry

# Ottawa Citizen March 20, 2009 Friday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A9

Length: 431 words

Byline: Dina Kraft, The Daily Telegraph; with files from Reuters

Dateline: TEL AVIV

#### **Body**

Israeli soldiers have admitted shooting and killing unarmed Palestinian civilians during the Gaza war.

In detailed accounts published by the Israeli media, soldiers also told of wanton destruction of property during the 22-day conflict with *Hamas* that began in December.

An infantry squad leader described an incident in which a sniper mistakenly shot a Palestinian woman and her two children.

He said: "The sharpshooter saw a woman and children approaching him, closer than the lines he was told no one should pass. He shot them straight away.

"I don't think he felt too bad about it because, after all, as far as he was concerned, he did his job according to the orders he was given.

"And the atmosphere in general, from what I understood from most of my men who I talked to ... I don't know how to describe it ... The lives of Palestinians, let's say, is something (that seemed) much less important than the lives of our soldiers. So, as far as they are concerned, they can justify it that way."

The soldiers' testimony suggests a policy, at least during part of the operation, that anyone in certain open areas would be deemed suspicious and could be shot.

The Israeli army said that its chief advocate had ordered the military police to investigate the claims.

Another squad leader described a situation in which an older Palestinian woman was shot and killed because she was walking about 100 metres from a house that the company had taken over.

The same soldier described seeing graffiti such as "death to the Arabs" on the walls of commandeered homes and said he saw soldiers spit on family photographs.

He said: "I think this is the main thing: to understand how much the Israel Defence Forces has fallen in the realm of ethics, really."

Israelis admit killing civilians in Gaza conflict; Soldiers' accounts of shooting unarmed women, children spark calls for inquiry

The accounts published in Haaretz and Maariv immediately sparked calls for an independent inquiry.

"If these orders were given as described, then both the issuing of the orders and their implementation are criminal offences," the human rights group Yesh Din said.

Israel's right-wing prime minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, will seek more time to form a government, an aide said on Thursday, so he can pursue efforts to persuade centre-left Labour to join his coalition.

Under Israeli law, Netanyahu has until April 3 to build a coalition, though he is obliged to report to President Shimon Peres by today.

An aide to Likud party head Netanyahu said that though he had neared agreement with 61 of Israel's 120-member Knesset, he would ask Peres today for an additional 14 days "because he wants to build as broad a coalition as possible."

Load-Date: March 20, 2009



# Sherborne calls for action on gaza; Fighting continues in the Gaza Strip despite a cease-fire being declared weeks ago.

Western Gazette series February 12, 2009

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Section: Pg. 4

Length: 448 words

#### **Body**

Around 1,300 Palestinians and 17 Israelis died last month during a three-week military campaign aimed at destroying *Hamas* strongholds, and more military action has been threatened if further rocket fire hits Israel's towns or cities.

But the BBC has refused to broadcast a charity appeal for aid to Gaza on fears it could be accused of impartiality.

Founder of the Jews For Boycotting Israeli Goods group, Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi of London, said this was "appalling" at a talk to a Palestine Support Group meeting in Sherborne.

She said: "I am absolutely appalled that the BBC can talk about impartiality, when what they are doing displays partiality.

"You cannot imagine them refusing to do the same for Israel and what an insult it is to organisations like Christian Aid to suggest that they do not know how to conduct their projects in a partisan way."

Farm worker John Burbage, aged 60, of Yetminster has collected 85 signatures calling for an end to the violence.

He said: "What is going on is so disappointing and it seems to be getting worse."

Retired maths teacher Stephen Cheleda, 70, of Thornford attended the meeting because he believed Palestinians were being denied their human rights.

"A human right is the right to be creative and at the moment Palestinians do not have the right to do that. It was the same in South Africa.

"I come here because it is good to know that there are people who share similar ideas and for every individual who is here, there are probably hundreds of others who are quietly sympathetic."

Retired nurse Mary Gray, 57, of Gillingham has a daughter working on a permaculture farm in Bethlehem.

Alice moved there as part of the community group Green Intifada, which aims to rebuild Palestinian society using sustainable and environmentally practices.

Mrs Gray said: "We also went out on a holiday to Jerusalem and we saw the wall which the Israelis have built. We tried to go through a checkpoint; it was terrifying. You are caged in wire and people were shouting at you.

Sherborne calls for action on gaza Fighting continues in the Gaza Strip despite a cease-fire being declared weeks ago.

"It was exactly the same feeling as visiting a concentration camp like Auschwitz."

Mother-of-two Luci Carolan, 37, from the Sherborne area said: "For years I have been following the horrors of what is going on in Palestine and I find it very distressing.

"When I hear from friends who travel there and I hear about <u>women</u> dying in checkpoints when they are in labour, I can relate to that, but I cannot do anything about it."

Longburton parish priest Brenda Phillips has visited Palestine four times and sponsors a child in one of the country's schools.

She said: "I feel very much for the Palestinians. The last time I went out there was to stay in Bethlehem. The checkpoints are just horrendous."

Load-Date: August 21, 2009



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Section: Pg. 4

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Load-Date: February 13, 2009



#### Palestinian crisis 'a humanitarian tragedy'

Gulf Daily News January 23, 2009

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**Length:** 455 words **Byline:** geoffrey bew

#### **Body**

BAHRAIN'S Jewish community has watched in agony as the conflict between Israel and <u>Hamas</u> created a massive humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

More than 1,300 Palestinians died and more than 4,000 were injured, including many <u>women</u> and children, in the 21-day onslaught, which ended with a ceasefire on Saturday.

Thirteen Israelis were reported killed.

Bahrain-based Jewish businesswoman Nancy Khedouri said every innocent life lost in the violence was a tragedy.

"From a humanitarian point of view one feels the pain and anguish of all the innocent people dying," she told the GDN.

"We sympathise with the families of those affected, regardless of what religion they are.

"We watch the news and we follow it. We are all human beings and nobody likes to see anyone else suffering."

Around 20,000 homes were damaged during the war, with a further 5,000 houses, 16 government buildings and 20 mosques destroyed.

Ms Khedouri refused to say whether she agreed with Israel's latest incursion into Gaza or whether its forces were guilty of committing war crimes against the Palestinian people.

But she insisted she and the Jewish community in Bahrain was praying for long-term peace.

"I do not get involved in politics at all, I am Jewish but I am Bahraini," said Ms Khedouri. "Everyone is just tired of the situation.

"People around the world just want peace to come about, whether it is this issue or others."

#### Palestinian crisis 'a humanitarian tragedy'

Bahrain's Jewish community is one of the smallest of its kind in the world with less than 40 people, most of who are successful entrepreneurs.

Ms Khedouri, who has written a book detailing the history of Jewish people in Bahrain, said she did not expect anyone would treat her differently as a result of the ongoing conflict.

"I have always been very proud to say that the friendships we have with all citizens in Bahrain are very strong and we have never allowed religion to pose an obstacle to our friendship," she said.

"The Jewish community in Bahrain have lived here for many years and we have never encountered any problems."

Another prominent Jewish Bahraini refused to discuss the rights or wrongs of the conflict, but said there was no animosity in Bahrain towards his community.

"Nothing at all and I don't expect any, because we are Bahrainis," said the man, who would not be named.

"We have lived all our lives here and we are part of the people here.

"We are Bahrainis and we feel more Bahraini than anything else."

One of the Jewish community's highest-profile figures is Bahrain's Ambassador to the US Huda Nonoo, who became the country's first non-Muslim envoy to be appointed by His Majesty King Hamad last year.

She is also the country's first Jewish *female* ambassador to the US.

Ms Nonoo did not respond to the GDN's request for comment.

Load-Date: January 26, 2009



# Sherborne calls for action on gaza; Fighting continues in the Gaza Strip despite a cease-fire being declared weeks ago.

Western Gazette series February 12, 2009

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Section: Pg. 4

Length: 448 words

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Load-Date: June 11, 2009



#### Hillary Clinton promises the new America will become the world's friend

The Daily Telegraph (London) January 14, 2009 Wednesday

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# The Daily Telegraph

Section: NEWS; International; Pg. 15

**Length:** 473 words **Byline:** Alex Spillius

#### **Body**

HILLARY CLINTON yesterday promised that America would win back friends across the world, as she set out a vision of foreign policy under the presidency of Barack Obama.

Although she refrained from naming the outgoing President George W Bush, Mrs Clinton sent a strong signal to the world that as secretary of state, she would strengthen US diplomacy and "build a world with more partners". She said she and Mr Obama believed in foreign policy that married "principles and pragmatism, not rigid ideology".

"American leadership has been wanting but it is still wanted," Mrs Clinton told her confirmation hearing before the Senate foreign relations committee.

"We must use what has been called 'smart power,' the full range of tools at our disposal," she continued, advocating a mix of diplomatic, economic, military, political legal and cultural strategies. Judging by the gushing welcome she received from the Senate panel, the former First Lady will sail through. However, Republican senators raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest between foreign policy and Bill Clinton's global charity, which receives donations from numerous foreign governments and businessmen.

Richard Lugar, the committee's senior Republican, said the foundation's charitable efforts "should not be a barrier to Mrs Clinton's service", but he acknowledged that conflicts of interest might arise. "The work of the Clinton foundation is a unique complication that will have to be managed with great care and transparency," he said.

He suggested that the foundation should forgo all foreign donations while she was secretary of state.

Mrs Clinton removed any lingering doubts about her ability to work with Mr Obama. Time and again she referred to their common approach and ideas.

Both were committed to a "fresh approach" to Iran which would involve a greater willingness to talk and may include the opening of a diplomatic office in Irain for the first time since the overthrow of the shah in 1979. She made clear that issues such as climate change, the liberty of <u>women</u> and human trafficking would be more prominent concerns on her watch.

#### Hillary Clinton promises the new America will become the world's friend

Other than Iran, however, she offered little to suggest that there would be major departures from the policies pursued by Mr Bush in the final two years of his presidency, which have been much more conciliatory than the first six.

Mrs Clinton, who remains a New York senator until she is confirmed as secretary of state, ruled out negotiations with <u>Hamas</u> until the militant Palestinian group that controls Gaza "renounces violence, recognises Israel and agrees to abide by past agreements".

Promising the new administration will pursue a "very aggressive effort" against North Korea's alleged role in atomic weapons proliferation, she praised the "merit" of the six-party talks of which the US is already part.

Load-Date: January 14, 2009



#### Why silence on Iran when terror reigns?

Chicago Daily Herald
June 22, 2009 Monday
L2 Edition

Copyright 2009 Paddock Publications, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 8 Length: 540 words

#### **Body**

Millions of Iranians take to the streets to defy a theocratic dictatorship that, among its other finer qualities, is a self-declared enemy of America and the tolerance and liberties it represents. The demonstrators are fighting on their own, but they await just a word that America is on their side.

And what do they hear from the president of the United States? Silence. Then, worse. Three days in, the president makes clear his policy: continued "dialogue" with their clerical masters.

Dialogue with a regime that is breaking heads, shooting demonstrators, expelling journalists, arresting activists. Engagement with — which inevitably confers legitimacy upon — leaders elected in a process that begins as a sham (only four hand-picked candidates permitted out of 476) and ends in overt rigging.

Then, after treating this popular revolution as an inconvenience to the real business of Obama-Khamanei negotiations, the president speaks favorably of "some initial reaction from the Supreme Leader that indicates he understands the Iranian people have deep concerns about the election."

This incipient revolution is no longer about the election. Obama totally misses the point. The election allowed the political space and provided the spark for the eruption of anti-regime fervor that has been simmering for years and awaiting its moment. But people aren't dying in the street because they want a recount of hanging chads in suburban Isfahan. They want to bring down the tyrannical, misogynist, corrupt theocracy that has imposed itself with the very baton-wielding goons that today attack the demonstrators.

This started out about election fraud. But like all revolutions, it has far outgrown its origins. What's at stake now is the very legitimacy of this regime — and the future of the entire Middle East.

With Hezbollah having lost elections in Lebanon and with Iraq establishing the institutions of a young democracy, the fall of the Islamist dictatorship in Iran would have an electric and contagious effect. The exception — Iraq and Lebanon — becomes the rule. Democracy becomes the wave. Syria becomes isolated; Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u>, patronless. The entire trajectory of the region is reversed.

All hangs in the balance. And what side is the Obama administration taking? None. Except for the desire that this "vigorous debate" (press secretary Robert Gibbs' disgraceful euphemism) over election "irregularities" not stand in the way of U.S.-Iranian engagement on nuclear weapons.

#### Why silence on Iran when terror reigns?

Even from the narrow perspective of the nuclear issue, the administration's geopolitical calculus is absurd. There is zero chance talks will denuclearize Iran. The only hope for a resolution of the nuclear question is regime change, which might either stop the program, or make it manageable and nonthreatening.

That's our fundamental interest. And our fundamental values demand that America stand with demonstrators opposing a regime that is the antithesis of all we believe.

And where is our president? Afraid of "meddling." Afraid to take sides between the head-breaking, <u>women</u>-shackling exporters of terror — and the people in the street yearning to breathe free. This from a president who fancies himself the restorer of America's moral standing in the world.

Load-Date: June 22, 2009



#### Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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Length: 472 words

Byline: Reuters

Highlight: Egypt has detained seven people with links to al Qaeda suspected of involvement in a bomb attack in a

popular Cairo tourist area that killed a French teenager in February, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

#### **Body**

Those detained had explosives and ammunition in their possession when they were taken into custody, and had been recruited to carry out attacks in Egypt and abroad, the statement said. "State security investigators were able to identify a group of Egyptian and foreign elements connected to the al Qaeda organisation who go by the name Palestinian Army of Islam," the statement said. It said seven of the group were detained. The February bomb was the first fatal attack on tourists in Egypt since bombs killed at least 23 people at an Egyptian resort in the Sinai peninsula in 2006. Egypt blamed that attack on Bedouin with militant views, *Reuters recalls* Security sources said the seven people currently detained had been involved in planning the bombing in a crowded square near the 14th-century Khan el-Khalili market, where tourists shop for trinkets and sit at outdoor cafes.

But they said the actual perpetrators of the attack, which also wounded 20 people, had not yet been arrested. Islamic militants have sporadically hit tourist targets in recent years through bomb and shooting attacks, dealing a blow to an industry that is one of Egypt's top hard currency earners. Al Qaeda often condemns Egypt's government as a corrupt U.S. puppet and calls for its overthrow. The group reported detained on Saturday comprised at least one woman and several nationalities. It included a French woman of Albanian origin, a Belgian man of Tunisian origin, a British man of Egyptian origin, two Egyptians and two Palestinians. "It (the group) was urged to carry out terrorist operations in the country and abroad," the Interior Ministry statement said. February bomb was the first of a series of small attacks in Cairo. In the days that followed, an American teacher was stabbed by an attacker who said he was motivated by a hatred of foreigners, and an attacker threw a firebomb The US embassy in Cairo later warned its citizens to exercise caution in Egypt, saying more attacks may be planned, although the events did not appear connected. The attacks have been embarrassing for Egypt, which tries hard to project an image of security and stability but has angered Arab public opinion by helping Israel enforce a blockade on the *Hamas*-run Gaza Strip. The statement said the group was managed by two Egyptians living outside of the country who had recruited militants to sneak into Gaza for advanced training in explosives, electrical circuitry, remote detonation and on booby traps. Those militants later returned to Egypt via tunnels to carry out attacks, it added. The Belgian man also reported he had been instructed to travel to his country to get in touch with members of al Qaeda and to head to France with a female companion to carry out attacks there, the Interior Ministry said.

Load-Date: December 10, 2012



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Load-Date: December 13, 2012



# REFORMISTS ARE KEY IN IRANIAN ELECTIONS; AHMADINEJAD FACES CHALLENGE TODAY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 12, 2009 Friday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2009 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD; Pg. A-4

Length: 527 words

Byline: Robert F. Worth, The New York Times

#### **Body**

TEHRAN, Iran -- Less than two months ago, it was widely assumed here and in the West that hard-line Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would coast to another victory in the elections today. Many reformists who sat out the 2005 vote seemed dejected and unlikely to raise a strong challenge.

That picture has been transformed. A vast opposition movement has arisen, flooding the streets of Iran's major cities with cheering, green-clad supporters of Mir Hussein Moussavi, the leading challenger.

Mr. Ahmadinejad, seemingly on the defensive, has hurled extraordinary accusations at some of the Islamic republic's founding figures, but the tactic has served to unify a diverse and passionate body of opponents of his populist economic policies and confrontational approach to the West.

Some Iranians believe that the unruly democratic energies unleashed over the past few weeks could affect this country's politics no matter who wins. Mr. Ahmadinejad's radical policies and personal attacks, they say, have galvanized powerful adversaries, who will use his own accusations of corruption and mismanagement against him.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, who has the final say in affairs of state and prefers to avoid open conflict, may force Mr. Ahmadinejad to steer a more moderate course if he is re-elected.

"The elite will not let go of Ahmadinejad's neck" if he wins, said Muhammad Atrianfar, a journalist and former government official who supports Mr. Moussavi. "The official institutions will be in conflict with him, including the Parliament."

But hope has often outpaced reality in Iran, and similar democratic movements have been stifled in the past by the country's clerical leadership. In 1997, a burst of student demonstrations was followed by mass arrests, and a broader crackdown has taken place since Mr. Ahmadinejad succeeded his reformist predecessor, President Mohammad Khatami, in 2005.

And for all the hopes placed in him, Mr. Moussavi is no liberal. Another candidate, Mehdi Karroubi, is more closely associated with the Iranian reformist movement's core causes, including freeing political prisoners and backing **women**'s rights.

#### REFORMISTS ARE KEY IN IRANIAN ELECTIONS AHMADINEJAD FACES CHALLENGE TODAY

Moreover, there are limits to what any Iranian president can do. While Mr. Ahmadinejad has tried to augment the powers of the presidency, Ayatollah Khamenei, as supreme leader, controls foreign policy.

Still, Mr. Moussavi would clearly push for a less-confrontational stance toward the West. He implicitly criticized Iran's support for militant groups like Hezbollah and *Hamas*, saying the government should focus on domestic problems instead.

Perhaps more important to Iranians, Mr. Moussavi would change economic policy; Mr. Ahmadinejad has been criticized for economic stagnation, including rising inflation and unemployment. A former prime minister in the 1980s, Mr. Moussavi is given great credit for managing Iran's economy effectively during the war with Iraq.

Political and economic factors could also play a role. Iran's oil revenue has dropped precipitously over the past year. Iran is facing political challenges in Iraq and Afghanistan, and its allies in Lebanon lost an important election there Sunday.

Load-Date: June 12, 2009



#### Egypt holds seven over tourist bazaar bomb attack

defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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Length: 472 words

Byline: Reuters

Highlight: Egypt has detained seven people with links to al Qaeda suspected of involvement in a bomb attack in a

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defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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defenceWeb

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Load-Date: December 16, 2012



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defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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defenceWeb

May 25, 2009 Monday

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Load-Date: December 15, 2012



## Jaw-jaw has always been better than war-war; LETTERS

The Sunday Times (London)

March 22, 2009

Edition 1

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 20

Length: 500 words

#### **Body**

ALTHOUGH we have demonised the Taliban for years, it was Mullah Omar who said all problems can be solved at the negotiating table before the invasion. They are not fools or demons if we just take time and talk and stop delivering ultimatums. The Pashtuns are good at negotiating.

Richard Scott Drake Colorado, USA West must adjust sights Britain's role in Iraq and Afghanistan needs better evaluation (Only a surge in fudging will tame Afghanistan, Comment, last week). We must face up to the fact that we do not always "know best", a hangover from superpower days, and adjust to punch our weight.

Our problem was summed up by Vladimir Putin's comments during Russia's spat with Georgia: "We have the political will, the economic strength and the military power." The UK is deficient on all three, particularly the will when it comes to analysing our performance in Basra. Our biggest problem now appears to be the meltdown of our financial sector, the ramifications of which could be the most serious ever faced.

Allan Nash Billericay, Essex Obama'll fix it The US and Britain have failed to solve this problem with violence. It's time to try something else. Thank god Barack Obama is in charge.

D Behrman London Peace for the few Welcome to the peaceful Afghanistan of the future. No suicide bombers or air raids.

Only musicians, teachers and women have anything to fear.

N Cook London The blame starts here I laud your editorial (We should just laugh at these clowns, last week) for highlighting the virtues of democracy. The British army has been pivotal in removing tyrannies and spreading freedom. Kosovo and Bosnia stand as an example of risking lives to prevent suffering.

But who doesn't agree that the Iraq war has caused the unjustifiable deaths of innocents, that America and

Britain helped in the installation of puppet regimes from Pervez Musharraf in Pakistan to Nouri al-Maliki in Iraq and Hamid Karzai in Afghanistan, and shunned democratically elected *Hamas*.

#### Jaw-jaw has always been better than war-war LETTERS

The Iraq war has been unleashed under spurious pretences and the anger should be vented not on the lunatics who abused homecoming soldiers, but on those who sent them to Iraq to face death.

Dr Munjed Al Qutob London SW5

Fear on home ground Where is serious criticism, never mind dismissive humour, about Islam and its more extreme manifestations anywhere in our stage, film or written media? Was a Dutch film-maker not refused admission because of a work, good, bad or indifferent we do not know, that might have been unpalatable to Muslims?.

There is physical fear of extremists, fear of causing agitation among the significant minority in our midst and fear of suggesting to them that they become an integrated, identifiable part of our culture.

Name and address supplied Stop funding misfits Your editorial is misguided. As absurd as figures like Anjem Choudary appear, sadly there are plenty of poorly educated misfits that are only too willing to lionise his ilk and become dupes to his brand of warped rhetoric.

Simon Bradley London SE1

Load-Date: March 22, 2009



## Jaw-jaw has always been better than war-war; LETTERS

The Sunday Times (London)

March 22, 2009

Edition 1

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 26

Length: 478 words

#### **Body**

ALTHOUGH we have demonised the Taliban for years, it was Mullah Omar who said all problems can be solved at the negotiating table before the invasion. They are not fools or demons if we just take time and talk and stop delivering ultimatums. The Pashtuns are good at negotiating. Richard Scott Drake Colorado, USA West must adjust sights

Britain's role in Iraq and

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Simon Bradley London SE1

Load-Date: March 22, 2009



# First Lady to CNN: Will international community accuse Israel of war crimes?

Daily News Egypt

March 4, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 522 words

## **Body**

CAIRO: While world leaders pledged billions of dollars for the reconstruction of Gaza, many remain skeptical about the feasibility of funneling the money to the war-torn strip amid the present blockade and a divided Palestinian authority.

€œWe need Palestinian unity first€ I don't see any progress taking place without unity on both sides,€ said Suzanne Mubarak in an interview with CNN's John Defterios to be aired on Friday March 6 at 0915 GMT.

Mubarak admits that it is a "œcritical juncture" for leading Palestinian rivals Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> to achieve reconciliation, but believes that an agreement between both is "œthe only option.€

She also highlighted the importance of opening up the borders between Egypt and Israel: "œYou can't rebuild Gaza if you have a blockade. How are you going to get all the material for rebuilding?€ she asked.

Although the Rafah border was temporarily opened to allow humanitarian aid during the December-January attack on Gaza, Egypt was widely criticized, both regionally and internationally, for its position during the onslaught.

During the 22-day attack, Egypt tightened border traffic and occasionally cracked down on pro-Gaza demonstrations.

€œI think we had so much criticism at home regardless of what Egypt was doing. But now I think people have come to realize that the role of Egypt from day one was a positive role and Egypt was on the right path and continues to be a stronghold in the area,€ said Mubarak, defending Egypt's decisions during the attacks on Gaza.

However, Mubarak sympathized with activists and protestors that felt the urge to lend a hand to Palestinians in Gaza but couldn't.

€œlt's not fair. When you see every day on your television, screams, Gaza being bombed, children being killed, women being widowed, I don't think you can have any sympathy for any government. All you see is just bodies and corpses scattered all over the place.€

Speaking about the war crimes that Israel has been repeatedly accused of committing during the attack, Mubarak doubted that the international community will follow-up with the charges.

€œl don't know if the international community will have the courage to come up and say € yes' Israel you were wrong. € Yes' these were war crimes. € Yes' you used weapons you shouldn't have used. € Yes' this was unproportional use of force,€ she said.

During the interview, Mubarak also spoke about her initiatives to involve the international business community in fighting the increasing levels of human trafficking, especially among <u>women</u> and children, contributing to \$38 billion in annual profits for companies who employ trafficked labor.

€œWe should start working from the top, working with the business community who has the resources, the expertise and the technical capabilities of helping us to do something about this scourge of human trafficking,€ explained Mubarak, pointing out that the reason why only 1 in 800 people involved in trafficking is prosecuted is because it is an "œunderground" activity.

€œWe need still to amend our laws, we need to draft new anti-trafficking laws,€ she said.

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Load-Date: March 4, 2009



#### Letters

The Jerusalem Post April 19, 2009 Sunday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1152 words

Byline: Steve Lieblich, Larry Finson, Joy Wolfe, J.M. King, Toby Willig, Colin L. Leci, M.L. Rostowsky, Karl

Huttenbauer

Highlight: Readers' Letters

#### **Body**

Democracy...

Sir, - Bashing critics of the Left, David Newman purports to defend free speech. But in his April 14 op-ed "Bashing the academic Left," he simply tries to silence those who disagree with him.

He writes: "Campus Watch... uses students and faculty to spy on those teaching courses on Israel and the Middle East. Anyone who so faintly utters a word of criticism is immediately labeled as such (sic)."

Is Campus Watch a disgrace for anyone who believes in the concept of freedom of speech? Why does Newman call observation spying? What have his learned colleagues got to be so secretive about?

Finally, if someone is "critical," why should he not be labeled as such?

STEVE LIEBLICH, Editor

Jewish Issues Watchdog

Western Australia

...in danger

Sir, - The whole university system in Israel is a monopoly controlled by the elite Left that set it up. Yet David Newman expects us to cry for the loss of academic and democratic freedom.

The real truth is that the lack of a strong, honest political Left which truly believes in democracy for all (and not just for those who agree with it) is the most serious danger to Israeli democracy.

We saw this clearly in the early Oslo years when the Left ruled with a most undemocratic iron hand.

Newman is correct, Israeli democracy is seriously endangered. But the corruption of the Left is the cause.

LARRY FINSON

Jerusalem

#### Letters

Sir, - Maybe the reason for all the criticism of the Israeli academic Left is that hardly a day goes by without some anti-Israel professor rushing into print or sitting on a platform to express the most virulent anti-Israel sentiments.

I would point out to Prof. Newman that criticizing this behavior is not an issue of freedom of speech, more an expression of outrage at these sometimes almost treasonous views.

As for his blanket condemnation of those organizations seeking to monitor attitudes to Israel and highlight unfounded criticism, isn't this a case of the pot calling the kettle black?

As someone who is very active in speaking up for Israel, I have never had the view of "Israel, right or wrong." But I do find it indefensible when Israeli professors call for Israel to be tried for war crimes, and criticize Israel with no thought for context or history.

JOY WOLFE

Manchester UK

Freedom of speech

Sir, - How sad that while Columbia University can invite the monstrous president of Iran without too much protest, Notre Dame is having problems inviting the US president.

I may or may not agree with Barack Obama, or the university, on abortion policy. But if academic freedom and freedom of speech can allow a president who threatens the existence of a UN member state to speak, where is the difficulty in grant-ing those privileges to a president who differs with Notre Dame on abortion?

Isn't free speech an issue between government and citizen, rather than between a university, or any private platform, and the citizen? If I do not allow you to speak in my house, is that an issue of free speech? ("Degrees of acceptance at Notre Dame," Richard V. Allen, April 16.)

J.M. KING

Jerusalem

**Deviant UN** 

Sir, - Durban II is a sad comment on what could have been a major and important conference. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran, whose appearance at the UN produced nothing but hatred, will be attending, and all that will emerge from the conference will be more vitriol.

The fact that the UN permits a member state to call for the annihilation of another member state is a reflection of its own immorality. It is time the UN was held responsible under law for its terrible deviation from its own charter. The US should take the initiative in holding the organization responsible for increasing hatred and racism around the world ("Israel: Durban II text is getting worse," April 16).

**TOBY WILLIG** 

Jerusalem

See no evil

Sir, - Caroline Glick's "Iran's Western enablers" (April 14) provided an explanation for why Britain's Home Office and Metropolitan Police failed to recognize the terrorist Hizbullah flags openly flown by anti-Israel and anti-Jewish rioters outside the Israeli embassy in Palace Green London during Operation Cast Lead - even though Hizbullah is classified as a terrorist organization according to UK Terrorism legislation.

#### Letters

To all intent and purposes, these flags were apparently invisible to the British police, who failed to take appropriate measures; and yet they were openly visible on the many TV news channels around the world, as well as on YouTube!

The same could be said to explain why the UK government has failed to condemn the visit to <u>Hamas</u> in Damascus last month by UK legislators. More British hypocrisy!

COLIN L LECI

Jerusalem

A pity, this refusal

Sir, - I was disappointed to read that "Israel won't work with UN's Gaza 'war crimes' probe'" (April 16).

As a retired South African lawyer, I am well- acquainted with Judge Richard Goldstone and know that he is a jurist of impeccable honesty and trustworthiness. The commission he chairs cannot be expected to come to a fair conclusion if it does not have the relevant facts.

Israel should be represented at the commission to give evidence so that the Israeli viewpoint is known. Furthermore, Israel should engage experienced trial lawyers to cross-examine the witnesses who will give anti-Israel evidence.

The <u>female</u> member of the commission has apparently signed an anti-Israel letter to the Guardian and she should thus, at the first hearing, be asked to recuse herself because of bias. If the probe is properly conducted, the Israeli viewpoint would get favorable international recognition.

M.L. ROSTOWSKY

Tel Aviv

Jew-free entities

Sir, - The threat delivered via Aden ("Two-state solution," Letters, April 16) must not be allowed the last word.

The British Palestine Mandate (1920) included the territories on both banks of the River Jordan: and is so defined in Article 2 of the PLO Covenant issued in 1964 - during Jordanian rule in Judea-Samaria (the West Bank).

Accordingly Transjordan, through the PLO constitution, constitutes the first of the Jew-free entities of the previous Mandate. Removal of Jews from the former Egyptian- Administered Gaza (a potential city state of the Dubai type) constitutes the second of the Jew-free entities, which for the past four years has been "governed" by *Hamas* fascists.

A third Jew-free entity is in the making in areas and major towns of the West Bank administered by Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian Authority.

The fourth entity of the former Mandate is constituted as the Jewish State of Israel, which includes amongst its citizenry 1.3 million non-Jews who enjoy a standard of living that is the envy of Arab kinsmen throughout the region.

Summary: The territory of the British Mandate supports four entities for two peoples - three of which maintain a Judenrein status, whilst the fourth - Israel - sustains a very large Arab-Muslim minority harboring irredentist elements.

Conclusion: The two-states-for-two-peoples mantra is a chimera.

KARL HUTTENBAUER

Berlin

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



## JCPA Approves Effort To Build Dialogue With Muslim Groups

The Forward March 13, 2009

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Section: News; Pg. 1 Length: 1281 words

#### **Body**

The Jewish community's main umbrella organization for domestic policy has struck a significant blow against internal resistance to dialogue with Muslims.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs adopted a resolution March 2, calling for local and national Jewish groups to build coalitions with Muslim Americans and to oppose anti-Muslim bias.

Jewish and Muslim Americans should work in coalition to advance our common commitment to civil liberties, the struggle against all forms of terrorism, racism, anti-Semitism (and) anti-Muslim prejudice, the resolution declared. It also strongly denounces anti-Muslim bias and harassment.

The resolution comes 18 months after Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism America's largest Jewish religious denomination broke new ground by addressing a major Islamic organization, despite strong criticism from some quarters of the Jewish community.

There has been a long desire to do it, said Rabbi Steve Gutow, executive director of the JCPA, in an interview at the group's annual conference in Washington, where the resolution was passed. This feeling is stronger among Jews. We want to reach out. He added that interest in engaging with the Muslim community has only grown with the intensified conflict in the Middle East.

Previous attempts at engaging with the Muslim community have left some Jewish activists bruised and scarred by skepticism and harsh criticism from their fellow Jews.

One such activist is Rabbi Michael Paley of New York, who warned a room filled with community leaders, It's a dangerous conversation. The danger,

Paley said, is not from what is being said inside the room, but rather from how it will be perceived by other Jews.

If you've gone on a panel with someone who 10 to 15 years ago took a picture with someone who is objectionable to some in the Jewish community, you're in trouble, Paley said, speaking from experience.

In August 2007, after already being deeply involved in dialogue with the Muslim community, Paley spoke out in defense of the principal of a planned Arabic-language middle school in Brooklyn who had come under fire mostly from Jewish scholars. The critics accused her, wrongly, of being a 9/11 denier someone who rejected Muslim or Arab responsibility for the World Trade Center attack.

#### JCPA Approves Effort To Build Dialogue With Muslim Groups

Following his public comments on the principal's behalf, Paley, a scholar-in-residence and director of UJA-Federation of New York's Jewish resource center, was ordered not to speak on the issue anymore. He told communal activists attending the plenum that pursuing Jewish-Muslim ties requires some courage.

Rabbi Jack Moline of Agudas Achim Congregation in Arlington, Va., also encountered criticism when trying to promote dialogue between Jews and Muslims. He said that each attempt to raise the issue brought about challenges from congregants who believe Islam is essentially anti-Jewish.

The issue boils down to the question of what makes a legitimate partner on the Muslim side.

In 2006, a public dialogue between prominent New York Orthodox rabbi Marc Schneier and Muslim spiritual leader Omar Abu Namous provoked outrage rather than amity from audience members at Schneier's synagogue. When pressed about why more Muslims don't speak out against Islamic extremism, the otherwise genial Palestinian Muslim imam of New York's largest mosque unleashed a barrage of criticisms against Israel, even questioning its legitimacy.

It demonstrated how far apart we are and opened my eyes to the reality that we have a long way to go, Schneier said after the event.

The URJ, on the other hand, has been engaged for more than a year in an extensive dialogue with the Islamic Society of North America, the largest Muslim organization in the United States.

Steven Emerson, founder and executive director of the Investigative Project On Terrorism, which has focused on exposing Muslim extremists in America, said that although ISNA is more moderate than other Muslim groups, it was still the wrong choice.

The only thing that came out of it was legitimizing groups and individuals that did not change their views, Emerson said.

ISNA, he argued, has continued to issue radical statements and to host antisemites.

But Rabbi Schneier noted that at the behest of Jewish groups, ISNA president Sayeed Syeed intervened with the King of Saudi Arabia last year to convince him to disinvite the Jewish anti-Zionist group Neturei Karta from a high-profile international gathering of religious leaders the monarch was sponsoring.

This was unprecedented, he said in an interview last October. This is the kind of relationship we have been working for.

Some JCPA participants raised questions regarding ties with another group the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights organization. The federal government cited CAIR, among many others, as an unindicted co-conspirator in its criminal case against the Holy Land Foundation, which was convicted last November of funneling large sums to *Hamas*, a U. S.-designated terrorist organization.

Civil liberties groups pointed out that unindicted co-conspirators have no chance to defend themselves against the charge in court.

Nevertheless, Schneier noted last October that for most Jewish leaders, including himself, CAIR remains beyond the pale because of some of its officials' alleged ties to, or refusal to, denounce <u>Hamas</u>, which has taken responsibility for numerous terror attacks targeting Israeli civilians.

Referring to CAIR's executive director, Paley said, I cannot talk to Nihad Awad: It would jeopardize my job at UJA. He added, however, that he had some good accidental talks with Awad when he ran into him on various occasions.

Imam Mohamed Magid, who addressed the JCPA gathering, said that at times, the Muslim community, too, questions his push for dialogue with the Jewish community. I'm going to stay the course, said Magid, who heads

#### JCPA Approves Effort To Build Dialogue With Muslim Groups

the All Dulles Area Muslim Society in Virginia and is known in the Muslim world as a strong critic of antisemitism. You have to be true to your principles.

Jewish activists currently involved in dialogue with Muslim groups agree that talks should focus on issues with potential for common ground not on the Israeli-Arab conflict, which is viewed as a nonstarter for interfaith discussion. Among the issues suggested for coalition building were human rights, health care, immigration and poverty.

To that idea, Emerson replied, You can talk about health care with David Duke.

A recent Gallup Poll of Muslim Americans, the largest ever conducted, suggested another possible common ground for Muslim and Jews political affiliation. Both groups have similar voting patterns: Half of the Muslims identify as Democrats, a third as Independents and only a small minority as Republicans. The survey also found American Muslim <u>women</u> to be more highly educated than <u>women</u> in every religious group except Jews.

The JCPA plenum supported the pro-dialogue resolution by a large majority.

The Reform movement's Mark Pelavin, who presented the resolution, stressed that many local Jewish communities across the country are looking for guidance on how to go about reaching out to Muslims.

But the American Jewish Congress's acting co-executive director, Marc Stern, voted against the resolution and argued that guidance is exactly what it lacks. It talks only about the easy issues, he said, noting that the resolution does not address the problems of choosing Muslim interlocutors and setting the agenda for a dialogue.

## Graphic

IMAGE: Talking the Talk:At a recent meeting convened by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, RabbiMarc Schneier (center left) speaks with Imam Khalid Latif (left) and Imam Shamsi Ali (right).; charles weisehahn

IMAGE: Muzzled: Rabbi Michael Paley was silenced after defending a Muslim educator.; Nathan Gutman

Load-Date: March 10, 2009



## Letter: America must put pressure on Israel

The Western Mail

January 29, 2009 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 22

Length: 504 words

# **Body**

SIR - In 1982, as a right-wing Tory MP and lifelong supporter of Israel, I was part of a small delegation who visited that troubled region on a fact-finding mission.

We were so appalled by the daily deprivation and humiliation heaped upon the Palestinians by the Israelis that three of us, one half-Jewish, met the American ambassador on our return.

We warned him that if America did not adopt an even-handed attitude, they would reap a whirlwind of trouble.

The rest is a sad history. Every atrocity and war crime that is condemned by the UN and many Jews outside of Israel, is brushed aside by the American veto and gives the Israelis carte blanche to commit further atrocities. The list is endless.

They claim self-defence. One could understand a biblical eye-for-an-eye response, but earlier in Lebanon they responded to the taking of a mere two hostages by mass invasion and the "collective punishment" of a defenceless, and largely blameless, civilian population.

They used phosphorous and cluster-bomb weapons in Lebanon in 1982 and killed more than 1,300 civilians.

The Palestinians in Gaza have suffered a similar overreaction.

They already suffer wretched living conditions and are deprived from time to time of electricity, water, food and medical supplies, even in times of relative peace.

This time, Israeli PR men ask how we would like it if Manchester or Birmingham were bombed? They were, and with rather larger bombs than the super-fireworks used by *Hamas*.

We did not cluster-bomb the Catholic Republican areas of Northern Ireland or use phosphorous or radioactive weapons against a densely populated urban area, though we knew IRA personnel were present.

What happened recently was not a war of plane v plane or tank v tank.

"Brave" Israeli pilots bombed one of the most overcrowded areas on the planet and killed hundreds of <u>women</u> and children, many in supposedly safe UN buildings or compounds.

Letter: America must put pressure on Israel

Will a new American president improve the situation? I doubt it, for missing from the four priorities set by the President was the core issue of the illegal Israeli settlements on the diminishing Palestinian territory on the West Bank.

Gordon Brown has described the settlements "as a barrier to reaching the agreement that everybody thinks is possible".

Yet Barack Obama omits it from his list of priorities as 5,000 more illegal settlements are in the pipeline.

The existing settlements and their Jewish occupants must be removed with the aid of international compensation, which would be a small price to pay as the preliminary to the establishment of two nation states.

It is time for our political and religious leaders to pressurise America to stop its unconditional support for this morally deprived democracy that brings shame upon all who are allied with it.

This week we are commemorating the Holocaust in the hope that another one will never happen.

Recent events will hardly reduce the growing anti-Semitism throughout the world.

**DELWYN WILLIAMS Former Conservative MP Montgomery** 

Load-Date: January 30, 2009



## Wards of madness; Doctors call for halt to Gaza onslaught

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

January 15, 2009 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 502 words

Byline: The Associated Press

**Dateline: LONDON** 

## **Body**

International doctors called for an end to the violence in Gaza, saying hospitals were scenes of "nightmarish havoc" in articles published Wednesday in The Lancet medical journal.

In a special report detailing the human toll of the Gaza offensive, the Lancet said Gaza City's Al Shifa hospital asked for extra refrigeration equipment before the bodies of patients with severe wounds began decomposing.

The hospital, Gaza's largest, reported its 585 beds were filled in the first week of the Israeli offensive.

The Lancet cited the Ministry of Health in Gaza as saying that as of Monday, 292 children and 75 **women** had been killed in the offensive, with 1,497 children and 626 **women** wounded.

According to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, the death toll is somewhat lower: As of Wednesday, it said, 225 children and 70 <u>women</u> had been killed. However, the ministry defines children as 18 and under, the Palestinian Center 17 and under.

Israeli defence officials acknowledge the military has loosened its rules of engagement during the current round of fighting to prevent the killing or capture of soldiers.

But military officials note that <u>Hamas</u> fighters have worn civilian clothing while fighting Israeli troops, using schools, mosques and crowded residential areas for cover, making it hard to keep ordinary residents out of harm's way.

Reacting to the Lancet articles, Israeli Cabinet Minister Isaac Herzog said his country has worked hard to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza throughout the fighting, and Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor sharply criticized one of the doctors quoted in the Lancet for "spreading vicious lies."

Paul Garwood, a Geneva-based spokesman for the World Health Organization, said the Gaza Health Ministry's figures had not been independently verified, but they seemed reasonable based on their staff's observations in Gaza. In a statement last week, WHO declared that health services in Gaza were "on the point of collapse." UNICEF called the situation "tragic" and "unacceptable."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said the Israeli army has failed to evacuate the wounded.

Wards of madness; Doctors call for halt to Gaza onslaught

"The violence launched on Gaza is taking an unjustifiable toll on civilian populations," the Lancet said in an editorial. "These actions contravene the fourth Geneva convention," it said, referring to the international agreement that civilians are to be protected in times of war.

The Lancet also published a letter signed by more than 700 medical students calling for an end to the Gaza attacks.

Norwegian doctors Mads Gilbert and Erik Fosse, who are working inside the Al Shifa hospital, described Gaza's health situation as "nightmarish havoc" in the Lancet special report.

The pair have more than two decades of experience working in Gaza and other war zones. Gilbert and Fosse wrote that since arriving in Gaza on Dec. 31, 2008, they have "witnessed the most horrific war injuries in men, <u>women</u> and children of all ages in numbers almost too large to comprehend."

On the Net:

www.lancet.com

# **Graphic**

Colour Photo: Associated Press; A wounded Palestinian child is seen through the window of Kamal Edwan hospital in the Gaza Strip.;

Load-Date: January 15, 2009



## Syracuse students gather for peace in Gaza

University Wire

January 14, 2009 Wednesday

Copyright 2009 Daily Orange via U-Wire

Length: 480 words

Byline: By Katrina Koerting, Daily Orange; SOURCE: Syracuse

Dateline: SYRACUSE, N.Y.

## **Body**

A solitary candle stood at the front of Hendricks Chapel.

Approximately 100 people gathered at 5:30 Tuesday evening for a candlelight vigil to show their support and sympathy for the people of Gaza.

"We are here for those who died in Gaza," said Ahmed Al-Salem, president of the Muslim Student Association, to a crowd of students, faculty and community members. "We are here to answer the man who asked, 'Where is humanity?' 'Humanity is here,' we answer. Do not lose hope."

Raed Sharif, a doctoral candidate in the School of Information Studies and one of the organizers of the event, told stories of the hardships and fear his own family and friends are facing in Gaza, his native city.

"We are here today to show the world that we care about humanity, about people," he said. "We are here today to send a message of respect, support, sympathy and solidarity."

Andy Mager, a Jewish member of the Syracuse Peace Council, brought a different perspective to the vigil.

"It's very important for people to know that not all Jews of the United States support the Israelis, and not all Israelis support it either," he said.

Toward the end of the vigil, Lara Yalouaya, a Syracuse University alumnus and audience member, walked to the center aisle and spoke loudly to the audience that the rockets being fired were a consequence of Israel's aggressive occupation policy.

"It's not for America, for Bush or Cheney to choose who would be government," she said to some applause. "It's democratically elected *Hamas*. It's not for American policy to decide."

Tula Goenka, a professor of television, radio and film and an organizer of the event, said she was very pleased with the vigil and the turnout.

"The two <u>women</u> that spoke were very passionate," she said. "I think that people have been very silent about it. For people to feel that they were in a safe place to voice their concerns is good."

Ahmed Kobeisy, SU's Islamic chaplain, agreed.

#### Syracuse students gather for peace in Gaza

"People were supportive for the cause. People were very humane in their expressions and also very respectful of human life in general."

He said he enjoyed hearing people's stories, although he feels that the stories presented were the least of what happened.

In addition to speeches from Magel, Sharif and Al-Salem, there was a prayer and a song performed by Joanne Shenandoah and Dianna Schenandoah. Kobeisy and Rev. Gail Riina spoke on behalf of Rev. Kelly Sprinkle, dean of Hendricks Chapel, because he was sick and unable to attend. At the conclusion of the vigil, the attendees went outside on the steps with their candles.

Dorris Habayebe Courgi, an SU alumnus, spoke of a personal connection to the situation in Gaza.

"There are SU alumni trapped in Gaza," she said. "Thanks to Facebook, we're able to stay in touch. I send my friends pictures from all of the protests, and they say thank you because it shows we're not alone."

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Load-Date: January 14, 2009



## Gazan Doctor's Tragedy Opens Israelis' Eyes to Palestinian Pain

The Forward January 30, 2009

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**Section:** News; Pg. 1 **Length:** 1272 words

#### **Body**

Just after 5 p. m. on January 16, Israeli Channel 10 News correspondent Shlomi Eldar answered his cell phone during a live broadcast a phone ringing so incessantly, he suspected the call was urgent.

It was Izzeldin Abuelaish, a Gaza physician well known throughout Israel's medical community. Abuelaish had been providing many journalists with updates, in fluent Hebrew, on Israel's operation in Gaza against *Hamas*.

The army had attacked the home of Abuelaish, 53, who researches and practices medicine part time in Israel.

Live on the air, viewers heard what Aboul Aish had to say: They died on the spot on the spot, Shlomi! he cried. Oh Lord, God, God, God!

Abuelaish was referring to his three young daughters.

Viewers then watched as Eldar left the studio saying, I cannot hang up this phone call. From a dressing room, he used his contacts to persuade Israeli authorities to open the borders and transport Abuelaish's injured family members to Israel for treatment.

The arriving medics found three of Abuelaish's young daughters and a niece of his dead after the Israeli army launched a shell into the physician's home. Another daughter, another niece and two brothers were wounded and were, with one exception, flown for treatment at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv.

Israelis are mostly inured to Palestinian suffering. But the image, broadcast just before a cease-fire took hold in Gaza, of this physician who is known as a dedicated fighter for peace, racked with grief at the killing of three of his eight children at their army's hands, was searing.

This picture a bereaved and brokenhearted Palestinian father, three dead girls, a little girl fighting for her eyesight and an entire life dedicated to building a bridge of coexistence that exploded into dust: For me, this was the picture of defeat of this war, wrote Boaz Gaon, a popular columnist for the

daily newspaper Ma'ariv. Based on a preliminary investigation, an Israeli army representative claimed on January 17 that troops fired on Abuelaish's house because they had come under attack from somewhere in the vicinity of the house; possibly [from] a sniper, but I can't confirm that.

The investigators have thus far not interviewed Abuelaish or any of his surviving family members about what happened. But the physician claims adamantly that the military's account is untrue. At a press conference the day after the fatal attack, he implored Israel to be honest about what happened.

#### Gazan Doctor's Tragedy Opens Israelis' Eyes to Palestinian Pain

They should just admit they made a mistake, he told journalists. There is no shame in making a mistake, but don't deceive the nation.

The family members killed were his three daughters 20-year-old Bisan, 15-year-old Mayar and 13-year-old Aya and his niece, 17-year-old Nur Abuelaish.

Abuelaish's wife had died of leukemia just four months earlier.

Mark Rosenblum, the director of Queens College's Jewish Studies Program and a regular visitor to the Abuelaish home, told the Forward that it is just impossible for him to imagine that [Abuelaish] was harboring anything except for the three circles of life that he lives 24/7. He was referring to Abuelaish's commitment to family, to his Palestinian community and to making connections with Israelis.

Rosenblum, a founder of the group Americans for Peace Now, spoke of being in Abuelaish's home in the Jabaliya refugee camp during discussions the physician had with members of organizations involved in terrorism. Abuelaish, he recalled, strongly protested such acts, and other acts of violence, even in tense situations with fellow Palestinians, when silence might have been the better part of valor.

People who know the Abuelaishes paint a picture of a most unusual Gaza family. The physician had sent three of his daughters to a peace camp in New Mexico for Israeli and Palestinian girls, run by an Israeli woman. From his Gaza clinic, he arranged for seriously ill Palestinians to be treated in Israel, where he has many close friends in hospitals and at universities.

Even in the days leading up to Operation Cast Lead, as the Gaza operation is known, Abuelaish traveled to Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv from Gaza. At the center, he works part time on fertility research and treatment projects with Israeli colleagues. Abuelaish is one of a small number of Palestinians with an Israeli travel permit allowing this.

Among Gazans, Abuelaish gets some criticism for his moderate political outlook and his practical cooperation with Israelis especially in giving fertility treatments to Jewish <u>women</u>. This touches a raw nerve among some Palestinians, who see the treatments as strengthening the Jewish population. But such criticism is largely muted, as Gazans of all outlooks rely on Abuelaish's medical expertise. According to Miri Weingarten of Physicians for Human Rights, who works with Abuelaish, the doctor's house was always full of people seeking his medical expertise or appealing for him to use his contacts in the Palestinian or Israeli health system.

He believes that medicine can be used to build bridges between people, Sheba Medical Center director general Zeev Rostein said.

But at the press conference after the attack, Abuelaish's idealism also gave way to anger. I raised my children to work and to be soldiers of peace, the doctor said. I believed medicine could be a bridge for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. This is what I raised my children to believe. Why did they destroy my hopes, my children? I want a reason. Give me a reason.

Abuelaish, who also holds a master's degree in public health from Harvard University, has received a job offer in Canada and assistance in organizing visas for him and his family. It is unclear whether he plans to accept the offer.

Yet another issue was raised by Eldar's success in using his contacts to get helicopters and ambulances to transport Abuelaish's wounded family members so that they could receive treatment in Israel. Before the doctor's family members were killed, repeated pleas from humanitarian groups on behalf of others who were gravely wounded almost invariably fell on deaf ears.

Throughout Operation Cast Lead, Physicians for Human Rights urged Israel to take in wounded civilians needing care available only in Israeli hospitals, even though the Palestinian Ministry of Health was set on sending them to Egypt.

#### Gazan Doctor's Tragedy Opens Israelis' Eyes to Palestinian Pain

When something happened live on air, after three weeks of us begging for people to be evacuated to Israel, people were, Weingarten told the Forward. Israel was acting here out of image concerns, and could have clearly evacuated wounded all the way through.

The story of the Abuelaishes spurred the Israeli public until then focused on <u>Hamas</u> rockets launched into Israel and its army's military effort to confront Palestinian suffering, at least for a moment.

Jérôme Bourdon, professor of communication studies at Tel Aviv University, told the Forward that the story made Palestinian suffering more real but for a very short time.

The fast turnaround of news in the Israeli media will lead to a quick fading of sentiment, Bourdon predicted. Israelis have, over the years, developed some immunity to Palestinian suffering, he said.

Bourdon characterized the popular Israeli attitude toward harm to Palestinian civilians as shoot and cry, saying, People see it as a pity, but ask, 'What can we do about it?'

Sentimental sympathy for the Abuelaish family will not translate into political opposition to operations like Cast Lead, he said.

Load-Date: February 2, 2009



# After the hatred, a glimpse of hope; Beyond Terror and Martyrdom By Gilles Kepel HARVARD £18.95 (328pp) (free p&p) from 0870 079 8897

Arts & Book Review
January 23, 2009
First Edition

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Section: BOOKS; Pg. 34

Length: 478 words

Byline: MICHAEL CHURCH

## **Body**

Reading this book on "the future of the Middle East" as Israel tried to obliterate Gaza, one sees afresh how that insanity fits into the larger tragedy. As a sequel to Gilles Kepel's excellent The War for Muslim Minds, it ends with a utopian vision of how that tragedy might be transcended. But its real achievement lies in his analysis of how we come to be where we are now.

In a nutshell, the two grand narratives which set the stage in the Nineties have collapsed. If Bush's "war on terror" has been a calamitous failure, so have al Qa'ida's "martyrdom operations". Theatrical jihadism has not only failed to unify global Islam: it has also bolstered the rise of al Qa'ida's Shi'ite rivals in Iran. Kepel (above) charts the disintegration of both crusades, and sheds much light along the way.

He delineates martyrdom's Shi'ite origins, with flagellant re-enactments of the death of the Prophet's descendant Husayn conscripted by Ayatollah Khomeini to guarantee youthful cannon-fodder for his war with Iraq. First Hezbollah imported the concept, then <u>Hamas</u>. Kepel notes the hierarchy into which grades of martyr fit, and outlines the debate on when suicide, and the "slaughter of innocents", may be permitted.

Equally illuminating are his discussions of how the conflict's flare-ups in Europe have played out in relation to each country's context. While Jack Straw's perverse demand that Muslim <u>women</u> remove their veils when speaking to him dealt a blow to benign multiculturalism, the Pope's inept citing of a medieval provocateur forced moderate Islamists to abandon their non-confrontational stance.

Kepel describes that ideological collision in detail, as he does the 11-minute film which earned its director, Theo Van Gogh, death by throat-cutting in an Amsterdam street. This came as a huge shock to the Dutch, who had relied for stability on their "pillarisation" policy, with each separate ethnic group supporting the "dome" of society.

The cartoons-of-the-Prophet controversy began as a cheeky challenge to liberal self-censorship, but rigidly Lutheran Denmark was quite unable to contain the ensuing conflagration. Kepel explains why France, with its long-established Muslim communities, is the country least scorched by these fires. He thinks car-burning in poor suburbs shows that assimilation simply hasn't gone far enough.

Kepel quotes the ranting videos of Bin Laden's mouthpiece Ayman al-Zawahiri to illustrate the increasing desperation of al Qa'ida, and he notes the flame-fanning efforts, on either side, of Al Jazeera and Fox/CNN. Tony

After the hatred, a glimpse of hope Beyond Terror and Martyrdom By Gilles Kepel HARVARD £18.95 (328pp) (free p&p) from 0870 079 8897

Blair is not significant enough to figure on his landscape of villainy. And his vision? An integrated civilisation, "for sustainable prosperity", stretching from the North Sea to the Gulf. Very seductive, but if he means business, Kepel should devote the whole of his next book to showing how this might be brought about.

Load-Date: January 22, 2009



## <u>Letters</u>

# The Jerusalem Post January 28, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1205 words

Byline: Leon Charney, Josef Gilboa, Margarita Wolman-Krejner, Tova Gerta Teitelbaum, Conny Mus, JJ Gross,

Yonatan Silver

Highlight: Readers' Letters

# **Body**

### Drop of dry humor

Sir, - The cabinet's discussion on saving water can't be serious ("Water Authority experts plumb for solutions to bone-dry winter," January 26). I live in a new neighborhood where the sociological level is high, but the waste of water is terrible. And our municipality does not care.

After the November 1 regulation forbidding the watering of gardens, especially lawns, nothing stopped here in Kiryat Hasavyonim. It took numerous phone calls to 106, and many personal faxes to the mayor, until the last public watering stopped - after seven weeks!

However, the many gardens attached to high-rise buildings continue to water their lawns to this day, even when it's raining, "because it's automatically controlled." Residents' committees have not been informed of the ban, and there is no inspection (excepting mine), or fines.

The government would be wise to finance inspections and instigate fines instead of spending money on useless public advertising.

I have, since 1999, been trying to promote the installation of waterless urinals, especially in government and IDF buildings. These could save millions of cubic meters of water a year, but no one seems to care.

Two Israeli companies manufacture units for extracting pure drinking water from humidity. They are selling in China and Mexico, but there's no interest here.

So please, Minister Ben-Eliezer, don't tell us we are saving water!

**LEON CHARNEY** 

Yehud

Sacerdos perversus

Sir, - Richard Williamson, the recently refrocked Roman Catholic bishop, has hit the headlines because of his denial of the Holocaust. Wait until some of his other ideas are publicized.

#### Letters

This man's social and political thinking is somewhere to the right of Ramses II. He objects to <u>women</u> who wear trousers and has written and preached extensively about what is, in his eyes, the most dangerous and subversive work of the 20th century: The Sound of Music.

In this movie, the Julie Andrews character leaves the convent and finds happiness in love and marriage. For Williamson, to abandon a vocation of poverty, chastity and obedience for personal fulfillment is betrayal, and a film with a romantic, happy ending is subversive, intended to corrupt the morals of society.

The bishops of the church are responsible for its Magisterium, its duty to teach the faithful. By accepting a certifiable kook into this distinguished company, Pope Benedict XVI has devalued its authority and made the episcopate a laughingstock; while souring relations not only with the Jews, but also with the more enlightened members of his own church ("Iudicium perversum," Editorial, January 26).

JOSEF GILBOA

Jaffa

Two sides

of the Shoah...

Sir, - Irwin Cotler offers us a cogent analysis of the Holocaust and the exercise of remembrance ("The Holocaust did not begin in the gas chambers - it began with words," January 27), all of it poignantly relevant these days when the president of Iran calls for the destruction of Israel.

I would only add one point: We should always remember that the Holocaust had two sides. Its evil face is well known, but there were also thousands of **women** and men who risked their lives to save the persecuted.

The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation works day and night to unveil, document and divulge their legacies of courage. It is a moral debt we all have to these heroes, but above all it is our obligation to the younger generations so they get to know of these feats.

MARGARITA WOLMAN-KREJNER

International Raoul

Wallenberg Foundation

Jerusalem

...and a belated apology

Sir, - When the Holocaust started to become a bandwagon for remembering universal hate and prejudice, my mother, a Holocaust survivor, became very upset. "They (the non Jews) will eventually use the Holocaust against us," she said. "They will get ideas from what happened in Germany to improve their methods to delegitimize us.

"The Jews were hunted and murdered because they were Jews, not because they were a symbol," she added.

Now, seeing how the Europeans are using Nazi terminology against Israel, I must apologize to my mother, belatedly. At the time her words sounded paranoid, but, sadly, they have proved prophetic ("The new blood libel," Eli Kavon, January 27)

TOVA GERTA TEITELBAUM

Haifa

Why Israel blocked

Letters

press entry to Gaza

Sir, - We've heard so many stories and excuses from the State of Israel that we could write a book about it. But this is the simple fact: Israel did not want independent coverage of the war in Gaza. That is why they started to block journalists as well as diplomats from entering Gaza already in the beginning of November.

With all due respect to Daniel Seaman, he said on many occasions that we foreign journalists are the fig-leaves of <u>Hamas</u> and of Palestinians in general; and that we would endanger the lives of Israeli soldiers ("Foreign media coverage in Gaza has become 'a disgrace to the profession,' GPO chief says," January 26).

These are only two excuses we heard; all total nonsense. We are not the fig-leaves of <u>Hamas</u>, or of the State of Israel. We called the hill from where we were allowed to broadcast "The Hill of Shame," and that is what it was. Israel missed a historic PR opportunity, which did only harm to the country.

And about us putting the lives of the Israeli combat troops in Gaza in danger - come on, most of us have more war experience in this part of the world than any Israeli soldier in the field there in Gaza.

Instead of taking us seriously, our intelligence and profession were taken for a ride and, believe me, we were clever enough to have seen that and reported it. We did not fall into the propaganda trap since it was too obvious.

One good thing: The Israeli High Court fully agreed with us. Hopefully the Israeli authorities will at least listen to the very clear judgment and decision by their own High Court and we will not be forced to fight this totally undemocratic and basically stupid way of dealing with the international press, as happened in this war.

CONNY MUS, Correspondent

RTL News Holland

Jerusalem

Be alone & unafraid

Sir, - Isi Liebler quotes "Balaam's biblical depiction of the Jews as 'the people that dwells alone." ("Diaspora Jews and the war," January 26) It's a pity he did not offer the entire quote: "(Israel) is a people that shall dwell alone, and which shall pay no heed to the nations."

The first part of Balaam's prophecy is that which is imposed upon the Jewish people by a hostile world. The second part is the surest formula for Jewish survival despite the isolation to which Israel is subjected - namely, to be indifferent to what the goyim think.

Sadly, Israeli policy on the battlefield, in the media and in the court of world opinion is increasingly driven by concern for what others think, rather than what is in Israel's best interests. This defeatist anxiety about the opinions of outsiders is not limited to the cafes of Tel Aviv. It is endemic among the politicians who claim to be Israel's leaders.

JJ GROSS

New York/Jerusalem

Retail therapy?

Sir, - Pfizer's purchase of Wyeth will result in the pharmaceutical giant firing 19,000 people while acquiring the Effexor anti-depressant ("Pfizer to buy Wyeth for \$68 billion," January 27).

An innovative way of increasing one's potential customer base?

YONATAN SILVER

## Letters

Jerusalem

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



# Comparing Israel with Nazis wrong

The Journal (Newcastle, UK) February 16, 2009 Monday

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Section: Pg. 10-11 Length: 1168 words

Byline: Peter Montellier

# **Body**

IN response to Mr Leck's letter (Voice of the North, February 13), we should like to make the following comments.

Firstly, Israeli forces did not "immediately" retaliate to Palestinian rockets landing "near" land held by Israel; they retaliated after eight years of constant terrorist attacks on Israeli towns in Israel.

In that period more than 8,000 missiles were fired from Gaza aimed deliberately at civilians.

What would Mr Leck have expected of his own Government, if, let us speculate wildly, our neighbour Scotland had launched sustained rocket attacks on northern England, including Stocksfield?

Secondly, why does Mr Leck, and indeed many others, single out Israel for comparison with Nazi Germany, when other countries, our own included, have caused innumerable deaths of innocent civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan, in a similar quest to eradicate terrorism?

The Lancet on October 11, 2006, reported that 650,000 Iraqis were killed during the 2003 United State-led war of which more than 30% were civilians.

Whilst it was a controversial war, we do not recall the coalition forces being likened to Nazis.

Israel was defending its territory and citizens from constant attack by <u>Hamas</u> terrorists; the loss of civilian life is always tragic in these circumstances, but to liken it to Nazi Germany is at best, ignorant, and at worst something far more sinister.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF NORTH EAST JEWRY, Newcastle

Israelis fighting for their very existence

I FIND it ironic that Dave Leck (Voice of the North, February 13) should chooses to criticise Israel and compare its defensive actions to the murderous Nazis on the same date that the British bombed Dresden in 1945, killing more than 25,000 innocent civilians.

Israel is fighting for its very existence against a terrorist organization, a terrorist organization so deemed by the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and the United Kingdom.

### Comparing Israel with Nazis wrong

So, yes, Israel has learnt from the Nazis: they have learnt that they must defend themselves or another 6,000,000 will go up in smoke. Palestinian rockets do not land "near land held by Israel", they are aimed at the schools and parks.

They are aimed specifically at the children who, for the past eight years, have been subjected to more than 10,000 rockets.

The fact that only a few have been killed, is of more pain to <u>Hamas</u> then it is to the mothers forced to bury their daughters.

But maybe Dave would rest easier and allow Israel to defend her citizens from a terrorist organization sitting a mere five miles away from her schools, only once another 10,000 Jews have been murdered.

Or maybe even that would not be enough and he would prefer that Israel waits until 6,000,000 more have been killed.

Sir, we have no more spare children.

Rabbi DOVID LEWIS, Newcastle

City streets should return to families

IN response to Mr Moore (Voice of the North, February 7) I wish to make it clear that Newcastle City Council has a plan for student accommodation. This was published in 2007, having taken years of work to produce.

Prior to 2004, when the Labour Party controlled the city, there was no such plan.

Some 18,000 of the students in Newcastle currently occupy approximately 5% of the houses and flats in the city.

Only 8,000 are in purpose-built accommodation. Unfortunately, as noted by Mr Moore, the 18,000 students living in shared houses are not spread uniformly across the city, but tend to live in the inner city wards. This has led to a situation where, in some parts, streets are 95% occupied by students.

This means there are areas where there are few residents with a long-term stake in local developments.

As a university city, Newcastle has a relatively low proportion of purpose-built homes in relation to the number of students.

This is why the plan referred to above envisages the construction of approximately 6,000 bed spaces in purpose-built accommodation so as to re-balance the situation and considerably reduce the number of students in residential areas.

Since the plan was published, 708 bed spaces have been completed and 563 bed spaces are under construction.

Planning permission has been given for a further 2,155 bed spaces where construction has not yet started. Other possible developments are being considered and we expect that when all the 6,000 bed spaces in the plan are completed, a significant number of houses in the inner city will return to family occupation.

Mr Moore asks whether the city has a plan B for the time when the number of students contracts.

There is no plan B, since we consider contraction of the student body very unlikely.

Coun RON ARMSTRONG, Chair of the Shared Housing Working Group, Newcastle City Council, Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle NE99 2BN

Pensions tin foil, not gold plate

### Comparing Israel with Nazis wrong

YOUR report headlined "Pensions drain the coffers as budgets tighten" (The Journal, February 9) was wide of the mark in referring to gold-plated public sector pensions.

Public sector workers are tax and council taxpayers, too. They save year in, year out, for their pension by contributing between 5.5% and 7.5% of their pay in local government. Yet they can look forward to an average of just £7,000 per year when they retire, falling to just £3,800 in local government.

For many <u>women</u> workers, it keeps barely above the threshold for means tested benefits. More tin foil than gold plated.

The schemes they pay into have just been through a review, which led to significant changes to keep them affordable and sustainable.

MERV BUTLER, Chair, Unison Local Government, Northern Region, 140-150 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle NE1 6TH

I paid 5% of my wage into fund

WITH reference to your headline: "Pensions drain the coffers as budgets tighten" (The Journal, February 9) I worked for a local authority for 16 years and paid 5% of my wages into the pension fund, and we did not have the wage rates people have today. The 5% was taken "off the top" before any deductions.

I now draw my monthly pension and pay income tax on it. It is not a full pension. To receive that, your age and service have to add up to 85.

As I paid into the pension fund, I am entitled to the benefits. It is not a gold plated pension or early retirement fund. If you take early retirement, it has to be agreed on both sides and your pension payout may be reduced. More people are refused early retirement than granted it. Would any worker today have 5% of his or her wages deducted and put into a pension fund? I think not.

JOHN H PORTEUS, Glebe Village, Washington

Passing of a true champion

FOR those who believe freedom is everyone's birthright in an England plagued by the European Union, news that Elizabeth Beckett, of Alston, died on Saturday, February 7, should cause much sadness.

She really had no axe to grind with the local authorities, but strove to fight, even though more than 80 years of age, to redress the wrongs which overseas government inflicts upon us all. Like Steve Thoburn, the metric martyr, she was a true champion.

JOHN WARMINGHAM, Wetheral, Cumbria

Load-Date: February 16, 2009



# Comment & Debate: Indiscriminate slaughter from the air is a barbarism that must be abolished: From Vietnam and Iraq to Gaza today, history testifies that aerial bombing is an ineffective, intolerable military tactic

The Guardian - Final Edition

January 16, 2009 Friday

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Section: GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES; Pg. 33

**Length:** 1198 words **Byline:** Simon Jenkins

# **Body**

A Palestinian woman is standing in her kitchen when she hears a deafening bang. Rushing to her living room she sees her family in pieces, spread across floors, walls and ceiling. The horror is total and meaningless. Nobody meant it to happen, so what was its cause?

The tragedy in Gaza surely marks the time when the world declares air-launched bombs and long-distance shells to be illegal under the 1983 Geneva convention. They should be on a par with chemical munitions, white phosphorous, cluster bombs and delayed-action land mines. They pose a threat to non-combatants that should be intolerable even in the miserable context of war.

I can accept Israeli claims that they are not intentionally targeting civilians in Gaza - or the United Nations base set on fire yesterday. But the failure of their chosen armaments had the same effect. The civilian death toll is now put at 673, mostly *women* and children.

It is barely conceivable that the most accurate weapon of war, an infantryman, would deliberately enter a house and massacre unarmed <u>women</u> and children as they have their dinner. As a result, mercifully few do. When such cold-blooded murder is committed, from the 1968 My Lai killings in Vietnam to those now coming to light in Iraq, we are appalled, and inquiries, trials and disciplinary procedures follow.

Those killing from the air need have no sight of the carnage they unleash. They are placed at both a geographical and a moral distance, with a licence allowed no soldier on the ground. Whether they are dispatching free-fall bombs or GPS-guided missiles, tank shells or predator drones, *Hamas*'s Qassam rockets or improvised explosive devices, they know they often miss their targets, but they launder any carnage as "collateral damage" and leave politicians to handle the backlash. The soldier shrugs and walks away, with no obligation to humanity beyond the occasional apology and a reference to the other side being just as bad.

If gas, landmines, chemical weapons and cluster munitions are now banned - a ban broadly obeyed by most civilised armies - why not aerial bombardment? Instead, bombing is becoming ever more prevalent. It precedes any

Comment & Debate: Indiscriminate slaughter from the air is a barbarism that must be abolished: From Vietnam and Iraq to Gaza today, history testifies that aeria....

operation, as a sort of overture, and eagerly takes part in each tactical twist. Counter-insurgency war, in Iraq and Afghanistan, has seen western armies take heavy casualties. But such is the political aversion to them that Israeli, American and British ground forces operate under strict "force protection" rules to minimise losses.

This has led to the reckless use of stand-off munitions, as regularly reported by embedded correspondents. Rather than employ infantry to clear an apparently hostile settlement, commanders call in air strikes and pound it to rubble. The Israelis have responded to the *Hamas* bombardment of their towns with a far heavier bombardment of Gaza. Both endanger civilians to a degree that cannot be other than criminal. That human shield tactics may be involved is no excuse: the law does not permit the killing of innocents in the hope of reaching the guilty.

The bombing of urban infrastructure is an act of terror, meant to weaken the resistance of victims and cause them to surrender. This was the case with the west's bombing of Belgrade in 1999 and Baghdad in 2003, the latter under the openly terrorist rubric of "shock and awe". Neither achieved the ambition proclaimed by the champions of air power, Bomber Harris's promise "to win the war from the air".

In an extraordinary article on these pages yesterday, David Miliband declared the title "war on terror" to be "misleading and mistaken". It appar ently "gave the impression of a unified, transnational enemy, embodied in the figure of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida". In reality terrorism was a disparate phenomenon, often internal to state politics. Besides, wrote the foreign secretary: "Terrorists succeed when they force countries to respond with violence and repression."

Miliband is right. But those who have been saying this since 9/11 wonder what has caused this sudden conversion. Did Miliband protest when Tony Blair reportedly pleaded with George Bush to be the first to bomb Kabul in 2001? Is this the same Miliband who sat silent as a member of the government that supported "shock and awe"? Is he now pleading with the Americans to stop using weapons against the Pashtun - such as aerial assassination - that exacerbate both war and terror?

The truth is that the war Miliband is still waging against militant Islam has been conducted largely by weapons of terror, namely bombs and long-distance artillery shells. They have killed untold thousands of non-combatants since the "war" began in 2001 - a violence far more devastating than the Israelis have inflicted on Gaza - destroying unimaginable numbers of homes.

In his book Shock of the Old, the science historian David Edgerton cites the bomber as the most overrated of all weapons of war. Glamorous, noisy, ostensibly sophisticated and easily marketed to "techno-dazzled" generals, it has proved an ineffective killing machine. Its use against the perpetrators of terror is a classic of soldiers fighting the last war but one.

In Vietnam, Serbia, Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan, those deploying bomber power constantly promised more than they could deliver, as they did before D-day. As Correlli Barnett has remarked, as in Vietnam and Kosovo so now in Gaza, the airman's bombast, that he could terrify the enemy into surrender, must be rectified by troops on the ground. Time and again the bomber has been outgunned by the AK-47.

No weapon fired at a distance can be sure of its target. As Colin Powell once said, the phrase "tactical surgical strike" had him racing for the protection of his bunker. All the electronics in the world seem unable to prevent constant friendly fire deaths. Meanwhile, the dominance of air forces in procurement battles has left Britain's land army woefully under-equipped.

In modern asymmetric warfare inaccurate munitions are worse than useless, they are a gift to enemy propaganda. In the present Gaza turkey shoot, the Israelis cannot have intended to hit the UN, knowing the impact it would have on world opinion. But once embarked on the campaign they clearly cannot discipline themselves.

In Afghanistan the American commander, David Petraeus, is said to regard his own side's bombing of villages and wedding parties as utterly counterproductive. Yet once forces are deployed, with ground and air in partnership, they

Comment & Debate: Indiscriminate slaughter from the air is a barbarism that must be abolished: From Vietnam and Iraq to Gaza today, history testifies that aeria....

seem beyond all command and control. They illustrate Liddell Hart's comment on military technology, that "the progress of weapons has outstripped the minds of those who wield them".

If Israel fails to win its political objectives in Gaza, it will in part be because of its massively destructive attempt to terrify the Palestinians into surrender from the air. Every errant missile explodes on the television screens of the world.

In the complex politics of war, these weapons are like torture. They numb moral sensibility and do harm beyond all justification of victory. They should be abolished. If we wish to kill other people for whatever reason, we should use only weapons that kill the right ones.

simon.jenkins@guardian.co.uk

Load-Date: January 16, 2009